

## Annual Village Report. Weston on the Green 2023-34

### Ongoing issues:

- a. Oak Tree path – not yet removed
- b. Southfield Development - not yet completed
- c. Traffic issues on B430 (speed) and Church Lane (density and speed), great work by Speedwatch team but rat run still exists
- d. Open Reach technology project collapsed after three years of work as funding collapsed at the last moment
- e. Gigaclear, a company whose focus is rural broadband bought the contract for our village and began to develop infrastructure in WotG. Hopes were high that full fibre would be delivered in good time. There is disappointment for many as cables are here but hook up hasn't been completed in most areas of the village. Issues about state of verges after installation.
- f. Great Wolf Resort – pause on building and continued concern about impact of the resort on traffic density on the B430
- g. Wider picture is one of development increasing near Chesterton with concern about increased traffic density
- h. Some street **flooding**
- i. **Storm** knocked down a tree from the church across Church Lane
- j. Underlying concern about **Cherwell District Council's Local Plan** – it is not yet in place. What will it mean for housing expectation?

### Stumbling blocks to solutions:

- OCC highways department does not have the manpower to get through their job list
- CDC Planning seem to be overwhelmed with planning applications and smaller applications seem to take forever
- Gigaclear unable to resolve its operational issues
- Southfield is in Administration and has some specific issues presumably to do with construction

### Successes

- a. Village News has had a facelift and sufficient advertising has led to free copies to all villagers – 650 copies are printed and so advertisers also have copies to share with

clients. Sad death of Colin Rosser in early April 2024. Need for a person with marketing skills to replace him

- b. Food bank – working alongside St. Mary's Church and the Memorial Village Hall, substantial collections have been made monthly for the Bicester Food Bank
- c. Bus No 24 – not perfect in terms of its access into Bicester in the morning but still a popular choice for getting into Bicester and Oxford
- d. Community bus – serving a number of vulnerable folk in the village. It makes a great difference and is funded by grants and donations
- e. Growing group of volunteers! We need to share out the work of keeping activities going, maintaining the village and sharing responsibility in our organisations and groups
- f. Playground work – begun and thoughts about future project also beginning

## Changes

With a turnover in housing ownership and a sense that there are many new and young(ish) families in the village, there have been conversations about how the history of the village and its distinct characteristics can be maintained whilst residents require some accommodation to modern living.

How does a village like ours resist becoming a convenient suburb and maintain its historic identity? What is worth preserving? What makes our village unique? Do we value this enough to work at keeping it alive?

Fortunately with groups such as the Village Hall Committee, Weston Society, the Garden Club and Neighbours Natter, there are opportunities for groups of us to come together. Glancing through the Village News one can see that we can learn to dance, go on walks, get fit, meet with a ladies group. The challenge is how we support these local groups, take leadership roles, encourage newcomers to join in.

It is a privilege to live in this village.