

LOST YOUR WAY? LOOKING FOR DIRECTIONS? SAT NAV MISBEHAVING?

In the past you would have been able to rely on a finger post: that characteristic countryside way marker standing between you and a blazing row with your co-pilot as you drive past that farm on the left for the third time. Those were the days! I grew up in the city and for me they represent far more than a mere orienteering device: they tell me I have arrived in the country. They are part of a rural heritage that is fast disappearing and, call me old-fashioned, but the modern plastic replacements just aren't quite right.



Since West Dorset District Council has tightened the purse strings, financial responsibility for numerous services has fallen to local communities. One such responsibility is the maintenance of the county's finger posts. We have been advised that we have to pay to repair and replace them ourselves.

Those of you who live in Whitchurch Canoniconum

may well have noticed that the post in the picture now only points in one direction: two of its three fingers have been amputated in the last six months. The Parish Council is working with the AONB office to repair it but there are many others in the area that are in a very sorry state. The Parish Council is preparing a parish-wide survey to photograph and record the location and state of repair (or disrepair) of all the Parish's finger posts.

Besides the practical skills needed to help with the dismantling and replacing of the signs, a finger post can cost several hundred pounds to replace. In some parishes County and District Councillors have generously donated money from their Members' allowances. So far the Char Valley has not been so blessed but we remain hopeful!

If you are in a position to help either practically or with fund raising, we would love to hear from you. It would be a shame if we were to lose these distinctive way markers for ever. Damaged or lost signs will not be replaced. Further details of the County's finger post project can be obtained from the AONB's web pages via the Dorset For You website.

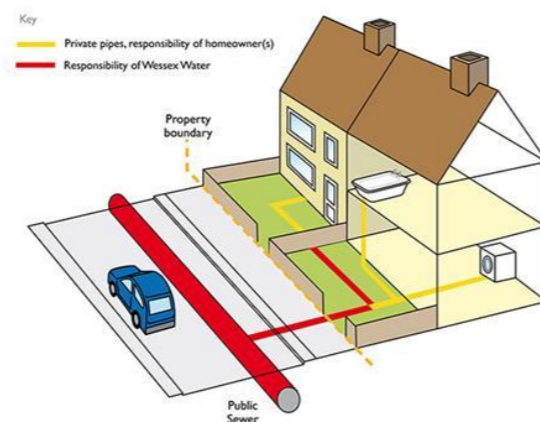
Carolyn Peck

Down the Drain

Despite our consultation last year, Wessex Water has rejected our request for being connected to the mains sewage system.

Looks like we'll have to continue with the current situation for a good few more years.

Please remember to get your septic tank emptied regularly, if you have one.



Your views Energy Generation Questionnaire

Fracking	P1
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Tree Works	P2 & 3
Superfast	P2 & 3
Alert List	P3
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Over 100 hundred of you responded to our questionnaire and it was clear that most of you do not see our area as a place for industrial scale energy generation of any kind.

Are the results skewed? Given the number of responses it does seem very likely to be a fair representation of local feelings.

Overall it is clear that people do not see our area as suitable for any sort of power generation on an industrial scale, with solar farms seen as the least bad option.

Roof top solar panels are well supported but no other form of generation is. Wind farms are least popular with fracking running very close behind.

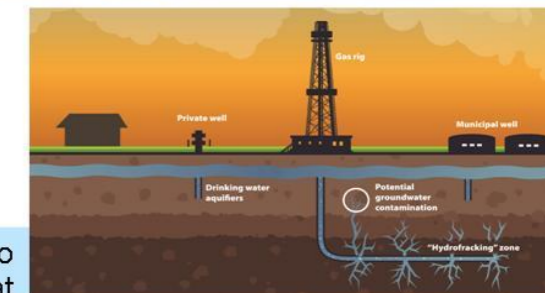
Offering some form of financial compensation had almost no effect on people's opinions—in fact written comments showed that many of you thought such inducements were little short of bribes. This would appear to run counter to government's current approach to encouraging communities to support fracking.

The strongest views were greatly concerned about impact on the AONB, farming, wildlife and damage to tourism. Following on were worries about unstable geology, pollution and increased traffic.

Some supporters of fracking viewed it as the least damaging option to the landscape and disapproved of solar and wind power because of subsidies.

More information at:

<http://www.charvalleypc.co.uk/Energy-Generation-Questionnaire-Feedback.pdf>



Chair Chat

To frack or not to frack that is the question..

Do you know that :

- The government has been selling Petroleum Exploration and Development Licences (PEDLs) to companies wishing to drill for oil and shale gas?
- Much of Dorset is covered by current licences, including parts of West Dorset?
- Fracked oil and gas is much dirtier than existing sources?

We need to keep the overall temperature increase to 2 degrees centigrade, if our children and grandchildren are to have anything like a fair chance.

If all the fossil fuels, currently discovered, were to be burnt we would see rises into double figures. We can only afford to use about 20% of the current reserves. We don't need new and dirtier sources of pollution.

We can avoid this but we all need to be acting now - and our government most of all. We need investment in reducing usage, for example better insulation for all homes and widespread use of electric vehicles. We can micro generate clean fuel by more and comprehensive use of solar on all public buildings and all new build.

We all have a responsibility to do our bit and keep most reserves in the ground.

The opinions here are those of the Chair of CVPC and not necessarily those of the Parish Council as a whole.

Keen Walker?

We need a bit of help to keep an eye on the local Rights of Way.

We need help in the Whitchurch Canoniconum area and around Stanton St Gabriel.

You just need to keep an eye out for obstructions or problems with the tracks, while you're out walking in the area.

We need to keep these ways open and your assistance would be invaluable.

If you could help please contact the clerk.

Lost Property ? Report it

There is a new way to report lost property to Dorset Police.

Visit www.reportmyloss.com and fill in the online form with the details of the lost item. This database is then searchable by Dorset Police along with other Forces. There is no longer the need to call 101 or attend a Police Station to report lost property.

Bridport Police Station has revised opening times. The front counter is open Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday from 9am to 5pm.

Police Officers are always on patrol in the area 24 hours a day 365 days a year. They can be contacted by calling 101 for non-emergency issues or 999 if life is in danger or a crime is taking place.

Dorset Alert is a free way to receive information about crimes, events, crime prevention advice and other important messages from Dorset Police. You can sign up for free at www.dorsetalert.co.uk and choose to receive messages via email, phone call or text message. Did I mention it's free!

One of the most frequent types of crime reported to us are break-ins to sheds and garages. Please take a minute or two to assess the security of your outbuildings. Power tools, mowers, strimmers and hedge trimmers are targeted by thieves.

If you would like advice on how to protect your belongings then please contact your local Safer Neighbourhood Team by calling 101.



Paint the box Red

British Telecom now have plans to repaint the telephone box, outside the Village Hall in Whitchurch Canonorum.

We don't yet have a date but hopefully a gleaming red box will be there between March and October.



A Gentle Reminder Before Cutting...

Those of you who live in an around Whitchurch Canonorum may be aware that the conservation area boundaries were extended recently. This is just a reminder that if you live in the conservation area you may need permission from WDDC to carry out certain sorts of work, whether removal or maintenance, on trees and hedges. Some individual trees and stands of trees are protected by preservation orders and substantial fines can be levied if these orders are not respected. I have information regarding protected trees in the locality if this is of interest to anyone and details of the conservation area boundaries as well as the relevant permissions and conditions can be found on the Dorset for You website.

Carolyn Peck, Hedge and Tree Officer CVPC



Superfast Broadband... Or is it!

The Superfast Dorset programme is being rolled out and we were assured:

Across the whole of Dorset, Bournemouth and Poole, the project Superfast Dorset will help to provide:

- 95.6% of premises with access to superfast broadband (at least 24Mbps)
- 97% of premises with access to the fibre network (this will offer a range of speeds above 2Mbps)
- 100% of premises with access to at least 2Mbps.

But the reality is very different. In Whitchurch Canonorum, while some parts of the village have 'Superfast', that is speeds above 24Mbps, other areas have seen no improvement despite being informed that at the very least 'faster fibre' would offer speeds in excess of 12 Mbps. Outside of the village I have been told of speeds below 0.5Mbps.

We are sure that other users are finding the same patchy service. This is despite the fact that we all need quality access.



The local economy is highly dependent on agriculture and tourism. Those businesses need to advertise their services and good broadband is increasingly seen as a vital requirement. Local farmer have to make returns to DEFRA online; local schools require students to use the school website and assume reliable access information on the web; the local medical centre has online booking and other facilities for patients; local people are often reliant on online shopping, especially with cut-backs to public transport.

The list goes on. We need a high quality service for everyone - now.

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Meeting with MP

I have set up a meeting with Oliver Letwin, MP, to discuss the issue. The meeting will take place on June 26th. If you have any issues/stories/concerns about the roll-out of the programme please send them to me and I'll see they are passed on.

My email address is ivangollop@hotmail.com

Or write (if email is unreliable) to me at:

Anvil Cottage,
Whitchurch Canonorum,
Dorset
DT6 6RF

Ivan Gollop, Chair CVPC

!! ALERT !!

!! ALERT !!

Want to know about planned road closures in our area? Maybe alerts about possible flooding or other hazards?

Do submit your email address and we'll collate a mailing list to send out alerts as soon as we get them.

Send your email address to ivangollop@hotmail.com with ALERT in the subject line.

!! ALERT !!

!! ALERT !!



Welcome

Our new Parish Clerk, John West took over the role of Parish Clerk in December 2014. The post had been filled on a temporary basis since the resignation of the previous clerk Katherine Johnson-Hyde.

John has a career background in public sector with many years experience working for local councils and in the NHS. He has also been a district councillor in Weymouth & Portland and active in several voluntary organisations.

John is a life-long Dorset resident, he moved to live in West Bay last autumn with his wife Sarah and daughter Hayley.

He has a keen interest in environmental matters and his other interests include walking, photography, music and watching football.

John says that he's enjoyed taking on the role of Clerk and is getting to know a great deal about the issues faced by the local community. He added that although his role is only a part-time one he hopes the support he gives the Council will help it be an effective voice for the local community.