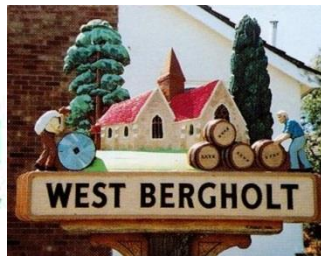

West Bergholt – Supporting Information

2016 Essex Village of the Year Competition



West Bergholt – 2016 Village of the Year

Contents	Pages
• Section 1 Communities, People & Places	1-7
• Section 2 Projects and Initiatives	8-14
• Section 3 Planning for the Future	15-19
• Section 4 Communications	20-14

Themes:

Community Facilities & Activities - **Business and Services** - **Environment & Sustainability** – **Community Information** – **New Initiatives and Future Plans**

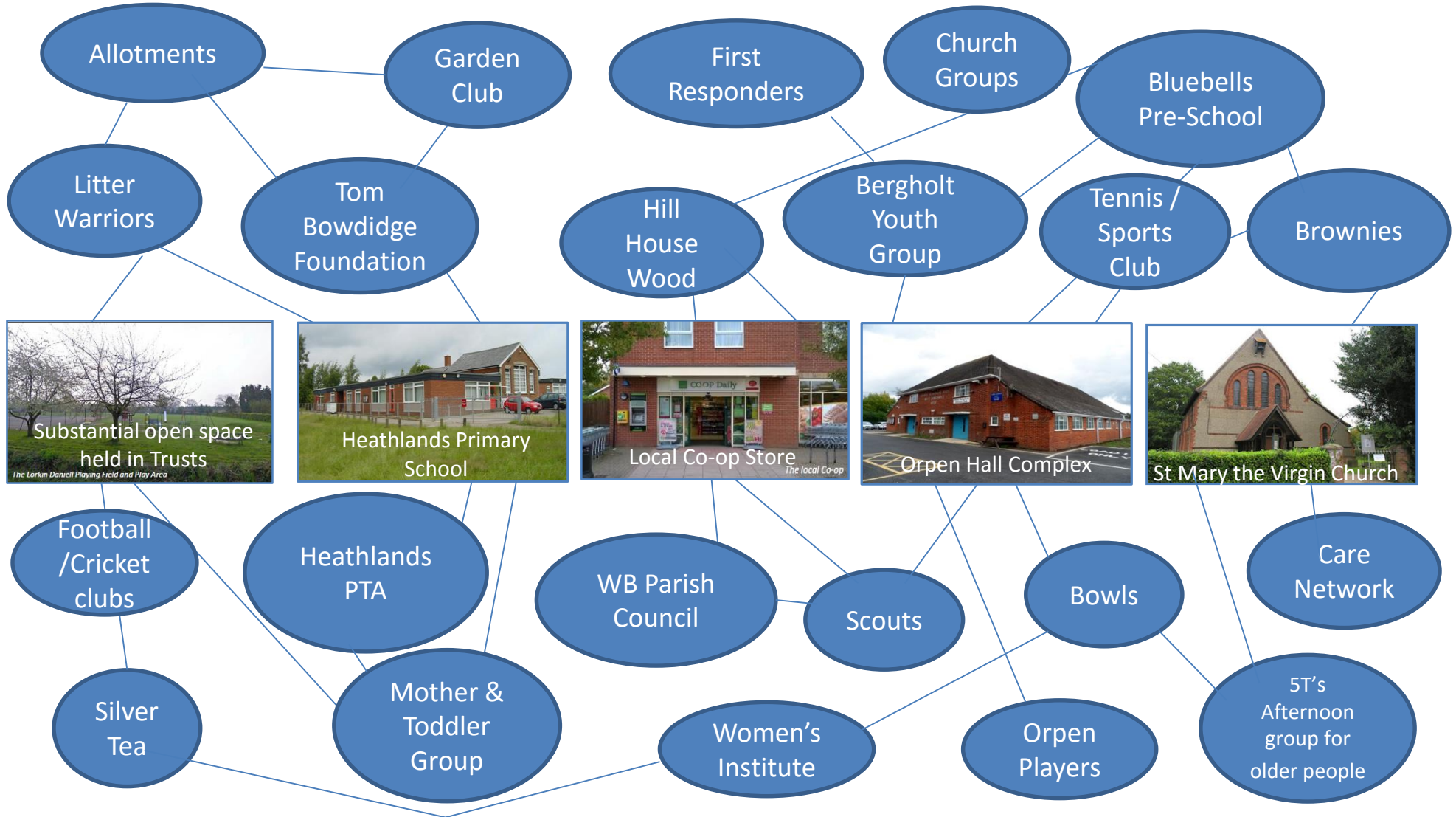


West Bergholt – 2016 Village of the Year

- Section 1 Communities, People & Places:

Community Facilities & Activities Business and Services





Business and Service Centre Links

West Bergholt has more businesses and service centres than may first meet the eye:

- Three pubs
- A handful of shops including the Co-Op who invested more than £1M a few years ago
- A gift and craft shop
- Hairdressers
- 4 business parks
 - Pattens Yard, Bourne Road, Armoury Road, Chancers Farm,
- Many small businesses run from home or nearby
- Employment provided by the school and the Parish Council
- Health services provided by the Local GP surgery
- St Marys Old Church

As well as the obvious links to businesses and shops for local employment and for trade and shopping, the community has supported these and vice versa via

- Use of local trades for community projects
- Concerts in St Marys Old Church
- Community asset: The White Hart
- Well established Facebook selling page
- Business directory on the website
- Sponsorship initiatives. Co-Op and fireworks display and Orpen Players via Treble Tile
- Participation in selling tickets, booking tennis courts
- Surveys for Parish Plan and Neighbourhood Plan



BYG has been running for over 8 years, growing in popularity during this time. There are currently over 100 registered members in school years 6 to 10 with each Club evening held every other Friday, being attended by between 60 and 70 children.



For updates and notices please visit us on Facebook:
<http://www.facebook.com/Bergholtyouthgroup>

John Lampon Hall, 6.30pm to 8pm every other Friday - School years 6 to 10

CLUB EVENINGS –APRIL TO JULY 2016

Date	Activity / Theme
08 APRIL:	KARAOKE
22 APRIL:	LONDON MARATHON RELAY RACE Donations to Some Bowdidge Foundation
06 MAY:	DODGEBALL (with EB4GC)
20 MAY:	HULA HOOPS FA CUP FINAL FOOTBALL
03 JUNE:	CERAMIC PAINTING FOR FATHER'S DAY <small>Extra charges apply</small>
17 JUNE:	FATHER'S DAY (cards etc.)
01 JULY:	WIMBLEDON
15 JULY:	INFLATABLE FUN <small>Extra charge may apply</small>

There will be a break in Club evenings for the summer holidays, returning in September

A range of regular activities are offered from table tennis and computer games to outdoor football and tennis with special events such as Archery provided by the Essex Boys and Girls Association. However many members simply enjoy the opportunity to meet and chat with their friends.

BYG is managed and staffed entirely by volunteers and although the volunteer list has seen many people come and go over the years, it is the same core of adults that still make up both the Club evening “crew” and the management committee. However after 8 years many of this original group are now looking to step aside and so a major task is to recruit new blood.

The Club leader has been involved since it began at the age of 16. In addition to the adults many of the younger helpers who form the Youth Crew have come up through the membership, are of a similar age and so will soon be heading for University, etc.

Bluebell pre-school provides learning through play

For children aged two to five years Bluebell Pre-School provides full-day care Monday to Friday 9:15 – 3:15. Bluebell Pre-School employs staff that are qualified to encourage the development of children in all areas of the Pre-School curriculum, as defined by the Education Authority.

The Pre-School provides a range of programmes suited to differing age bands including appropriate access to computer technology and now occupies both the main Orpen Hall and the John Lampon Hall.

In 2014 Ofsted awarded the highest accolade of “outstanding” quoting “the quality of teaching is exemplary”, “the practitioners use their expertise to provide children with an educational programme that is extremely challenging, exciting and worthy of disseminating to others”.





"Heathlands School's mission is to develop fully the knowledge, skills, faith and self confidence of all our children in a joyful, enthusiastic and Christian environment"

Heathlands is a church of England village school established in 1858 to serve the village of West Bergholt. It is now has over 350 pupils and has expanded over the years with the growth of the region and the choice of parents because of its very good reputation having recently received an Outstanding rating from OFSTED.



The schools has an established staff who have a variety of expertise. It's teachers and learning support assistants are very talented and experienced. An 'Investors in People' appraisal states; 'Whilst this is an educational establishment for children, it is very much a learning organisation for everyone'.

The school aims through its ethos, to inspire, stimulate and nurture children. It blends traditional values and skills with more progressive ideas and hence it achieves high standards.



Making a difference in our community

The Care Network is a voluntary organisation offering help which is not covered by existing agencies. For thirty years The Care Network has operated in the village to help residents with transport to medical and other important appointments.

It has a team of volunteers who are the telephone contacts and a pool of over twenty drivers who carry out over 200 journeys a year. The service is free but invites donations from clients.

If residents need a helping hand with transport to a medical appointment or any other local visit, The Care Network may be able to help through a call to one dedicated telephone number.



West Bergholt – 2016 Village of the Year

- Section 2 Projects and Initiatives

Community Facilities & Activities Environment & Sustainability



Section 2 Projects and Initiatives

The Friends of Hillhouse Wood is a group of local residents (total current membership in excess of 200) and was established in 1995, in the aftermath of the appeal to save the wood from possible use as a paintballing site. Since then we have worked with The Woodland Trust, who now own the wood, to enhance its value as a place both for wildlife and for peoples' enjoyment. It is estimated that there are in excess of 5000 visitors to Hillhouse Wood each year. Whilst some treat it as an adventure playground, a place for quiet contemplation or for walking the dog, many visit it for the wildlife in its various guises. The level of bio-diversity needed to maintain this healthy environment can only be achieved with a lot of work.

The 'Friends' organise monthly working parties to undertake maintenance activities such as paths, improving wildlife habitats and clearing bracken and brambles which enables the famous bluebell display to occur annually. We also arrange numerous free guided walks in Hillhouse Wood throughout the year.

The friends of Hillhouse Wood

Dawn Chorus 

Sunday 8th May 



Steve Hallam will lead a walk, offering a chance to see nightingales and many other brilliant dawn choristers.

If you haven't tried this you'll find it a rewarding and delightful experience at a very special time for the wood's varied birdlife.

Please bring warm clothing, stout footwear, a flask of hot drink and a torch.

Meet at the Old Church at 3.45 am
Weather permitting

The Friends of Hillhouse Wood  WOODLAND TRUST

Bluebell Open Day
and Spring Nature Walk

Saturday 7th May 

Join Steve Hallam for a guided walk from the Old Church to see the bluebells, other spring flowers, butterflies and bird life, possibly including early nightingales.

Walk starts at 2pm

Collect your map, nature trail, and guide from the Friends' Information Point, by St Mary's Old Church.

Refreshments provided by St Mary's Old Church. 

The Friends of Hillhouse Wood  WOODLAND TRUST



In 2012 the Parish Council agreed a severe weather policy in the event of the winter conditions we experienced the previous year.

Until the first week of February we thought this had done the trick as it seemed to keep the snow away but then it snowed and the plans were put into action and key paths were cleared, much to the appreciation of the village.

Since then a team of about 20 volunteers have been on standby each year but it has not snowed!



As a result of concerns about safety for children around the area of the school a Traffic Safety Plan was adopted by the Parish Council in 2012. The plan has the following mission statement:

“walking and cycling become the preferred modes of travel, that traffic levels and parking do not dominate our village and that the safety of adult and child pedestrians remains paramount.”



In summary the following main points made up the Traffic Safety Plan and have been implemented over the last three years.

- Parking Restrictions at all relevant junctions to reinforce the highway code
- To improve safety when crossing New Church Road parking restrictions extended to maximise safety for children and adults when travelling to and from the school.
- A 20 mph speed for both New Church Road and School Lane
- Improve parking made available at the Orpen Hall with the measures proposed making it safer for pedestrians to park and walk to/from the school
- Enable safer journeys for cyclists and pedestrians
- Promote the adoption of an updated school travel plan which includes an emphasis on walking, cycling, safer parking and use of alternative transport options.

The school and Parish Council have worked together on this plan and pupils have designed their own sign which will be incorporated into the 20mph limit signs.

The allotment site which is in the centre of the village has over 140 plots and is held in trust by the village. Recent surveys of residents show that it is regarded as an important feature in maintaining the character of the village.

The Parish Council entrusts the management of the site to an Allotment Holders Committee. The committee is made up of volunteers who help maintain the standards and rules of the site and carry out much of the maintenance work voluntarily.

The allotments are popular with residents and although there is a small turnover each year there is generally a short waiting list. The plots vary in size and various services such as rotovating are available to plot holders.





Without the full support of plot holders, to numerous to mention, this would not have been possible. **THANK YOU**
 Last but not least, a special thank you to all those plot holders who were in attendance on the day to welcome visitors to the allotments.

WEST BERGHOLT OPEN GARDENS
 Supporting teenagers and young people with cancer

ALLOTMENT TARGET PROGRESS - 2016

Target	Actual Raised To date
£ 1,000.00	
£ 950.00	
£ 900.00	
£ 850.00	
£ 800.00	
£ 750.00	
£ 700.00	
£ 650.00	ACHIEVED 2014
£ 600.00	
£ 550.00	WEEK 3
£ 500.00	
£ 450.00	
£ 400.00	
£ 350.00	
£ 300.00	WEEK 2
£ 250.00	
£ 200.00	
£ 150.00	WEEK 1
£ 100.00	
£ 50.00	

TOGETHER WE GROW SUCCESS!

GRATEFUL THANKS TO THE GENEROUS RESIDENTS IN THE COMMUNITY FOR THEIR SUPPORT AND DONATIONS

THANK YOU TO ALL PLOT HOLDERS FOR DONATIONS OF PLANTS, VEGETABLES, FRUIT AND FLOWERS.

Download these dates from www.westbergholt.net/dates/allotments
 Allotment Dates for 2016



On Thursday 21st April the Parish Council in association with the PTA, BYG, WI, Scouts and Guides organised an evening of festivities & fun at the Orpen Memorial Hall to celebrate the Queen's 90th Birthday.

The full schedule was:

15:30 – A Birthday Tea for Young & Old.

17:00 – Balloon Race

17:30 – Live Music, Food, Drink, Inflatables, Photo Booth and Film Show.

20:00 – Lighting of the Queen's Beacon.

20:15 – Firework finale

Good weather attracted over 500 people.

West Bergholt Parish Council presents

The Queen's 90th Birthday Celebration

Thursday 21st April 2016

An evening of festivities at the Orpen Memorial Hall

3.30 pm
A Birthday Tea for Young & Old

5.00 pm
Balloon Race – whose will travel the furthest?

8.00 pm
Lighting of the Queen's Beacon

8.15 pm
Firework Finale

5.30 pm onwards
Live Music, Food, Drink, Inflatables (weather permitting), Photo Booth and Film Show

If the weather's good – Bring your own Picnic Blanket & Deckchairs!
Red, White and Blue Clothing Encouraged – Prize for the Best Fancy Dress
 Free of Charge admission tickets for the birthday tea available from Heathlands School, BlueBells Pre-School, the Co-op & West Bergholt Pharmacy.
 Please remember no dogs allowed on Lorkin Daniell field
 For more details please contact the Parish Clerk on 01206 240772 or visit westbergholt.net

Queen Elizabeth II's 90th Birthday Celebrations



A great example of cross community co-operation



Lighting of the Beacon



Entertainment



Balloon Race



Birthday Tea



Entertainment



Tuck Shop

West Bergholt – 2016 Village of the Year

- Section 3 Planning for the Future

New Initiatives and Future Plans Environment & Sustainability



West Bergholt Parish Plan and Neighbourhood Plan

Forward Planning for our community

The Community has organised itself in recent years to produce:

- An adopted Parish Plan
- A Village Design Statement (see entry under Planning)
- A draft Neighbourhood Plan

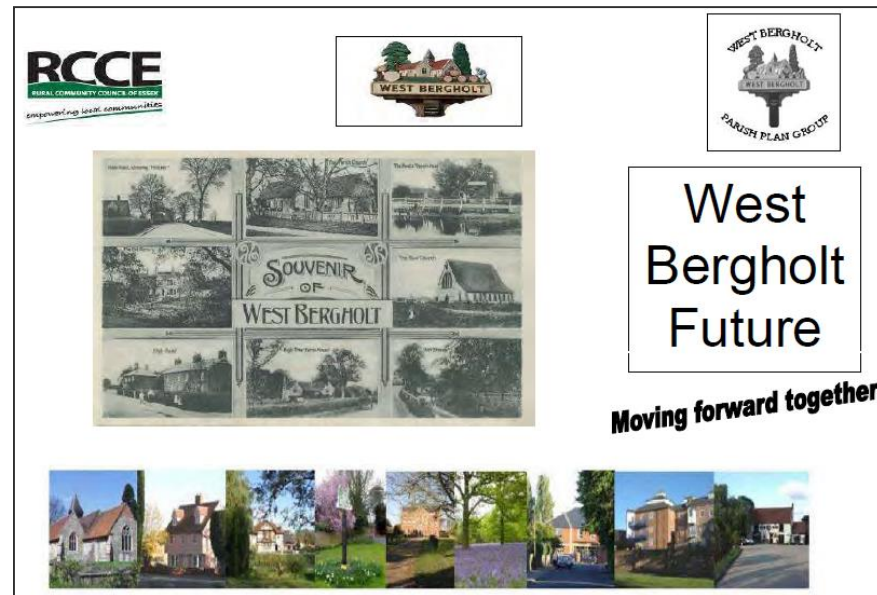
All three documents and their associated research and community engagement activities have been produced by volunteer steering groups, sponsored and supported by the Parish Council and to varying degrees by the RCCE and DCLG.

The Parish Plan was adopted in 2009 and the Neighbourhood Plan begins its adoption process later in 2016.

The Community are at the heart of all of the plans and extensive consultation has been undertaken consisting of surveys, questionnaires, workshops and exhibitions.

The themes of both plans have been holistic and joined up and are as follows:

- Village society and community - Environment - Housing and planning - Business and commerce - Sports and recreation - Community Safety - Communications- Transport, highways and infrastructure



West Bergholt Village design statement

West Bergholt has a village design Statement produced by members of the village some 3 years ago and adopted by Colchester Borough Council as Supplementary Planning Guidance. This is now taken into account when CBC determine planning applications.

The document highlights traditional characteristics, material and features of the village so any new developments or extension are not out of keeping or infringe on adjacent property.

Village members of the planning committee are very proactive and where appropriate, they will actively support local objections to planning applications. They also use their combined professional expertise and attend Colchester Borough Council Planning Committee meetings, speaking against applications that do not meet the adopted standards set out in out VDS.



Village Design Statements are intended to provide design guidance to people who are thinking about proposed developments such as an alteration to an existing property, the construction of new dwellings or commercial premises, or even the provision of street furniture



West Bergholt Parish Plan and Neighbourhood Plan

Forward Planning for our community – The Neighbourhood Plan

- Not just housing and planning!
- *Village society and community – Environment – Housing and planning – Business and commerce – Sports and recreation – Community Safety – Communications- Transport, highways and infrastructure*
- NP area has been agreed with Colchester BC
- There is a Steering Group separate to the Parish Council
- We held extensive consultations in 2014 on **what is important** to the community
- We have built up evidence with help from RCCE and others
- This was followed up **by Issues and Options** in 2015
- We are preparing to consult on the **full plan** in autumn 2016
- The plan will contain ideas about the location of **new homes** in the village
- We are in **step with Colchester BC** which is releasing its Local Plan for consultation
- There will be **policies in our plan**
- There will be **projects and initiatives** in the plan too, to replace and refresh those in the successful Parish Plan



West Bergholt – 2016 Village of the Year

- Section 4 Communications

Community Information



West Bergholt Communications

West Bergholt has an informative wide ranging village web-site (www.westbergholt.net) , supported in part by the Parish Council. It is continually up-dated providing local news and information about the village, local clubs and societies. Reports from Parish council meetings are up-loaded regularly as is progress towards development of the village Neighbourhood Plan.

A village bulletin is produced quarterly and distributed to all homes and businesses within the parish by volunteers. A half page section is taken by most social organisations within the village for this popular news-letter. Funding is provided both by advertising and the Parish Council.

West Bergholt home page which is West Bergholt.net – the website page for the village this provides calendar of events electronic copies of the bulletin, village updates and details of the parish councillors. There is a Facebook hub.

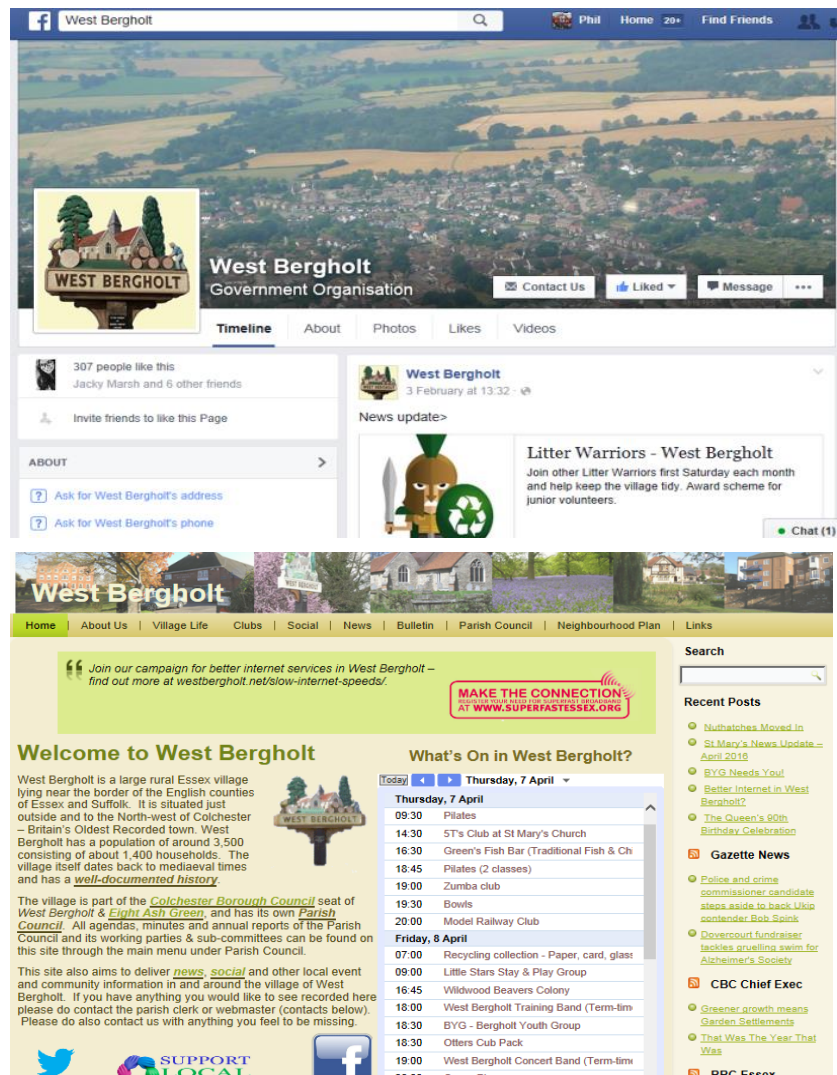
There are a number of active sites for West Bergholt and the clubs which reside in them. The majority of the sites have a good number of followers.

Village Bulletin

December 2015 Issue 144

www.westbergholt.net





Facebook Page: West Bergholt Government Organisation. 307 people like this. News update: Litter Warriors - West Bergholt. Join other Litter Warriors first Saturday each month and help keep the village tidy. Award scheme for junior volunteers.

Website: West Bergholt. Navigation: Home, About Us, Village Life, Clubs, Social, News, Bulletin, Parish Council, Neighbourhood Plan, Links. Search bar. Recent Posts: Nuthatches Moved In, St Mary's News Update - April 2016, BYG Needs You!, Better Internet in West Bergholt?, The Queen's 90th Birthday Celebration, Gazette News, Police and crime commissioner candidate steps aside to back Libp contender Bob Spink, Dovercourt fundraiser tackles gruelling swim for Alzheimer's Society, CBC Chief Exec, Greener growth means Garden Settlements, That Was The Year That Was, BBC Eeny.

What's On in West Bergholt:

Today	Thursday, 7 April	Friday, 8 April
	09:30 Pilates	07:00 Recycling collection - Paper, card, glass
	14:30 ST's Club at St Mary's Church	09:00 Little Stars Stay & Play Group
	16:30 Green's Fish Bar (Traditional Fish & Ch)	16:45 Wildwood Beavers Colony
	18:45 Pilates (2 classes)	18:00 West Bergholt Training Band (Term-lim
	19:00 Zumba club	18:30 BYG - Bergholt Youth Group
	19:30 Bowls	18:30 Otters Cub Pack
	20:00 Model Railway Club	19:00 West Bergholt Concert Band (Term-lim

West Bergholt Communications

West Bergholt is championing high speed broadband as a community activity.

Broadband is currently available in the village through

- An existing community activity to select a innovative supplier in 2011 where a Quality Broadband Group was established which
 - Met suppliers
 - Selected the best available at a an affordable price
 - Chose County Broadband a wireless Broadband supplier
 - Applied successfully for a grant to Essex County Council
 - Forward funded the initiative via the Parrish Council – money paid back over 3 years via a legal agreement
 - Wireless subscriptions at up to 30Mbs extend to around 300 households
- The village is ineligible for Superfast Essex funded projects so a new push has been made to improve coverage through
 - Forming a Community Broadband Partnership
 - Holding a public meeting
 - Taking advice from Superfast Essex
 - Having public meetings with suppliers
 - Creating a Community Broadband Group
 - 3 companies very interested in offering service
 - BT Openreach
 - County Broadband
 - Voneus

