

From the Westbury sub Mendip Neighbourhood Plan Working Group A two-part survey about Village Facilities

A survey is being circulated this month (September) to capture residents' views on what village facilities need to be prioritised for the future. It is being conducted by the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group (NPWG) that has been tasked with the creation of a Neighbourhood Plan.

Please note:-

1. The survey is confidential. We cannot identify individuals unless you choose to tell us who you are. It is open to all aged 14 and over.
2. The surveys seek the views of individuals, not households. For example, if there are 3 people in your household aged 14 or over, they can each complete a response (on separate forms or different devices).
3. We will publish a summary of responses on the village website and make it available on village noticeboards.

There are **two parts** to the survey to be completed.

Part A – Short term.

If the land south of Roughmoor Lane were to be developed the planning policy requires that 0.1 hectares (roughly two tennis courts) of land is allocated for community use by the village. A planning application is expected in next few months so your views are urgently needed to help the parish council give the villagers' view of what the community space should be used for and where the preferred location should be.

The background to what we know about the Roughmoor Lane development plans can be found on the Westbury parish council website [here](#)

Part B – Long term

The village needs to consider priorities for village facilities for the next 15+ years. This is completely separate from any questions regarding the potential development of land south of Roughmoor Lane. The views collected on priorities for village facilities will provide part of the neighbourhood plan. We need to think about what improvements we should be planning for and where facilities should be located.

More information on the Neighbourhood Plan process can be found [here](#).

Context

To help develop a neighbourhood plan for Westbury we need to consider what village facilities might be needed over the next 15 years, and where these should be located.

What facilities are we talking about?

We believe the existing built village facilities include:

The community shop; The village hall; The School, St Lawrences Church, The playing fields.

The Church, Playing Fields and School are not for relocating or complete re-design but some of the facilities they provide or that they might benefit from (ie parking) are represented so that you can comment.

There are also additional facilities you might want to see – and we need your comments about these and suggestions for others. The survey asks you to rank the importance of both the existing and additional facilities – hard to do but we need to know what are the most important to most people.

Where should these facilities be located?

The facilities need to be located in the right place and be easily accessible on foot, bike and car to be well used. If elements of the facilities are to be shared they may need to be close together.

The locations that might suit also need to have a chance of being available. The potential sites being considered in this survey are the Old Court Farm buildings “brownfield site” and potentially *if* the land South of Roughmoor lane is developed, 0.1 hectare of this greenfield land. These are reflected in the survey but there may be other locations you want to suggest.

What do those who run these facilities think?

Community Shop

- Having a shop in the village is an important attraction, provides vital services to the community and adds to the value of houses.
- The Shop needs more space and easily accessible parking, without sacrificing the Shop’s location in the heart of the village or its visibility to passing traffic.
- Space needed includes provision for back-office activity, storage, a small kitchen area and an accessible toilet.
- Ideally the new premises should also have some adjacent external garden or courtyard space which can be used for a summer cafe and to host outdoor village events.
- A relocation to the brownfield site (if available) would be conditional upon provision of a safe crossing over the A371

Playing Fields

- The priority would be toilet and changing facilities available to users of the playing field to open up opportunities for external sports teams to use the field or to establish regular sports coaching sessions.
- Our preference is for this to be sited as close to the playing field as possible.
- Improved facilities will encourage better use of the multi-user surface and football pitch.
- We would ask that any shared car park for shop, church and village hall is also open to users of the playing field
- Safer pedestrian access across the A371 and through any new development would be critical

Village Hall

- Better pedestrian access and provision of parking for the village hall is critical
- Provision of a safe pedestrian crossing of the A371 is vital to give safe access from all parts of village
- It makes sense to share parking with Church, Shop, School, Pub and Playing Fields, this needs to be in a central location.
- Important to create a larger facility with higher internal space that would allow badminton and other activities.
- The provision of changing rooms would make the hall more attractive for a range of activities.
- Flexible space and / or a small meeting room would mean more useful for small groups.
- Increased storage space would be essential and we would need to replicate or increase the kitchen capacity in any new hall.
- A new well insulated building would be much more efficient.

St. Lawrence's Church

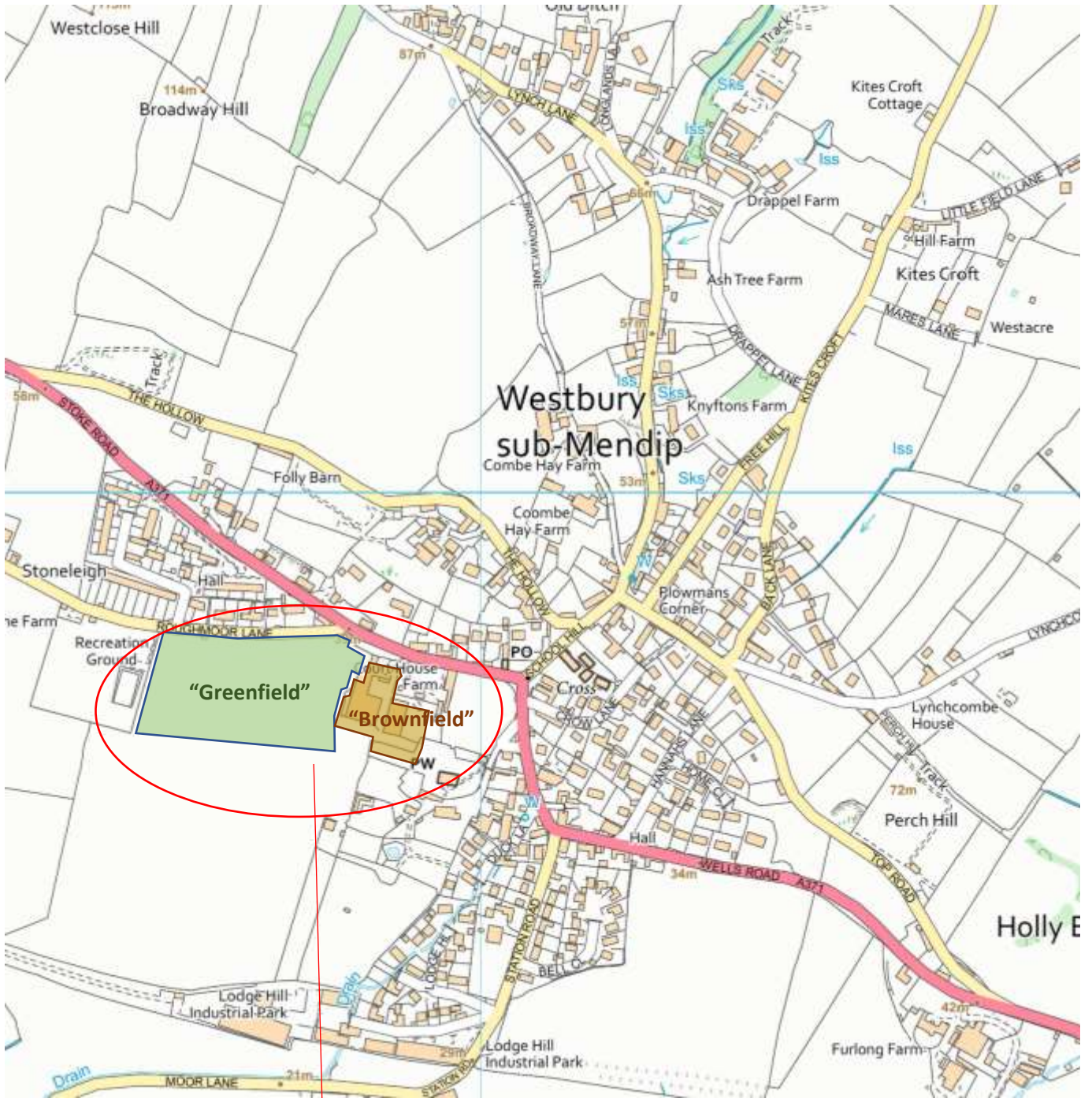
- The Church remains an important focus for faith and history as well as providing a special place for all at different times of the year.
- The church is a special building which is Grade 2 listed, this all needs care and effective maintenance.
- Access to a shared car park for users of the church would be advantageous.
- We intend to make the internal space available for multi-use so that it could be used by the school and young people.
- We are seeking additional land for the graveyard to be extended.

You can access the survey through the link [here](#). If you would prefer to submit your views on a paper copy one can be obtained from the village shop to which it should be returned. We would be very grateful for responses by Sunday 8th October

If you have any queries please contact Mick Fletcher (mick@mickfletcher.org.uk) or David Maguire (davemaguireuk@yahoo.co.uk)

Village Map

This identifies both the whole village and the areas of greenfield and brownfield land referred to above and in the survey. We have placed a grid over the greenfield element of the map only to help you answer questions in Part A but please also use it to consider other location options which you can describe in Part B



Grid to help answer question in Survey A

