

WESTBOURNE PARISH VILLAGE DESIGN STATEMENT

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WESTBOURNE PARISH

Village Design Statement

*Glad of the life in the village they know
Where in the world would they wish to go?*

Mark Tully. Something Understood. BBC Radio 4

This handbook is intended to show how the architecture of the Parish and its natural environment have grown over many years, and suggest how to maintain and control this variety and beauty in the future.

The marginal lists are used to celebrate the existing richness and diversity of both the buildings and the environment

AN INTRODUCTION

Westbourne Parish is a special living, rural parish. Pressure from progress can produce changes which threaten this environment. The addition of inappropriate architecture, layout and facilities can harm the rural character of villages within the parish.

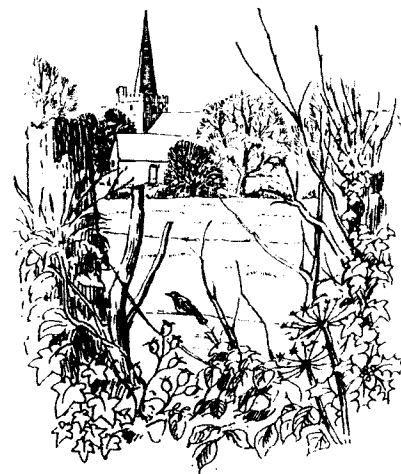
This Village Design Statement is intended to raise everyone's awareness of our Parish and what makes it special. We are the current guardians of the area and it is our responsibility, both individually and collectively, to help preserve and develop it, as a rural community, for future generations.

This booklet is intended to encourage our own community, architects, planners, developers and builders to look at the elements which make up the parish and respect its history, form and atmosphere.

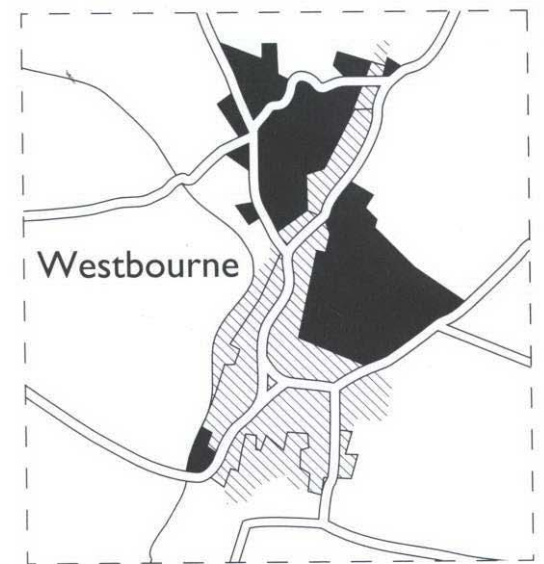
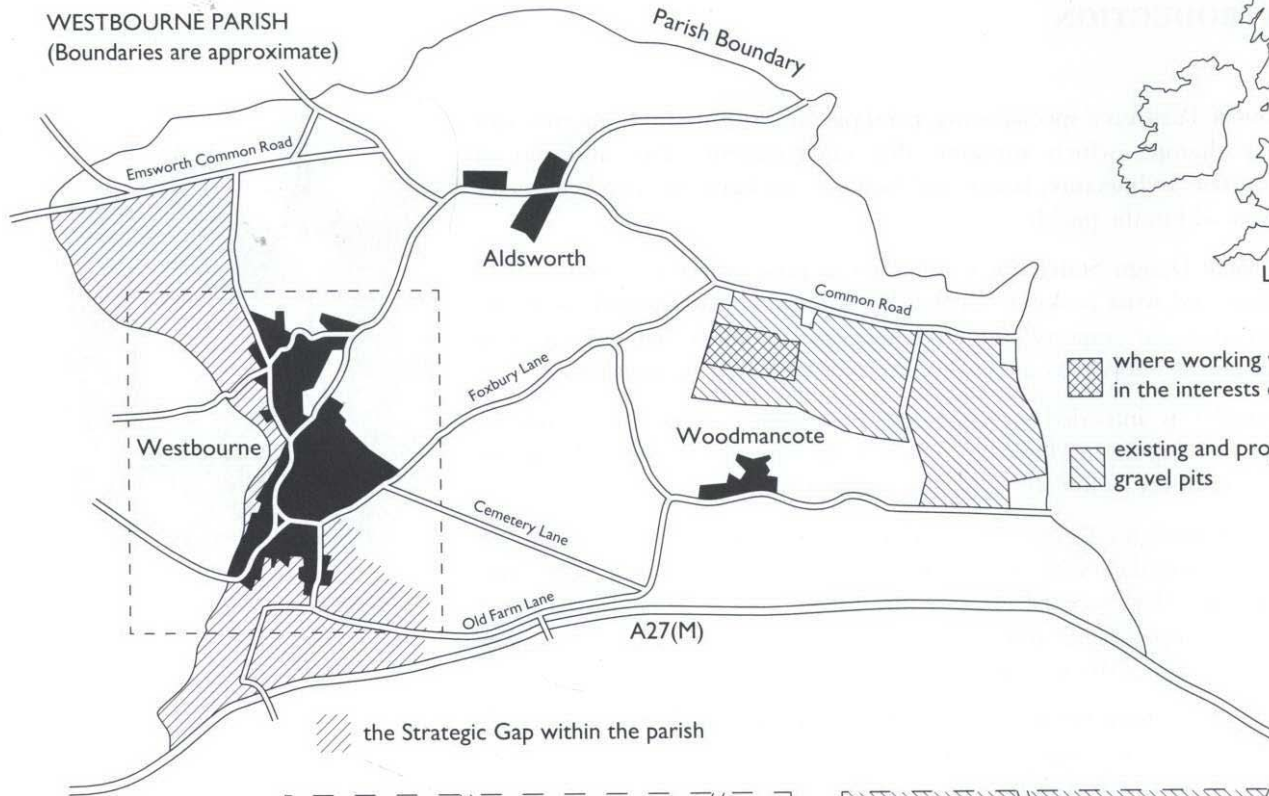
The Parish which the Design Statement encompasses comprises the village of Westbourne together with the hamlets of Woodmancote and Aldsworth, covering some 1846 acres of countryside. These three settlements nestle in a patchwork of open fields and woodland, interlaced by streams and country lanes. (Population 2010, census 1996)

What is special about Westbourne Parish? The basic answer lies in its layout and buildings; its position and facilities, its sense of community and the myriad of detail which ancient English settlements accumulate over the years. Westbourne, still essentially rural, retains a small commercial centre, and is one of the few remaining villages of this type in the Portsmouth environs, albeit in Sussex. Development without consideration of the whole nature of a community can threaten its future.

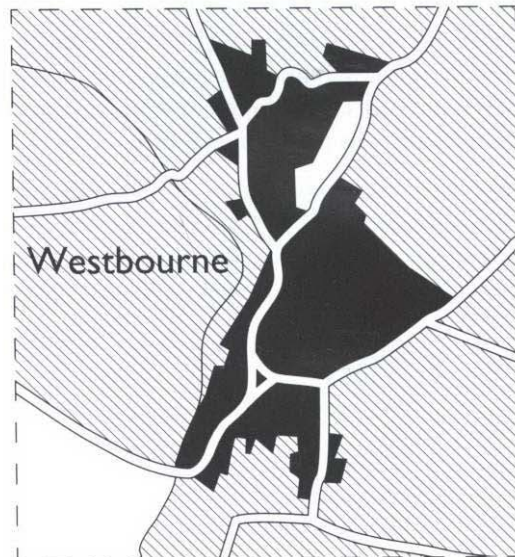
The text and illustrations in this Statement attempt to define the local distinctiveness of Westbourne Parish to ensure the inevitable changes enhance, and do not damage, its intrinsic character, which has taken generations to produce, yet can be destroyed so speedily.



Westbourne



the Conservation Area within Westbourne village



fields in and around Westbourne village

GEOGRAPHY AND PARISH ARRANGEMENT

The Character of the Landscape Setting

Westbourne nestles in its living landscape together with Aldsworth and Woodmancote beneath the South Downs and on the Sussex border with Hampshire. All three settlements are surrounded by a diverse pattern of farmland, copses and commons which form an historic landscape. The Northern area of the Parish is included in the South Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Water too plays an important and highly visible role. The river Ems defines the county boundary to the West and springs, ponds and one-time watercress beds create valuable wildlife habitats throughout the Parish.

The Downs give way to gently undulating hills to the North of the Parish falling away to flat ground near the coast. It is this delicate balance of land and water that makes the area visually and ecologically diverse.

An ancient network of roads and lanes still provide the major road system for the area. Many of the lanes and roads have hedgerows, some with grass verges and drainage ditches, some without. Often hedges are found in association with embankments and the species rich nature of these hedgerows complements their visual attraction.

Footpaths, both official and permissive, criss-cross the Parish.

Looking East from the Sussex Border Path, the Parish is separated from the urban surrounds of the Hampshire towns Emsworth and Havant by a verdant swath of green fields. This provides a shared visual amenity for the two counties and also helps retain Westbourne's separate Sussex identity.

Refer to *West Sussex Structure Plan, Paragraph 8.18.*

Agriculture

Agriculture plays an important part in the visual amenity of the Parish. The centuries-old pattern of seed and harvest time can still be seen on the farms, even though large machinery has taken the place of labour and the loss of many a hedgerow has been one of the prices paid.

There is a clear division of soil types in the area; to the South, come the brick earths, rich fertile, stone-free soils that form some of the best arable ground in the country.

Some Road Names Found In The Parish

Commonside, White Chimney Row,
New Road, Harold Road, Foxbury Lane,
Homefield Road, Long Copse Lane,
Woodberry Lane, Paradise Lane

Farm Names

Bishops Barn, Valley, Monk's, Lumley,
Chantry, South Lane, Sindles,
Woodmancote

Meeting Places

Pubs, halls, huts, clubs, church, chapel,
sports grounds, café, fish and chip shop



Racton Tower

Wheats

Emmer, Spelt, White Essex , Farmers
Friend, Little Joss, Capelle , Atlee,
Holdfast, Abbott, Hereward, Reaper,
Soissons, Yeoman, Square Head Master,
Victor, Brigadier, Caxton, White
Lammas

Barleys

Dea, Maris Otter, Pioneer, Pipkin,
Puffin, Plumage Archer, Spratt Archer

Oats

Black oats, Grey Winter, Victory,
Onward, S147, S172, Abundance,
Aintree, Gerald, Poland



White Chimney Row

North of this, soils are poorer and more varied but in return provide a more interesting and diverse landscape which climbs almost imperceptibly towards the chalk hills of the South Downs.

Winter-sown wheat, barley and oats, oilseed rape, linseed, peas and beans harvested by combine are typical of the current harvest. Where the soil is poorer, livestock plays a more important part in the farming system. Grass is grown, either as grazing for sheep, beef and dairy cattle, or to be cut for hay or silage to provide winter fodder. Maize, cut green in autumn is increasingly seen, grown for the same purpose.

Light Industry

Westbourne village has a few units for light industry in converted farm buildings in White Chimney Row and these sit well in the landscape. The village also has two garages and a specialist car body-work firm. Nearby, just over the border in Emsworth, lies a small group of industrial units; The Wren Centre.

Leisure Pursuits

Tucked away in small meadows, often attached to homes, horses, ponies and the occasional donkey are to be seen grazing, Summer and Winter. Riding is a major leisure pursuit throughout the Parish and the small meadows used for grazing form part of the essential rural nature of the area.

The Parish boasts five Public Houses, two of which contain function rooms. A Baptist Chapel and a Church Hall also provide for social get-togethers, from wine tasting to a monthly market.

Westbourne has both its own Social Club, Heron, and Good Companions, with a number of specialist clubs, including football, youth, Scouts and Guides, and a variety of associations including Allotments, its own cricket team, History Society, and a thriving band of bell-ringers.

Water Systems

The River Ems and its tributaries run North-South through the Parish. These form an extensive water meadow system to the North East of Westbourne village centre and include a 17th century mill canal. The streams form not only a relaxing and picturesque element of the village but support a great variety of wildlife. Some elements of this spring-fed water system occasionally run dry, reflecting the changing weather patterns and the regrettable practice of taking water from the source of streams and not from the finish. Loss of

river flow, coupled with the drying out of the surrounding meadow land is degrading the habitat and will reduce the diversity of its wildlife.

Settlements have traditionally formed near an ample supply of water and where the water table is very close to the surface. An extensive water meadow system, a canal, water mills, bridges and fords are found in the Parish. A considerable amount of flooding has been experienced under certain weather conditions. These factors are an important and intrinsic part of the area.

Village Views

Parishioners wish to encourage proper management of existing wet-land areas, Agenda 21; see research undertaken to properly quantify the amounts of water being removed or diverted in the area. They believe that careful monitoring to prevent flooding or drying out and to ensure environmental sustainability is necessary.

Wild Life

As it is to be expected with different habitats there is a wide diversity amongst the wildlife of the Parish. Without a costly and time consuming survey the full range can never be known. That it is extensive is shown by a survey published in 1989 of Sindles Farm (300 acres) at Aldsworth where for instance over 300 species of vascular plants were identified besides a wide range of other flora and fauna.

Grass verges, hedgerows and open space allocation will be an important part of any new development. Wildlife can use these as 'corridors' to enable movement between feeding and breeding grounds and other areas of 'open' space.

Strategic Gap

The north/south corridor, parallel to the River Ems, from Westbourne to the Hermitage Mill Ponds and the Sea, already forms part of the Chichester to Emsworth Strategic Gap.

This part of the Strategic Gap is a very valuable asset and the villagers put great store on its retention. It is a fundamental way of preventing rural communities from being dissolved into an urban sprawl: to prevent the coalescence of settlements. Marginal ground, such as allotments also play an important role, as do play-grounds, cricket pitches and common land.

Some Trees At Sindles Farm

Common Maple, Sycamore, Silver Birch, Sweet Chestnut, Horse-Chestnut, Beech, Ash, Alder, Hazel, Hawthorn, Wild Pear, Wild Cherry, Turkey Oak, Holm Oak, Pedunculate Oak, False Acacia, Elder, Wych Elm, English Elm, White Willow, Goat Willow, Rowan,

Aquatic Plants At Sindles Farm

Water Plantain, Water Cress, Mare's Tail, Water Starwort, Lesser Pond Sedge, Marsh Horsetail, Common Duckweed, Willow Moss, Yellow Flag, Water-Mint, Hemlock Water-Dropwort, Amphibious Bistort, Common Water-Crowfoot, Water Speedwell, Fool's Water Cress, Great Willowherb, Blunt-Fruited Water-Starwort,

Beetles Recorded On Sindles Farm

Soldier Beetle, Scavenging Beetle, 14-Spot Ladybird, Cardinal Beetle, Large Longhorn, Rove Beetle

THE SETTLEMENTS

Listed Buildings
Details Available from
Chichester District Council



Foxbury Lane



Paradise Lane



Foxbury Corner

Westbourne

All the entrance routes into the village retain a delightfully rural aspect. Most are enhanced by hedges, the flint work of boundary walls and buildings; informal or old road edging and greenery. Monks Hill to the North is graced with superb, unbroken views across common land, fields and downs especially to the East, and the sea to the South. The spire of St. John the Baptist is evident from all approaches. This church evolved during the 13th to 16th Centuries and is graced with a Yew tree avenue planted circa 1500. The church and the surrounding area sets the fundamental historic character of the village. The charm of Westbourne can be said to lie in the variety and placing of its old buildings. These range from timber framed thatched cottages, to porticoed Georgian houses, to Victorian terraces. There are 66 Listed buildings. Continually changing views are presented - there is hardly a straight road or lane in the village. The map shows where green pastures unexpectedly reach into the centre and it is these which reinforce the rural aspect of the area and add to the special nature of Westbourne.

Unlike many villages today, Westbourne maintains a thriving community of village shops which cluster around The Square. These provide for all the basic necessities and their value is enhanced because many retain elements of their original shop fronts. They provide the right balance of services without dominating. A number of houses in the village still show architectural features from their past use as shops, which adds to their distinctiveness and charm.

Successful Characteristics Of The Central Area

Tightly grouped buildings of irregular line. Main street frontages abut onto pavements but off the main thoroughfare they sit directly onto the street

Frequent and irregular stepping of facades; varying texture and finish; in combination with a broken roof line of both clay tile, thatch and slate and an assortment of chimney stacks

A large range of style, size and age in a relatively small area

The ever-changing vista presented by short or quickly curving lanes and streets of different aspect

Until very recently no recent, out-of-keeping, building additions.

Aldsworth

A modest hamlet lying to the North of the Parish. It lies on an East-West road which climbs slightly to reveal the major properties of Aldsworth House and Aldsworth Manor, together with its farm neatly poised on the ensuing ridge. Pairs of attractive flint and slate Victorian cottages gracefully line the Emsworth Common Road.

The area includes Brickkiln and Aldsworth ponds. These form an important area for wildlife, especially wildfowl. In hard weather, the temperature of the spring water keeps the Aldsworth pond and its edges from freezing over and enables Lapwing, Snipe and Woodcock to feed in the soft mud denied to them elsewhere.

Sindles Farmhouse and some of its buildings lie just inside the parish boundary. Along the South of Hams Copse, just East of the farm, a section of the medieval parish boundary bank can still be seen. The composite mix of broad-leaved hedge and tree species it contains, together with vigorous Bluebell woods alongside, are a good indicator of its centuries old existence.

Woodmancote

This manor of the 15th Century has become a small hamlet to the east of Westbourne, known at one time for its one pub, one shop, one church - the shop is now gone. Farms and farm buildings form the oldest part, perhaps dating back to Domesday, some of which have been sympathetically converted into housing. There is a small 100 year old church, the relative newness being made remarkable by its structure - corrugated iron. The remainder of the housing is a mix of the 1920's, 30's, 60's and a few 90's. Woodmancote has at least one hedge considered to be over 600 years old, see p.13 legal protection.

Two matters, however, affect the residents of Woodmancote at present, and are all too typical of the pressures which can spoil quiet rural areas.

Firstly the construction of the new A27 by-pass (opened 19th August 1988) to the South, and especially the material chosen for its surface, is destroying the peace of the hamlet with its ever increasing noise pollution: which is now continuous from 02.00 hrs until midnight.

Secondly Woodmancote sits on a geological strata known as 'clay with flints' which has been in constant demand for gravel extraction over the past 20 to 30 years. Further workings are threatened.

It is recognised gravel is needed, and extraction is essential, but these villagers

Birds Recorded In Hams Copse

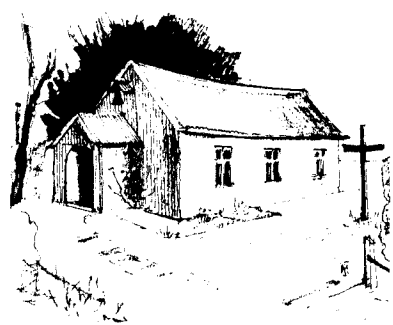
Wren, Dunnock, Blackbird, Song Thrush, Mistle Thrush, WhiteThroat, Marsh Tit, Garden Warbler, Blackcap, Blue Tit, Robin, Long-Tailed Tit, Chaffinch, Great Tit, Yellowhammer, Willow Warbler

Birds Frequenting Aldsworth Pond

Mallard, Teal, Tufted Duck, Wigeon, Shoveller, Pochard, Gadwell, Garganey, Shelduck, Canada Goose, Heron, Swan



Aldsworth Pond



Woodmancote

**Settlement Characteristics
To Be Retained**

The views from Monks Hill, which are cherished, should be protected by ensuring that the height of any new building is kept in scale with the existing.

Maintain hedges wherever possible and replace wherever practicable.

Attention should be given to reducing night sky light pollution by the use of appropriate forms of public and private external lighting.

Extend flagged pavements in the central area of the village wherever possible.

In tune with "Townscape Initiative" the villagers are anxious those historic unlisted walls and buildings, outside the conservation area, also be recognised and respected.

are concerned the extraction of poor quality gravel is an excuse to provide pits for the infilling of waste: they currently await West Sussex County Council's waste proposals with interest and concern. Landfill is only acceptable when properly done and landscaped.

There is no evidence that long term harm would occur, nevertheless West Sussex Minerals Local Plan has addressed these villagers wider problems, and state that both an Hydrogeological study and an archaeological field evaluation are required prior to the determination of any mineral working planning applications.

Westbourne

From:

Westbourne Road

River Footpath/Farm Lane

White Chimney Row

New Road

North Street

Paradise Lane

North Street

Ellesmere Orchard / Whitley

School Lane

Monks Hill

Covington Road

Commonside

River street

Mill Road

Foxbury Lane

Aldsworth

Woodmancote

Glimpses / Passive Views

Direction To:

South

East and West of the Salvation Army

SouthWest of Church Hall

East / West, and Strategic Gap

East corner

opposite Small Street Cottage

Good Intent car park

River Street

opposite Norman House

from River Bridge

panoramic and Strategic Gap

opposite Ellesmere Orchard to

Meadow View

Mill Pond and Engine House

open fields and Church spire

Playgrounds: open fields

panoramic and sea

Playing Fields and open country

East of Lashly Workshops

opposite The Cricketers

Venture Farm and open country

river - Mill Pond - river

School, fields and canal

Watersmeet and Engine House

allotments

river, canal, watermeadows

Fields and Cemetary

countryside

countryside, gravel pits, A27(M)

South

South

South

West

East

West

E. & West

West

West

South

West

East

South

North

North

North

North

North

South

East

West

East

STREETS AND BUILDINGS

Building Materials and Styles

The delightful appearance of the Parish is founded in its meandering lanes and the great variety of materials and finish used in its buildings. Throughout the village, brick and rendered walls are the common feature, interspersed with flint for both house and boundary walls. The flint boundary walls make a strong statement in the Hampshire and Sussex countryside. Variety continues with the roofs, where plain clay tile and slate sit side-by-side, but the older clay tile roofs often bowing under the burden of the passing years, but providing a colourful base for the ever-changing form of the chimney stacks.

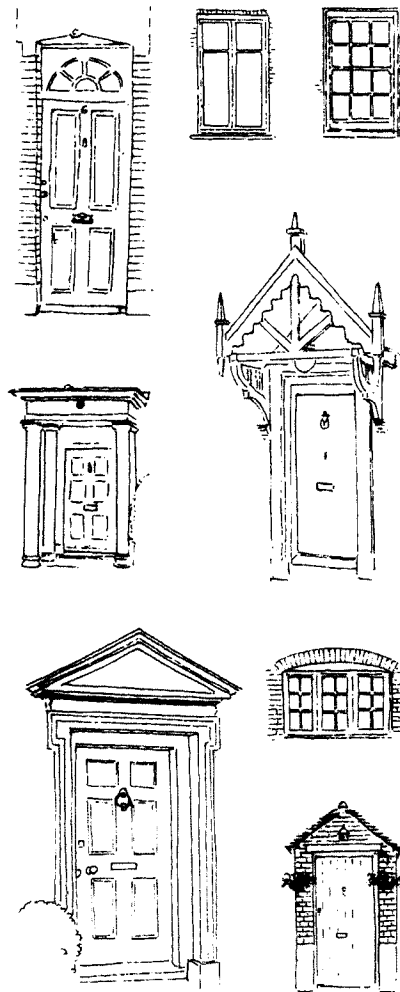
There are a number of very attractive and ancient timber framed cottages, some still retain their thatched roofs.

Doors and Windows

Historic doors, windows, porches, lintols and dormers, with their great variety of style, pattern and character, have an important impact on the appearance of many buildings.



The Square



Doors and windows in Westbourne

MODERN ESTATES

Primary Road Names

Three Corner Piece, Byerley Close,
Churcher Road, Monks Hill, Crockford
Road, Covington Road, Duffield Lane,
Edgell Road, Lumley Lane



Edgell Road



Ellesmere Orchard

Westbourne

The Westbourne element of the Parish has absorbed a considerable amount of development over recent years, particularly that of Local Authority Housing which now represents 51% of all dwellings. These modern developments can be identified by the primary road names in each.

Mill Road Council Estate was built during 1939 and 1950. Architecturally, the houses feature warm red brick construction of irregular plan. This, and the strong pitched roofs has enabled this development to mature and it does not look out of place in a rural environment. Individuality is creeping in with private ownership and this further enhances the area. Mill Road would have been even more in keeping if it had not been laid out in a straight line, which is at odds with the old village.

The extension to Mill Road formed by Churcher, Homefield and Crockford Roads was built in 1985 to provide further Local Authority Housing. Whilst the area is pleasantly open, the houses themselves are plain and regular and the roads straight. It is regretted that no effort was made to visually blend the estate in with the rest of the village in any way.

Edgell Road Estate is the latest Local Authority housing development and here some effort has been made to produce housing of a style, texture and variety which generally sits better in the environment.

Ellesmere Orchard is a private estate comprising typical houses of 1960's style. No attempt was made to style them in sympathy with the village character.

Old Rectory Close is a small private estate tucked behind the church. It features modern style houses of the 1970's period and, although the area has developed a peaceful, relaxing atmosphere, no thought was given to adopting architectural styles in keeping with the character of the adjacent village centre.

These more recent developments of estate housing do not show any particular evidence of being designed in keeping with the styles of the mature heart of the village, rather they are examples of their time. Any further development should neither lead to an urban sprawl nor to subordinate the character of the village. The existing estate areas will, in time, mature and develop a character of their own but would greatly improve by the

introduction of a sympathetic tree planting programme. Housing styles, arrangements and layouts which emulate the older village will sit better in the landscape.

The Villagers' Wishes

New additions ought to blend with the older parts of the Parish, both architecturally and in the way they are arranged in relation to each other and, if new roads are added, that these follow gentle curves similar in scale and edging of the existing, subject to the Highway Authority.

An amount of new housing at any one time able to be absorbed without detriment to village character and with the number of new comers able to be integrated into the community most easily. The possibility of workshops for the self employed should also be pursued.

Suitably pitched roofs, thatch, clay tiles, dormer windows of appropriate scale and design and choice of brick, flint and other traditional materials, can enable a new addition to sit at peace with its older neighbours.

Different designs set next to each other, in irregular juxtaposition, can add visual interest. Appearance of any new street, and buildings along it, should be in sympathy with its older neighbours in scale and arrangement, without pastiche.

Development which may affect the water table and the stream systems of the Parish needs special attention.

Palette of existing local materials to be encouraged.

Roof Materials

Thatch, traditional red clay tiles with red ridges, various concrete tiles, Welsh slates often with red clay ridges, lead dressing, corrugated iron, asbestos, Roman interlocking, with a wide variety of stacks & chimney pots. A very occasional flat roof.

Exterior Walls

Some proudly bear the dates 1631, 1758, 1867, 1873, 1901. House, boundary and garden in: flintwork, endemic to chalklands, coursed or random, coursed or random knapped, with or without galletting. Brickwork, one time local made from Hayling Island, Rowlands Castle reds, or Midhurst whites: 2 stretchers and a vitrified header, stretcher bond (implying cavity work). A very occasional facing blockwork. Dearn's bond for humble buildings and garden or boundary walls.

Finishes

Colourwash, render and colourwash, pebbledash, painted pebbledash, timber cladding, tile hanging, even fairfaced blockwork with red mortar.

Windows

Double hung sash, side hung casement, top hung vents: mainly timber, sometimes metal, very occasional plastic, with every combination of glazing panes, and of course some leaded casements. Some windows have stone surrounds, and many with stone carved lintols.

Contemporary material to be introduced where appropriate.

ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS



The Square, Westbourne

Street Furniture and signs

Throughout the Parish, when considering extensions, alterations, new buildings and street furniture, care should be taken in the choice of materials, scale and design, to enhance the rural nature of the Parish.

New uses in existing buildings need careful thought as they may necessitate changes to the appearance or function of the buildings which could detract from the character of the area.

Insensitive use of modern interlocking concrete roof tiles can often mar a building's appearance, as can modern material window frames, exposed service metering boxes and garish shop advertising schemes and boards. Thoughtless design or arrangement of lighting, whether public or private, is polluting the night sky.

Much of Westbourne is a conservation area, but even this has failed to stop the inappropriate installation of certain features. Modern style highway lighting, garish shop signs, plastic litter bins, street bollards and the latest type of modern telephone box can be intrusive. The styling and construction of such relatively minor additions must be given the same attention as the major developments, an accumulation of minor items can quickly conspire to erode the village character.

Popular Opinions Within The Village

Unnecessary signs and clutter to be resisted and utility companies made aware of their duty to respect the heritage of the Parish and complement the character of the village.

Architectural features which mark previous years, such as shop window styles, and fittings, or provide evidence of previous industrial uses, eg. Mill, should be retained where there is no conflict with present day use.

New roof lights to be carefully considered in terms of position, size and detail.

Replacement doors, windows and guttering, sympathetic to the age, style and materials of the building to be encouraged.

To see Petrol Station signs and advertising made less garish and overpowering in future.

SUMMARY OF GUIDANCE

People have many reasons for choosing to live in the Parish: residents do appreciate its old rural character, its sense of community and the fact that it is an active, living village with small shops, services and facilities. It is the oasis in an encroaching urban sprawl. The villagers wish to protect this, and have it respected.

Change Management

If Westbourne and its two companions are to retain their identity, then change and additions need to be sensitively managed.

Countryside

It is important to retain and if possible, expand broad-leaf woodland and hedge planting with native species. They are a rich source of flora and fauna besides a visual amenity that everyone can appreciate. Important hedgerows can be legally protected.

The retention of the River Ems and its features, ponds, watercress beds, the canal etc. is important as these bring their own aspects to the landscape, and every effort must be made to promote their continuing existence as the demands for water escalate in the South.

The Parishioners consider it very important that where green pastures reach into the villages these should be preserved.

Refer to the *Hedgerow Protection act, 1997*.

Practical Aspects of Development

The water table is extremely high throughout the area, and it is necessary to take all due care with future development in ensuring that disturbances of this table do not have a deleterious effect on existing properties, etc. It needs to be noted that the majority of the village properties do not boast foundations in the modern sense.

The lanes and services of the Parish, including the size of Westbourne school, are not designed to handle village demands much beyond their current levels. Any growth or 'improvements' in such areas must also include a commensurate improvement in the infrastructure while retaining the rural nature of the parish .



The Brook, Lumley

General Points

The villagers would like to see new extensions and estates to blend with the older parts of the Parish, both architecturally and in the way they are arranged in relation to each other. If new roads are added, then these should follow the generally informal nature of the existing appearance and street patterns, maybe introducing cobbled lengths to discourage speeding traffic, using similar scale and edging of the old existing, wherever possible.

The villagers are very keen to resist changes to village entrances to Aldsworth, Woodmancote and Westbourne; see map

The views from Monks Hill are cherished and the villagers would like to see them protected by ensuring that the height of any new buildings is kept in scale with the existing.

The Parishioners are concerned that research be undertaken to properly quantify the amounts of water being removed or diverted in the area. They believe that careful monitoring to prevent flooding or drying out, and ensure environmental sustainability, is necessary.

Close-board fencing can look inappropriate if it faces onto a road or path. The villagers would like to see suitable walls of brick or flint, or hedging, instead, wherever possible.

Where new roads are laid out, the villagers would like to see a diverse mixture of verge and kerb, bank, wall, hedging and path set in juxtaposition with each other.

Unnecessary signs and clutter should be resisted and utility companies made aware of their duty to respect the heritage of the Parish.

There is a strong desire to see hedges planted and maintained wherever possible and replaced wherever practicable. Extra tree planting is seen as very desirable, preferably native species.

The villagers would like to see those "Glimpses / Passive Views" and breaks, as listed on page 8, such as fields, greens, recreation areas, triangles and paths defended.

The retention of architectural features and fittings which mark previous commercial use, such as shop window styles and fittings or mill features is seen as historically important.

Development which may affect the high water table and the stream systems of the Parish need very special attention. Surveys should be submitted alongside the planning application to show the effect of the development on the water table, and vice versa.

Detailed Points

A desire to keep the scale and mass of new buildings, and the way they are laid out, in keeping with the traditional style.

Suitably pitched roofs, thatch, clay tiles, dormer windows and choice of brick, flint or other traditional material can enable a new addition sit at peace with its older neighbours. Different designs set next to each other, slightly varying in style, with terraces or a variety of spaces between buildings will help to maintain the rich architectural diversity of the village.

New roof lights should be carefully considered in terms of position, size and detail.

Replacement doors, windows and guttering should be sympathetic to the age and style and materials of the building.

The design and materials used for such things as signs, sign posts, litter bins, street bollards and lamp posts should be considered carefully.

Retain and extend flagged pavements in the central area of the villages wherever possible.

Attention should be given to reducing night sky light pollution by the use of appropriate types and levels of public and private external lighting.

Wider lanes and roads or expanded facilities and services will, without sufficient care, speed the change from a rural parish to an urban one. The retention of the rural environment and appearance is of immense importance to the Parish.

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1. The Trades People of Westbourne, 1845 - 1938, by Peter Ellacott.
2. The Village Schools, 1819 - 1984, by Nigel Peake.
3. The Poor of the Parish and the Work of the Westbourne Select Vestries, 1819 - 1835, by Peter Ellacott.
4. Westbourne Then and Now, by Stephen Johns.
5. The Westbourne Union, Life in and out of the New Workhouse, by Ian Watson.
6. Westbourne Church Guide, by Lindsay Fleming.
7. Cleaning up Westbourne, by David Hogg.
8. Westbourne Worthies, by David Hogg.
9. The Bastards of Westbourne, by Peter Ellacott.
10. Westbourne's War, 1939 to 1945, by Tom Edwards

Westbourne Village Design Statement has been prepared as part of a nationwide experiment by the Countryside Commission into the design of rural buildings and their settings, The Countryside Commission works to conserve the beauty of the English countryside and to help people to enjoy it.

This statement has been produced by a Villagers' Workshop, Villagers' ideas, and a Village Design Group, with particular assistance from:

Val Owen (Chairman Parish Council), John Veltom, Peter Barge, Roger Musgrave, Lucy Baggott, Elisabeth Kinloch.

George Hardie and Sam Griffiths: graphic design

William Hardie aged 8: front cover illustration

Cyril Shutler: content illustrations which remain his copyright. Mary Shearer

For other support and contributions the Villagers are grateful to

The Countryside Commission
Sussex Rural Community Council
Rural Action for the Environment
Chichester District Council

V.D.S. COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- 1997**
 January Chairman of Parish council circulated Countryside Commission booklets: "Can you help with V.D.S.?"
 February Parish Magazine; "Village Design Statement"- what is it? "Village meeting may be arranged to explain."
 March 20 Baptist Church Hall Open Meeting, over fifty people, potential Co-ordinators, and Subcommittee nucleus as Advisory Committee to Parish Council Planning Committee.
 April 15 Church Hall - Trevor Cherrott, S.R.C.C Question and Answer Session; to tell more than 70 of us a V.D.S. "Quality not Taste."
 May 13 V.D.S. committee and Parishioners writing on their own subjects: 'Introduction to the V.D.S.', 'Character of the Landscape', 'Agricultural Theme', 'Historical', 'Roads, Footpaths, Bridleways'.
 June 17 "Village did not develop as an olde world concept". V.D.S Committee discuss structure of their draft (No.5) which could be accepted as Chichester District Council Supplementary Planning Guidance.
 July Monthly: Parish Magazine, Parish Council, and V.D.S. Committee meetings, ensure Villagers are informed of progress and activities.
 August 2 All day 09.30 - 17.30 proposed Village Character Workshop, as part of the work to produce a V.D.S., postponed to 25th October, final briefing to be 13th October.
 September All on the Electoral Roll to receive invitations to the Workshop to be hosted by Philip Turner (S.R.C.C.), and funded by Rural Action.
 October 25 In the Church Hall and around the village nearly forty attended of all ages divided into 3 groups to identify the essence of the village now, and to provide drawings and photographic guidance for the Future.
 November 24 Chichester D.C. "Seminar on Local Distinctiveness and V.D.S.", approximately 50 attended by Ward, Parish, 3 of Westbourne invited.
 December By now No.8 Village Design Statement drafted and Parish involved.
1998
 January-June Committee agree a copy of V.D.S. to all who attended the Workshop, still writing, choosing, listening to all opinions. Village walkabouts to identify methods, material, features.
 July-December Attended Chichester D.C. Seminar at Weald and Downland Museum "Recognition and use of local building materials".
1999
 January-June V.D.S. final choices: graphics, illustrations, layouts, for comment and discussion over months to Chichester D.C. favourably received.
 July-December Woodmancote rewrites: Inspector's Mineral Report. Gravellers and Travellers - await West Sussex local plan. Dec. deposit draft V.D.S. adjusted to responses from Planning and Strategic Services Director and Development Control Officers.
2000
 March Draft V.D.S into Public Libraries, Emsworth, S'bourne, Chichester.
 April 11 Draft V.D.S. to be reported to and ratified by Chichester D.C. Executive Board.

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