

*April 2022*



# *Helping Ukrainians*

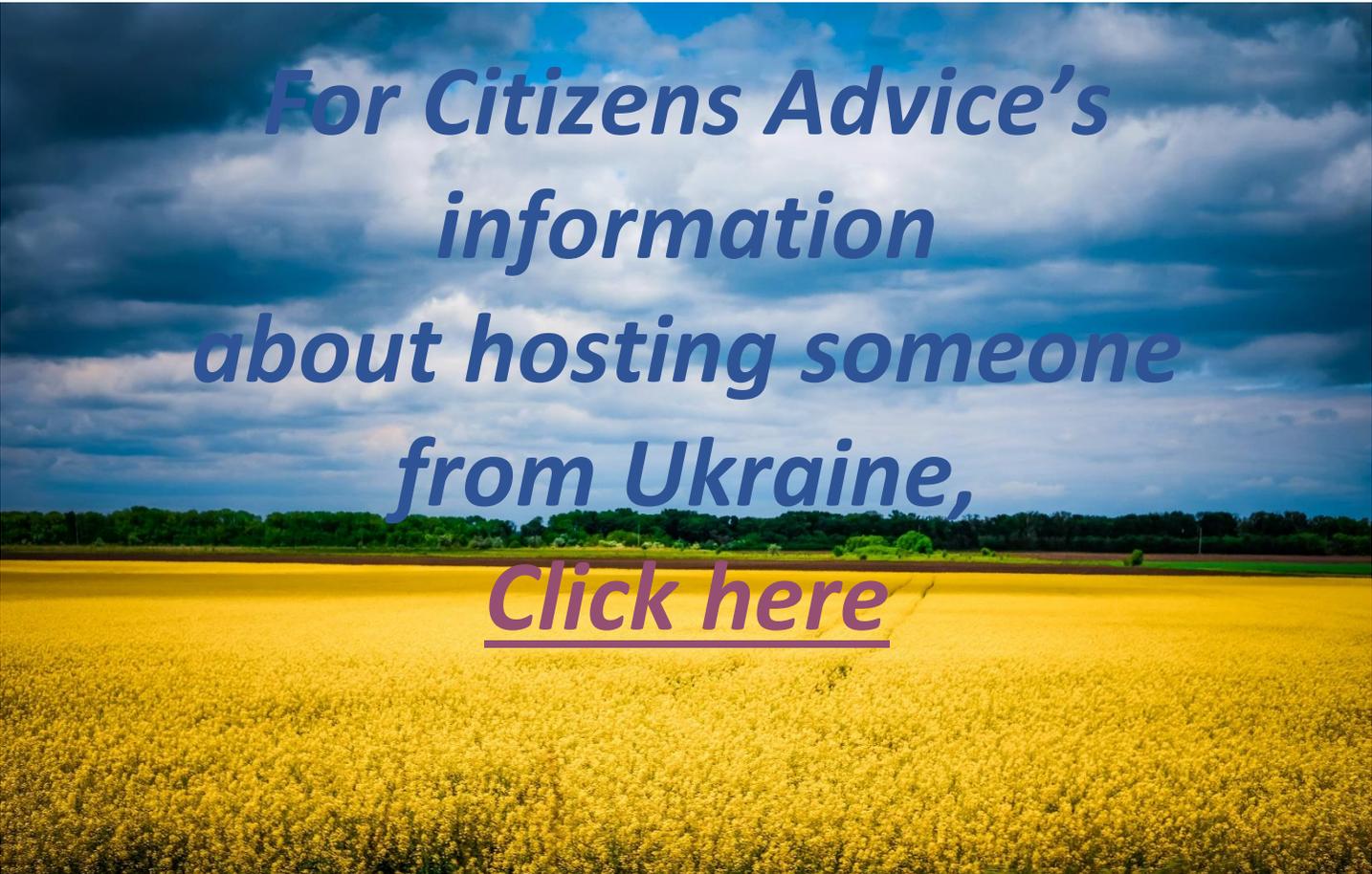
**I** KNOW THAT many of the generous people in Westbury would like to support Ukrainians in as many ways as possible. Both the church and the parish council are in contact with a number of groups that could support us and make the connections we need to be effective. The Axbridge Deanery and the Wells Community Network have started to collect information and Somerset County Council is taking a coordinating role. We learn that the first Ukrainian families will be arriving shortly in Cheddar.

Meanwhile it would be really useful to know who in Westbury would be willing to step up and help. Some of us have already signed up on the government website ([HomesforUkraine@gov.uk](mailto:HomesforUkraine@gov.uk)). We'd like to know who you are. But there are also other ways we can help.

- Do you speak Russian or Ukrainian?
- Can you help people find their way through the benefits system/have CAB experience?
- Do you have counselling experience/qualifications?
- Could you give lifts to local GP or hospital appointments?
- Could you help with shopping or cooking meals?
- What else could you offer?

If you are prepared to offer time, skills or experience, do let us know by contacting Sue Isherwood (Chair) or Kate Egan (Clerk).

**Sue Isherwood**



*For Citizens Advice's  
information  
about hosting someone  
from Ukraine,  
[Click here](#)*



**WELLS COMMUNITY NETWORK  
HOSTS FOR UKRAINE MEETING**

**ARE YOU THINKING ABOUT HOSTING A UKRAINIAN  
FAMILY/INDIVIDUAL AND LIVING IN WELLS OR  
SURROUNDING VILLAGES?**

**COME AND JOIN WCN FOR TEA AND CAKE AND HAVE  
THE OPPORTUNITY TO:**

- **LISTEN TO DAVE MANN OF CHARIS - A CHARITY  
WITH LOTS OF EXPERIENCE OF RESETTLING  
REFUGEES IN SOMERSET**
- **HELP WCN UNDERSTAND WHAT WE CAN DO TO  
SUPPORT YOU**

**13TH APRIL 2022 – 7PM  
CONNECT CENTRE, CHAMBERLAIN STREET. WELLS**

**RSVP [WCNUKRAINE@GMAIL.COM](mailto:WCNUKRAINE@GMAIL.COM)**

# ***Roughmoor Lane development: an update***

**O**NE HUNDRED AND fifty people attended the consultation event at the village hall on March 9. The CC representatives were impressed by the number of villagers who turned up and I think they come away with a very clear idea of the strength of objections to their current plans and the amount of knowledge held within the community.

I have just had a message from Lichfields that demonstrates we have had some effect. After thanking us for turning up in such numbers, they say that they have decided to review the brown field barns area with a view to incorporating it into their masterplan for the whole site. This means that any application for outline planning permission will be delayed by several months and that they will come back to the village, via the parish council, to consult again. I have replied thanking them for doing a rethink, but emphasising that the community would like to be actively involved in the masterplanning process rather than just being consulted at the end of their process.

I'd like to thank everyone who has put so much thought and effort into fighting an inadequately thought-out plan. There is still lots of work to do and information to collect. For instance, we now know that Westbury is included in the Levels and Moors phosphate mitigation scheme, but not yet the full significance of this. And it would be interesting to know more about summer levels of traffic on the A371.

Some sharp-eyed villagers will have noticed that at last we have 20mph signs and warning lights at both ends of the village to slow traffic at school entry and exit times. This is a start at traffic calming at least.

The parish council and the Roughmoor Lane steering group will continue to meet, monitor activity and progress thinking. Let's all keep ourselves and one another well informed.

**Sue Isherwood**

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## ***Roughmoor Lane development: Steering group draft terms of reference***

**T**HE ROLE OF the Steering Group is to enable residents of Westbury, individually and collectively, to make well informed comments on proposals to develop land at Roughmoor Lane. The comments may relate to the pre-planning consultation or any subsequent applications for planning permission. To that end the Steering Committee will

- Support and encourage communications on the topic using a range of media to ensure as far as possible that no individual is excluded from the conversation
- Establish and facilitate topic groups to research evidence on different aspects of the proposals and share their findings
- Oversee the preparation, distribution and analysis of a village survey to inform the topic groups and residents generally
- To see whether it is possible to identify and summarise a village consensus that can inform the preparation of a formal response to any planning application by the parish council.
- Hold one or more open meetings at which individuals can give and receive information and express their views.
- In carrying out these functions the Steering Committee acknowledges that individuals may hold different and possibly conflicting opinions and is committed to ensuring that all voices are heard, as long as contributions are made in a calm and respectful manner.

# ***Annual Parish Meeting*** ***Sunday 10th April at 6pm*** ***in the Village Hall***

All residents of Westbury Sub Mendip Parish are invited to attend the Annual Parish Meeting.

## **AGENDA**

1. Apologies for absence
2. To confirm the minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting held on 5th May 2021
3. To receive the Chairman's annual report
4. Report from the Village Hall Committee – Chair Peter Bright
5. Report from the Robert Glanville Playing Field Trust – Chair Cllr Guy Timson
6. Report from Westbury Tree Group – Chair Cllr Buffy Fletcher
7. Report from the Rights of Way and Footpaths Officer – Colin Booth
8. Report from the Footlights Committee – John Crickett
9. Report from the Westbury Society – Andrew Buchanan
10. Report from the Friendly Society – Tony Shepherd
11. Report from the Gardening Club – Maggie Goodbody
12. Report from Roughmoor Lane Community – Rowan Stewart
13. Report from Westbury Sub Mendip WI – Cllr Sue Reece
14. Report from Friends of Westbury Church – Cllr Sue Reece
15. Report from the Community Shop – Axel Goodbody
16. Report from the Primary School
17. Matters to consider

Refreshments (tea, coffee, apple juice and wine) will be available.

**Cllr Susan Isherwood (Chair) 31st March 2022**

# Unitary Status

**P**ARLIAMENT passed the legislation in mid-March to enable elections to be called on Monday for both the Parish Council and the new Unitary Council on May 5th.

Meanwhile the officers of the four district and county councils are working towards unifying process and procedures for 1st April 2023 when the district and county disappear and the new organisation starts. You all should have had a factual leaflet in the mail entitled *New Somerset Council – What’s different this time*.

The main difference will be at this election there will be two member unitary wards so we will have two votes to elect two unitary councillors and they will serve for five years. As will the parish council.

In preparation for the change the County Council have been running meetings for parishes to gather understanding of the Local Community Networks (LCN), a proposal to influence decisions about their area. However, it is still not clear exactly how LCNs will work, whether parishes will have any voting powers or indeed whether their voice is heard. I think parishes are in reality waiting for the outcome of the May elections to garner a greater understanding of how LCNs will work.

What is clear is that the District Councils will continue to be responsible for all their services until 1st April 2023.

These will be important elections so do make sure you are registered to vote. To be on the electoral roll you need to apply by 14 April. If you’ll be away from home and need a postal vote you can fill in a form and get it to Mendip by Tuesday 19 April. Or if you prefer someone to vote by proxy on your behalf you have until Wednesday 27 April to organise it. More information from [election@mendip.gov.uk](mailto:election@mendip.gov.uk) or the Gov UK website.

**Ros Wyke**, Deputy Chair, and **Sue Isherwood**, Chair, Westbury-sub-Mendip Parish Council

## ***Roughmoor Lane Development – Village Responses***

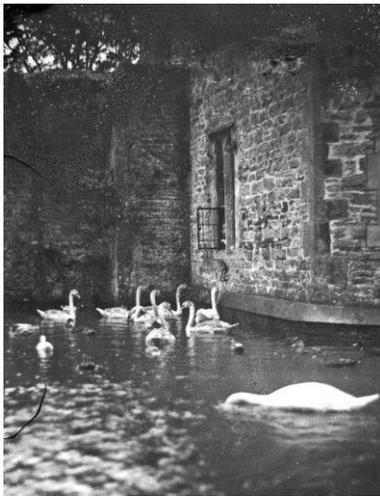
To read all the background papers relevant to the proposals by the Church Commissioners for the housing development at Roughmoor Lane, including:

- Results of the Village Survey
  - Traffic Survey summary
- Summary of initial responses

[click here.](#)

# Clare Blackmore

will talk about



## William Catcott The Baker Bard of Wells

**Westbury Village Hall**

**Tuesday 12th April 7.30pm**

everyone welcome, visitors £3.50

For more details contact Sue 870618

# ***THANK YOU***

## ***From the Westbury Community Tree Group***



*A new hedge for Furlong Farm*

**A** BRIEF WORD of thanks from the Tree Group to all those very many people who gave time to our planting projects during January and February (and slightly into March!). Without your help none of our considerable achievement would have been possible. During this time a total of no fewer than 3,471 trees have been planted, the majority of them forming the new hedge at Furlong Farm, but also considerable numbers in the field south of Stoke Road to the west of the village, as well as on privately owned land at various locations both within the village and elsewhere.

Thank you again. We hope you enjoyed it, and that we may see you again next year. There will be plenty more trees to plant – that is for sure!

**Buffy Fletcher, Chair, Westbury Tree Group**

# ***Subscribing to News Posts on the Parish Council website***

THE PARISH COUNCIL website has seen a marked increase in the number of News Posts being published in recent weeks. These cover everything from Roughmoor Lane development plans, to the village shop, to 'lost and found' items.

If you would like to be notified by email whenever a new News Post is made, there is a '**Subscribe**' box in the bottom right of the website's homepage, where you can enter your email address. All News Post email alerts from the website to your email inbox will include an 'Unsubscribe' option should you ever wish to end your subscription (which hopefully you won't!).

There are currently 26 Subscribers to the Website's News Posts: if you aren't already subscribing, why not join them?

**Mark Smith**

**Website Administrator**

# ***Free NHS Health Checks***

The free NHS Health Check is your chance to get your free midlife MOT.

For adults in England aged 40-74 without a pre-existing condition, it checks your circulatory and vascular health, and what your risk of getting a disabling vascular disease is.

Locations near to Westbury are:

- Melbourne House Business Centre (Wells)
- Glastonbury Health Centre
- The Glastonbury Surgery
- Shepton Mallet Leisure Centre.

To learn more, [click here](#).

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# ***Talking Cafes***

## ***In Person***

Talking cafes are a place to meet new people, make friends and chat to a community signposter about activities, support groups and services in your community.

Wells: Thursday 10am-12pm, Bishop's Palace, Wells BA5 2PD.

## ***Online***

One combined group for the whole of Mendip runs Wednesdays 1-2pm online via Zoom.

To learn more about Talking Cafes, [click here](#).

## ***Staying in touch***

**Chair**

**Sue Isherwood**

[sueisherwood9@gmail.com](mailto:sueisherwood9@gmail.com)

**01749 870457**

**Vice Chair**

**Ros Wyke**

[cllr.wyke@mendip.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.wyke@mendip.gov.uk)

**01749 870347**

**Buffy Fletcher**

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**Sue Reece**

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**Newsletter Editor**

**Martin West**

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**01749 870009**

## ***Somerset Recovery Fund Opportunity Boost Scheme Project Now Open.***

A NEW GRANT has been launched to help people in Somerset overcome financial barriers when seeking employment and returning to work. The Opportunity Boost Scheme will provide grants worth up to £500 to help with the cost associated progressing into work, such as transport costs, childcare, work clothes, learning resources and training courses.

The funding for the scheme has been provided through the Somerset Recovery Fund, and the initiative is being delivered in partnership between Somerset County Council and Citizens Advice Somerset.

To qualify, applicants must be aged 16 or over, not be entitled to any other financial assistance for job seeking, and had a pre-Covid salary of less than £25,000.

For more information, [click here](#).

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## ***Somerset Coronavirus Support Helpline***

A SINGLE phone number continues to be available for anyone in Somerset who needs Coronavirus-related support.

**0300 790 6275**, is open seven days a week from 8am to 6pm.