

Westleton Parish Council

November's Parish Council (PC) meeting again began with a lengthy discussion with the County and District Councillors about the impact of the ongoing flooding. While the PC recognises that the amount of rain recently has been far above normal, it is also clear that more preventative work by the Councils is necessary particularly given that heavier rainfall over shorter time periods may become a more regular feature of the weather.

The responses to the 20mph speed limit survey have now been counted – 249 residents completed the survey of which 18 were not in favour of a 20mph limit, while 231 supported the reduced speed limit (92.7%). The PC will share the data with County Councillor Smith and the data from the Vehicle Activated Signs (which show the number of vehicles speeding through the village) to support a call for a speed limit change and for greater police enforcement of the limit. Many thanks to all who responded.

And another survey will soon be coming your way - please be on the lookout for a *Housing Needs* survey which Community Action Suffolk will undertake early in the New Year. The PC is working with Orwell Housing Association as it is our view that some affordable housing is now needed more than ever. Property prices have become prohibitively expensive for young people/young families and as a result, the demographic of the village is now heavily weighted towards older people. Our concern is that if this trend continues, there will be few, if any, young people/young families in the village in the future. The plan is for Orwell Housing to build a small development of affordable housing to help Westleton be a community of people of all ages again. However, the District Council needs evidence of need, hence the survey - which can be completed by residents as well as by people who have already left the village and hope to return.

I hope the information provided by these paragraphs in the Fisherman will provide residents with a better idea of the PC's work. We now also plan to make ourselves more accessible - starting in January, the PC will hold one surgery a month in the Village Hall when residents will be able speak to 2 of the Parish Councillors. The date and time of the first surgery will be announced shortly and will be publicised in the Village Hall, on the Village notice board and on the website. We hope this initiative proves popular.

Andrew Turner,
Chair Westleton Parish Council