



Mortimer West End Parish Council Newsletter Spring 2020

## Coronavirus (COVID-19) - Supporting the vulnerable and elderly in our communities

Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council has set up a careline for vulnerable residents to register for support such as access to food and medicine during the COVID-19 outbreak. Residents at an increased risk of illnesses who are self-isolating at home, including over 70s, pregnant women and anyone usually instructed to get a flu jab, and have no nearby family and friends can register for support such as getting access to food and medicine. This includes other groups who may be struggling, such as Universal Credit claimants waiting for payments and may be unable to purchase supplies.

If you are aware of anyone in our local community that requires support, please ask them to call the borough council on 01256 844844 or email [communityhub@basingstoke.gov.uk](mailto:communityhub@basingstoke.gov.uk). They will then work closely with community organisations to deliver essential supplies as soon as possible.

The latest advice and information can be found at the following website [www.basingstoke.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/coronavirus)

## Who we are

A Parish Council is the first tier of local government, and we are one of approximately 9,000 local councils in England and Wales.

Mortimer West End Parish Council consists of five Councillors and a Parish Clerk. All councillors are elected officials unless there are more vacancies than candidates, in which case councillors are appointed without election. This is the case with Mortimer West End.

The Council meets every two months in Mortimer West End Village Hall, with members of the public most welcome to attend all council meetings

The role of Clerk is to ensure that the Council as a whole conducts its business properly and to provide independent, objective and professional advice and support.

All councillors are unpaid but the Parish Clerk is a salaried position.

The Parish of Mortimer West End falls under the aegis of Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council and is situated in the ward of Pamber and Silchester.

Hampshire County Council and Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council are represented at the regular meeting of the Parish Council.

Your County Council representative is

Rhydian Vaughan MBE.

Your Borough Council representatives are:

Roger Gardiner and Simon Mahaffey

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All residents of Mortimer West End are welcome to attend Parish Council meetings which are held at The Village Hall at 7:30pm on the following dates:

28th May ,23rd July,24th September,  
26th November

Please note that the May meeting may be held via video conference due to coronavirus restrictions, details will be made available on our website.

## Your Parish Councillors



### Nick Thurlow (Chairman)

Nick has lived in Mortimer since 2002, joining Mortimer West End Parish Council in 2013. He became Chairman in 2018. Since leaving university in 1984 with a degree in Computer Science, Nick's career has been spent in the technology industry – most recently as UK Managing Director of a large US based tech company. Nick is married to Alison who is a musician and teacher.

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### Andrew Arthur (Vice-Chair)

Andrew has lived in Mortimer West End since the summer of 2012 and became Deputy Chairman of the MWE Parish Council in 2018, and also serves on the Village Hall Committee. Since leaving University over 30 years ago, Andrew has worked for a variety of Software and Communications technology companies. Outside of work, you will often find Andrew and his son kicking a football around on the MWE playing fields or mountain biking in the local area.



### David Lister

David is married with 4 daughters and 10 grandchildren.

He is retired and has been a volunteer for Citizens Advice in Tadley soon after moving to Soke Road in 2003.

He was a governor at Silchester School for 8 years and was co-opted as a parish councillor for Mortimer West End in 2018.

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### Kevin Cross

Kevin is married to Victoria and they have two children. They moved to the Mortimer area in 1996 and have lived in Mortimer West End since 2003. After graduating with a degree in Chemical Engineering in 1980, Kevin has enjoyed his career in the oil, gas and energy business sector, mainly in project management. He is now semi-retired and does project management consultancy work from time to time. Kevin was co-opted as a Parish Councillor in 2019.



### Jonathon (Jono) Bray

Jono has lived in Mortimer West End since 2000, joining the parish council in 2016. He is our local plumbing and heating engineer, gas and oil certified, doing his utmost to keep the local community warm and cosy! He currently represents the parish council on the Hills MWE Quarry committee, looking after all things gravel related. He is married to Virginia and has 2 children William and Olivia along with black lab, Max.

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### Christine McGarvie (Parish Clerk)

Christine has been clerk for Mortimer West End Parish Council for 3 years and is also Clerk for two other parishes, Aldermaston and Brimpton. She lives in Pamber Heath with her husband and two children who both attend the Hurst Community College. Before having children she worked for 10 years in the telecommunications software industry. In her spare time she likes to keep active; running, cycling and going to the gym.



## What we do

The Parish Council has a wide range of responsibilities, including:

- ◆ Reviewing planning applications within the Parish and making recommendations to Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council
- ◆ Maintenance of certain aspects of Parish infrastructure
- ◆ Funding projects that benefit the community of Mortimer West End
- ◆ Liaising with Borough and County councillors, advocating the needs of Mortimer West End
- ◆ Liaising with Hampshire Police on crime and road traffic issues
- ◆ Representing the Mortimer West End community on a number of local bodies and charities including : - AWE Local Liaison Committee, Stratfield Mortimer Relief in Need (charity), Clark's Education Foundation (charity), The Village Hall Committee, The Quarry Liaison Committee
- ◆ Ownership and Maintenance of Mortimer West End Cricket and Football Pitches. The Parish Council is the sole trustee of the charity that owns the grounds used the Mortimer West End cricket and football teams. We work with the teams to maintain the surrounding grounds and areas and are planning to refurbish/ reseed the football pitch later in 2020.

## Recent projects and activities



### The Children's Play Area

The Parish Council secured approximately £50,000 worth of funding to completely refurbish the Children's play area next to Mortimer West End Cricket Club. Many thanks to Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council, The Greenham Common Trust and Mortimer Relief-in-Need for their partnership on this project.

### Supporting Mortimer West End Village Hall

Mortimer West End Village Hall was in urgent need of repair and upgrade, especially the roof and its ageing heating system. The Parish Council was pleased to make a grant of £5,250 in fiscal year 2019/20 to enable this work to go ahead, benefitting the whole community.



### The Lengthsman Scheme

Hampshire County Council funds the lengthsman scheme allowing the Parish Council to request a local contractor to carry out maintenance activities in the Parish that would otherwise not get done such as litter picking and bus shelter repairs. If you see an area of the Parish that could do with some tidying up or simple repairs, please let us know as we may be able to use the lengthsman for this.

### High Speed Broadband

In the modern world, high speed Broadband is a necessity for work and leisure. The Parish Council has driven dialogue (and advocated the needs of the Parish) with key telecommunications companies over the past 2 years. Ultra-fast Broadband is now available in the central part of the Parish.

## Current Projects

In addition to the core activities of the Parish Council, 2020 will see some major initiatives to improve the quality of life of the residents of Mortimer West End.

We have embarked upon a significant project to bring about road safety improvements in Soke Road and Church Road. We are working in conjunction with Hampshire County Council to install roadside “village gates” and improved/modernised road markings to slow down drivers as they enter the Parish.



In order to counter some late night anti-social behaviour in the car parks of MWE cricket club and the Village Hall, we are investigating ways of securing these spaces via automated security gates/bollards – without impinging upon the way in which the lawful users of these spaces access the car parks. This project will almost certainly need additional funding from partner organisations – but the Parish Council feel that reducing this anti-social behaviour will benefit the broader community.

## Budget and Finance

The activities of the Parish Council are primarily funded by the Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council Precept – which is collected as part of your Council Tax payment. In 2019/20 this sum was £8,500 – unchanged from the previous year.



Total expenditure of the Parish Council in 2019/20 is expected to be £9,180 of which £4,000 are grants for community initiatives.

The Parish Council holds approximately £26,500 in reserves. There will be a small rise in the Parish Council precept in 2020/21 to £9000 to reflect rising costs and additional activities.

All financial information related to Parish Council activities can be found on the website [www.mortimerwestendpc.org.uk](http://www.mortimerwestendpc.org.uk)



## Getting in touch

**All information – including minutes , agendas and contact details can be found on our website [www.mortimerwestendpc.org.uk](http://www.mortimerwestendpc.org.uk) or by emailing the clerk at [parishclerk@mortimerwestendpc.org.uk](mailto:parishclerk@mortimerwestendpc.org.uk)**

**If you know someone who would like to receive email updates from the parish council please contact the clerk.**

**We are also on facebook so like our page for updates in your newsfeed. <https://www.facebook.com/pg/mortimerwepc/>**

**We need your input**



**We would love to hear from you – and would be very keen to get your perspective on how you would like to see the Parish Council act to improve the quality of life in Mortimer West End.**