



WEST BERGHOLT PARISH COUNCIL



# Annual Report 2022

# CONTENTS

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN - CHRIS STEVENSON 3

## REPORTS FROM THE COMMITTEES:

FINANCE, POLICY & PERSONNEL REPORT - ANDREW SAVAGE 4

ENVIRONMENT & HIGHWAYS REPORT - JOHN GILI-ROSS 5

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT REPORT - BOB TYRRELL 6

ORPEN HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (OHMC) REPORT - BRIAN BUTCHER 9

WBPC CLIMATE EMERGENCY DECLARATION 11

## A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN - CHRIS STEVENSON

Welcome to the West Bergholt Annual Parish meeting, organised by the Parish Council but not a Parish Council regular meeting, rather a chance to hear about news and issues facing the parish, and to allow all to participate by asking questions and airing views.

I very much hope you will enjoy the meeting, but alas I cannot be with you this evening. After avoiding the virus for over two years, myself and my household have just succumbed and testing positive as I write, a few days before the meeting. You will however be in the capable hands of my Vice Chairman Harry Stone. Thank you, Harry, for stepping in.

The meeting would also have been my last as Chairman, as I have decided to step down from this position after seven years at the helm. You will have a new Chair from end of May and whoever it is I wish them every success. It has been a privilege to have been Chairman for so long and a position that I have enjoyed hugely.

Due to the pandemic, we have not been able to hold this annual get-together since 2019, and so there is much to catch up on and to recap. Since 2019 there have been a few changes to the Parish Cllrs; we have said thank you and goodbye to Cllrs Norma Smith, Phil Spencer and Jenny Church. We also tragically lost our friend and Cllr Murray Harlow who passed away in 2020. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all for their contribution to the work of the Parish Council over the years. We welcome however, new faces to the team in Manya Barrow, James Owers and Joel Fayers, and wish them an enjoyable tenure as new or relatively new Cllrs. There is a current vacancy, which will be advertised for probable co-option, once the Borough Council has satisfied itself that electors do not want a formal election. Speaking of elections, a reminder that in May 2023, there will be full Parish Council elections for all 11 positions. This will be an ideal opportunity to show that democracy is alive and well in West Bergholt, so we very much hope we will see not only current Cllrs put themselves forward for election, but others too so that we have a contested election.

And a further word about the Pandemic. This brought many trials and tribulations to all whatever their circumstances, but through volunteering, collaborative efforts and great contingency planning, village and parish organisations were able to provide a lifeline for those in need, as well as helping with the vaccination rollout. Huge thanks from me on behalf of the Parish Council for all those who helped or volunteered in some way. Difficult to cover everyone, but special mention to the work of the Care Network and to Mervyn Donnelly in providing a lifeline for those who needed assistance with day-to-day needs, to Nick and the village Pharmacy and all volunteers who helped with the vaccinations as well as those who raised funds through their activities including Debra Hornigold, Dave Hewitt and Keith Wood.

The themes of our meeting today are mixed, there is however a strong sustainable environmental **flavour, very much in keeping with the Council's recent declaration of a** Climate Emergency, and we welcome speakers from Essex County Council and from Fairfield Farm crisps. We also have Jane Gardener from the Police, Crime and Fire Commissioners Office, a representative from Age Well and from the relatively new Head Teacher at Heathlands, Joseph Fielder. We welcome them all. I hope you find their contributions enlightening and stimulating.

Given the gap since we last met, there are a number of successes stories to relate and to document and Laura our Clerk has highlighted these on the exhibition boards behind you. Too many for me to do justice to here, in this report, but I will just thank everyone who voted to support our Neighbourhood Plan at the end of 2019. We achieved a huge 97% support in favour of the plan in the poll, and over 40% of the electorate came out and voted. Worth reminding ourselves, that there were no other elections on this date and that more people voted in the referendum than turn out at Borough elections. As we gather today and as a result of the passing of the Neighbourhood Plan into formal planning guidance, the first batch of homes have already been built and others are in the pipeline.

Elsewhere in this booklet you will read of the of the activities carried out by Parish Councillors working on behalf of the village during the last year in the various committee reports. Cllrs donate many hours of their free time addressing village and parish day-to-day issues and activities as well as planning for the future with longer term projects. I thank them for their commitment, professionalism, hard work and support. I would also like to thank our Hall Administrator Victoria Beckwith-Cole and Handymen past and present, David Hewitt, Nigel Weall, Matt Harkness and latest recruit Simon Forrester. Last, but by no means least, to our mostly invisible but hugely effective webmaster Dave Kingaby.

Which bring me to my enduring thanks to Laura Walkingshaw our redoubtable Clerk who will be far better known to all of you than I am. Laura is never far behind all of our activities and frequently leading them, as I always say our very own Chief Executive. Thank you for all the support you lend to Parish Council initiatives and for the support you give me and all Cllrs, employees and handymen.

So, in signing off this report for the last time as Chairman, I will close with a huge thanks to all on the PC and wider who have supported me over the past seven years. This village and wider parish area has shown itself to be so well grounded in its resilience in looking out for others, providing a **great base for its residents to literally “work, rest and play”, as well as being able to think about** the future, whether it be as a growing community or for the many ideas and projects which are stimulated through the various interactions that occur and which continue to make West Bergholt a great place to live in.

## REPORTS FROM THE COMMITTEES:

### FINANCE, POLICY & PERSONNEL REPORT - ANDREW SAVAGE

**I’m pleased to announce that the External Auditors have ‘signed off’ the 2020/21 accounts.** My thanks therefore go to Laura for all her hard work and to Jan Stobart for undertaking the Internal Audit.

The accounts for the following year, ending March 2022, are currently being prepared and the pre-audited figures can be summed up as follows:

The Parish **Council’s accounts show an income for the year (including contributions from various Charities, Trusts, Grants and VAT refunds)** of over £127,000 as against an expenditure of just over £113,000. The main reason for the difference in these figures is that the continuing pandemic has delayed the start of some of the projects for the year. The project funds are retained and can be used this year once conditions improve.

The Orpen Memorial Hall accounts show, including grants and VAT refunds, an income of over £46,000 and an expenditure of nearly £42,000. The difference will assist with forthcoming work around the Hall.

**Moving forward to this year’s finances, the Parish Council will aim to obtain external sources of funding as usual.** This means that, in addition to those projects delayed, the items agreed for this year are:

Parish Council Office project	£ 20,000
Neighbourhood Plan implementation projects	£ 3,000
Climate Change Initiative (Orpen Memorial Hall)	<u>£ 4,000</u>
TOTAL	£27,000

Despite the extent of these projects, the precept has only increased by around 2.8%. For a Band D property this equates to just 18 pence a month extra for the household.

## ENVIRONMENT & HIGHWAYS REPORT - JOHN GILI-ROSS

A significant part of the Parish Councils expenditure goes towards keeping the village environs in a satisfactory condition, either through the work of our three handymen, the tools they need to do a good job or the materials needed for new builds, repairs or replacement items. It is through good forward planning by the Environment & Highways committee that we have kept on top of demand and helped to maintain a great village environment.

Our village handymen continue to provide great service to the village. This last 12 months saw the retirement of David Hewitt, who is out enjoying retirement to the full but is always on hand to provide advice and guidance. His retirement has led to Simon Forrester joining the team and fitting in superbly well to provide services to the village. Our handymen team now consists of Matt Harkness, Nigel Weall and Simon. A massive thank you to them all.

The year has also seen changes to the Environment and Highways committee when we saw the departure of Phil Spencer and Norma Smith from the Parish Council. They both have a passion for all things environment and are greatly missed. Jenny Church has been a long-standing member of the committee and Parish Council but has recently decided that all good things must come to an end and she has now retired from public service. The village owes Phil, Norma and Jenny a great deal and I am sure you join me in wishing them well for the future. It gives me great pleasure to welcome James Owers and Manya Barrow onto the committee who are already fully engaged in the interesting work of the committee.

The Highways Devolution scheme continues and West Bergholt is one of the three villages in the borough of Colchester that receives funding from Essex County Council to undertake small projects on behalf of ECC. It is important that small work projects and repairs are remedied as quickly as possible and on occasions, these have been rectified within 24 hours of being reported. There have been a number of occasions in the last 12 months where the road at the bottom of Chitts Hill has experienced flooding and causing concerns to many residents on this busy road to and from the village. In every case our handymen have cleared the flood water the same day, firstly by erecting warning signs and then unblocking gullies by hand, to release the water into the river.

Other typical small projects undertaken include the repair of kerb stone, street sign, ditch clearance, footway clearance by weed spraying and where practical repair of the footway itself.

The village heath remains a place of wildlife refuge and natural beauty. All trees under council management are recorded and managed to not just maintain a safe environment but also to nurture each tree to realise their full and natural potential. Under the direction of Phil Spencer, areas of the heath in front of the school are returning slowly to former glory through the return of heather. Whilst the area is currently marked by stakes and flags to help promote heather growth it is hoped that one day this can be removed.

**Last year our first handymen's vehicle was fast approaching the end of useful life. We were** fortunate to secure a grant from ECC to help replace the vehicle and this together with some good fortune led to the purchase of a replacement in the form of a truck with a hydraulic lift. This is much more suitable to the work it is put to.

Keeping our greensward areas cut and trimmed and clear of litter remains an on-going task for much of the year. We know that many caring villagers pick up litter and discarded waste and our thanks go to all of them for helping to keep our village clean and tidy. One plea to all parents is that when you allow children to take drinks or food to the recreational areas that you ask them to take the empty containers home with them for appropriate disposal. After all litter prevention is **everyone's business.**

Finally, I wish to thank all the handymen and committee members for their work and support during the last year. Your efforts are very much appreciated.

## PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT REPORT - BOB TYRRELL

### THE WEST BERGHOLT PLANNING COMMITTEE

WBPC is a statutory consultee to Colchester Borough Council (CBC- the Local Planning Authority) for all domestic and business planning applications that relate to the parish area. The Parish Council is also a consultee on planning applications relating to waste, minerals, schools and certain highway matters to Essex County Council (ECC). As a consultee, the final decision rests with either CBC or ECC and not with the Parish Council.

The Planning & Development Committee is constituted to consider and to respond on behalf of the Parish Council in respect of such applications. The Committee meets on a monthly basis, normally on the 3rd Wednesday. In the planning section of the website, <https://westbergholt.org/parish-council/planning-committee/>, you can view the latest committee agenda, planning decisions and past minutes.

### PLANNING APPLICATIONS

These may range from a simple house extension, medium sized new developments and application for commercial premises.

As a consultee, the Parish Council cannot prevent or stop a development from taking place, but its recommendations do form local response, to be weighed in consideration with other evidence submitted to Colchester Borough Council.

### APPEALS

We have had three appeals this year:

- 181 Barton Olivers, Colchester Road, West Bergholt CO6 3JY. This was dismissed by the inspectorate.

and two appeal currently outstanding:

- Blackheath Bulb Company, Nayland Road, West Bergholt.
- Land south of Cooks Hall Road, West Bergholt.

### DESIGN GUIDANCE

Colchester Borough Local Plan 2019 -2034, Section 1 was adopted on 1 February 2021, Section 2 Local Plan is currently being examined by Inspectors.

The West Bergholt Neighbourhood Plan was adopted by CBC and is a useful weapon on our armoury against speculative development

The Village Design Statement (VDS). Has been CBC policy for the past ten years and is used to **assist determining the Parish Council's response to Planning Applications**. The VDS highlights some basic design principles covering new buildings and extension, as well as setting the context for development in the village by outlining the distinctive character areas of the village and its rural setting. The VDS is available on the [westbergholt.org](https://westbergholt.org) website.

To provide greater consistency Parish Council comments on Planning Applications will quote the relevant VDS Policy number and text as a reason for an objection.

FINALLY, The National Planning Policy Framework was revised on 20 July 2021 and sets out the Government's Planning Policies for England

### PLANNING MEETINGS

The Committee has regular meetings on the third Wednesday of each month at 7.30pm in the John Lampon Hall. The agenda is published three days in advance. Anyone who wishes to express their views on a planning matter is welcome to attend, and in particular, the Committee welcomes pre-planning application discussions.

I would like to thank my colleagues on the committee for their hard work over the past months.

Please see list of the 2021-22 planning applications attached:

WBPC Decision Date	WBPC Decision	Application No.	Location	CBC/Appeal Decision Date	CBC/Appeal Decision	Appeal Pending
17/2/21	Object	<a href="#">210384</a>	Box Cottage, The Avenue	18/06/21	Approved	N/A
17/3/21	Object	<a href="#">210460</a>	8 Newbridge Hill	16/04/21	Approved	N/A
17/3/21	Object	<a href="#">210550</a>	2 Ormonde Close	09/07/21	Approved	N/A
21/04/21	Object	<a href="#">210787</a>	87 Colchester Road (Ash's Store)	23/06/21	Approved	N/A
21/04/21	Object	<a href="#">210756</a>	Hill House Farm	16/07/21	Approved	N/A
21/04/21	Object	<a href="#">210757</a>	Hill House Farm	16/07/21	Approved	N/A
18/08/21	Object	<a href="#">212232</a>	31 Lexden Road	05/10/21	Approved	N/A
18/08/21	Object	<a href="#">211967</a>	89 Chapel Road	18/10/21	Approved	N/A
17/11/21	Object	<a href="#">212871</a>	48 Valley Crescent	7/12/21	Approved	N/A
17/11/21	Object	<a href="#">212945</a>	The Settlers, Newbridge Hill,	23/12/21	Approved	N/A
15/12/21	Object	<a href="#">213286</a>	5 Whitehouse Ctgs, Bourne Road	09/02/22	Approved	N/A
19/1/22	Object	<a href="#">213344</a>	Barns at, Hall Road	08/02/22	Approved	N/A
21/07/21	Observation	<a href="#">210682</a>	One, Whitehouse Lane	23/07/21	Approved	N/A
20/1/21	Support	<a href="#">201686</a>	Land south of WB Cricket Club	20/12/21	Approved	N/A
17/3/21	Support	<a href="#">210568</a>	2 The Retreat	19/04/21	Approved	N/A
17/3/21	Support	<a href="#">210551</a>	29 Chapel Road	30/04/21	Approved	N/A
21/04/21	Support	<a href="#">210915</a>	8 Hop House	26/05/21	Approved	N/A
21/04/21	Support	<a href="#">210916</a>	8 Hop House	26/05/21	Approved	N/A
21/04/21	Support	<a href="#">210980</a>	83 Chapel Road	07/06/21	Approved	N/A
21/04/21	Support	<a href="#">210981</a>	83 Chapel Road	07/06/21	Approved	N/A
21/04/21	Support	<a href="#">210871</a>	71 Chapel Road	09/06/21	Approved	N/A
19/05/21	Support	<a href="#">210841</a>	Grange Cottage, Hall Road	28/06/21	Approved	N/A
16/06/21	Support	<a href="#">211370</a>	St Edmunds, The Retreat	24/06/21	Approved	N/A
16/06/21	Support	<a href="#">211296</a>	115 Chapel Road	07/07/21	Approved	N/A
16/06/21	Support	<a href="#">211551</a>	Oak View Landscapes	27/07/21	Approved	N/A
16/06/21	Support	<a href="#">211600</a>	65 Mumford Road	27/07/21	Approved	N/A
23/06/21	Support	<a href="#">211635</a>	29 Chapel Road	03/08/21	Approved	N/A
21/07/21	Support	<a href="#">211712</a>	67 Chapel Road	05/08/21	Approved	N/A
21/07/21	Support	<a href="#">211932</a>	2 The Retreat	27/08/21	Approved	N/A
21/07/21	Support	<a href="#">211894</a>	Highfield Farm	31/08/21	Approved	N/A
21/07/21	Support	<a href="#">211895</a>	Highfield Farm	31/08/21	Approved	N/A
18/08/21	Support	<a href="#">212126</a>	42 Pirie Road	30/08/21	Approved	N/A

18/08/21	Support	<a href="#">211999</a>	Pond Cottage, Fordham Road	24/11/21	Approved	N/A
18/08/21	Support	<a href="#">212209</a>	Clare House, 47 Lexden Road	17/01/22	Approved	N/A
15/09/21	Support	<a href="#">212416</a>	11 Firmins Court	27/10/21	Approved	N/A
15/09/21	Support	<a href="#">212444</a>	3 Firmins Court	29/10/21	Approved	N/A
15/09/21	Support	<a href="#">212442</a>	St Andrews, Chapel Lane	02/11/21	Approved	N/A
20/10/21	Support	<a href="#">212481</a>	Priors Cottage, Hall Road	28/10/21	Approved	N/A
20/10/21	Support	<a href="#">212733</a>	48 Chapel Road	16/11/21	Approved	N/A
20/10/21	Support	<a href="#">212522</a>	135 Chapel Road	22/11/21	Approved	N/A
20/10/21	Support	<a href="#">212655</a>	77 Albany Road	24/11/21	Approved	N/A
20/10/21	Support	<a href="#">212742</a>	7 Hall Road	24/11/21	Approved	N/A
27/10/21	Support	<a href="#">212802</a>	Laurel House, 6a Hall Road	19/11/21	Approved	N/A
17/11/21	Support	<a href="#">213085</a>	7 Colchester Road	07/12/21	Approved	N/A
17/11/21	Support	<a href="#">213008</a>	Moonridge, Bourne Road	21/12/21	Approved	N/A
24/11/21	Support	<a href="#">213133</a>	The Firs, 38 Lexden Road	21/12/21	Approved	N/A
15/12/21	Support	<a href="#">213292</a>	Doctors Surgery	24/01/22	Approved	N/A
19/1/22	Support	<a href="#">213414</a>	3 Sackville Way	04/02/22	Approved	N/A
26/1/22	Support	<a href="#">220096</a>	Highfields, Cooks Hall Road	09/03/22	Approved	N/A
16/2/22	Support	<a href="#">220164</a>	20 Bradbrook Cottages	10/03/22	Approved	N/A
16/2/22	Support	<a href="#">220115</a>	99 Chapel Road	16/03/22	Approved	N/A
16/2/22	Support	<a href="#">220358</a>	The Glen, Spring Lane	22/03/22	Approved	N/A
21/04/21	Object	<a href="#">210909</a>	16a Mumford Road	08/06/21	Approved	N/A
21/07/21	Observation	<a href="#">211761</a>	Hall Barns, Hall Rd	12/08/21	Prior Approved	N/A
16/07/21	Support	<a href="#">212006</a>	Fordham Place, Bergholt Road	13/08/21	Prior Approved	N/A
19/08/20	Object	<a href="#">201642</a>	155 Colchester Road	27/01/22	Refused	Allowed by Planning Inspectorate 27/01/22
17/2/21	Object	<a href="#">ESS/11/21/COL</a>	Colchester Skip Hire, Wormingford	03/11/21	Refused	
17/2/21	Object	<a href="#">210192</a>	16 Newbridge Hill	17/12/21	Refused	
26/05/21	Object	<a href="#">211335</a>	9 Bradbrook Cottages	29/07/21	Refused	
16/6/21	Object	<a href="#">202544</a>	30 New Church Road	29/06/21	Refused	
15/09/21	Object	<a href="#">212257</a>	30 New Church Road	20/09/21	Refused	
15/09/21	Object	<a href="#">212293</a>	land adj. Rosaville, White Hart Lane	30/09/21	Refused	
19/1/22	Object	<a href="#">213465</a>	land adj. Rosaville, White Hart Lane	08/03/22	Refused	
19/08/20	Object	<a href="#">201472</a>	Barton Olivers, 181 Colchester Road	13/12/21	Refused	Refused by Planning Inspectorate
15/07/20	Observation	<a href="#">201280</a>	Land ad to 1 Whitehouse Ctgs, Bourne Road	13/10/21	Refused	Refused by Planning Inspectorate



## ORPEN HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (OHMC) REPORT - BRIAN BUTCHER

I am certain all my fellow committee chairman will say the same about the effect of COVID, but on behalf of the Orpen Memorial Hall Trust how great it is to see the hall busy once again.

I will not say much more about COVID but those of you who have used the Hall, regularly until this year, had to operate under special hire terms but as you all know these have all now been lifted! However, there are still, and will remain, sanitiser stations, etc. for the foreseeable future for users use.

Since my last report in 2019 one of the biggest changes is behind the scenes, and indeed a lot of the work in the last three years you might not have noticed, is the online booking system. **'Hallmaster' enables anyone to make a provisional booking** for any of the Trusts five halls.

What the online booking system, <https://westbergholt.org/village-hall-complex/book-a-hall/>, has enabled the Trust to do is reduce its aged debts to a manageable sum. Indeed, all hirers seem to have managed the system well but if you need advice, please do contact our Hall Administrator.

**Perhaps now is the place to record the Trust's thanks to Vicky, our Hall Administrator** for the sterling work she does to keep the Hall running as effectively and effortlessly as it does. Thanks **also go to the Trust's cleaner Zoe, not made an easy job by some hirers, and the Trust's handyman Ivor.**

Thanks also go to **Laura as the Trust's clerk who makes the Trustees toe the line, in return for** which we all give her grief more times than she would like! The committee saw the sad loss of Murray Harlow, this larger-than-life character is greatly missed. Jenny Church has also stepped down from the committee, we wish her all the best and we will miss her contributions. **The committee though has been joined by two of the Council's new councillors, Manya and James.**

Something the eagle eyed amongst you will have noticed is that the OHMC have replaced the Premises and Recreation parish council sub-committee since the last Annual meeting, its functions are the same, but they now report to the Trust instead of the Parish Council.

So, what have the OHMC overseen since April 2019? The most expensive work has seen the roof retiled, for which many thanks go to Enover for their grant. The chairs you are sitting on are also new, as are the card tables some of use regularly use.

The stage floor has been replaced, the CCTV, the servery doors and the railings to the side of the John Lampon Hall fire escape door ramp. You will not have noticed the fixed wire testing, the fire risk assessments or the swift boxes on the rear wall of the John Lampon Hall. Something else you will not have seen is that the asbestos has been removed from stage ceiling, by a specialist firm of course.

You will have seen the flagpole to the front of the Hall and the trees replaced, with many thanks going to **the sponsors of them. (Oak View Landscapes, WB Allotment Association, WB Gardeners' Association and the Parish Council)** The six-monthly User group meetings have continued, on Zoom, and are continuing to prove a great tool in helping to ensure the hall runs as smooth as it can.

The Trust continues to seek your help in keeping the hall clean, please do empty the bins when you leave and sweep up behind you. Storage continues to be a struggle and so anything hirers do not require any more the OHMC urge them to take away with them.

**The hall's budget is £44,000 and a sum the Trust seeks to raise by hiring its halls out, noting this year the East Anglian of Museum Life will be hiring to hall as part of their roving exhibition and in**

November St Helena's Hospice will be having a fire walking evening. Indeed, a big thanks goes out to all Hall hirers who help keep the hall an invaluable village asset.

Coming up, hopefully soon, is the replacement of the exit doors next to the servery which are no longer able to be repaired, the replacement of the floor covering the Orpen Hall's disabled toilet and the refurbishment of the John Lampon Hall floor, in the summer. The Trust also hopes that the next financial year will see the Council build a parish office (subject to and courtesy of development s106 monies) and refurbishment of the Social Club toilets adding an external toilet and at the same time solar panels on the Orpen Hall roof (subject to and courtesy of grant funding).

#### WEST BERGHOLT PARISH COUNCIL CONTACT INFORMATION:

Chairman: Chris Stevenson [chair@westbergholt.net](mailto:chair@westbergholt.net)  
Vice Chairs: Harry Stone Brian Butcher  
RFO: Andrew Savage  
Councillors: Manya Barrow Joel Fayers John Gili-Ross Vacancy  
James Owers David Short Bob Tyrrell

Parish Council meetings are held at the Orpen Hall Complex every fourth Wednesday of each month except August and December, at 7.30pm unless otherwise advised (see notice boards). During the meeting the public are invited to raise any issue for consideration by the Parish Council during the **“Questions from registered electors”** item.

For general enquiries, email the Parish Council using [westbergholtpc@gmail.com](mailto:westbergholtpc@gmail.com) or telephone the Clerk, Laura Walkingshaw, on 01206 240772. Contact made in this way will be dealt with by the Clerk or forwarded to relevant Parish Councillors. For specific enquiries about matters dealt with committees, email the contacts provided below, although please also copy to the Clerk.

Finance Committee	Environment Committee	Planning Committee
<a href="mailto:finance@westbergholt.net">finance@westbergholt.net</a>	<a href="mailto:environment@westbergholt.net">environment@westbergholt.net</a>	<a href="mailto:planning@westbergholt.net">planning@westbergholt.net</a>

#### Other Useful Contacts:

Village Hall Administrator: Victoria Beckwith-Cole 07434 949631  
[hall-admin@westbergholt.net](mailto:hall-admin@westbergholt.net)  
Webmaster: Dave Kingaby [dave@kingserv.org](mailto:dave@kingserv.org)

WBPC CLIMATE EMERGENCY:



West Bergholt Parish Council - The Climate Emergency Working Party

---

# West Bergholt Parish Council declares A CLIMATE EMERGENCY

On Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2022 West Bergholt Parish Council  
agreed the motion below:

**“THAT THIS COUNCIL BELIEVES THAT A CLIMATE EMERGENCY SHOULD BE DECLARED AND THAT THE PARISH COUNCIL WILL TAKE ACTION EITHER THROUGH ITS OWN WORK OR IN CONJUNCTION WITH OTHERS IN THE PARISH TO CUT CARBON EMISSIONS, MITIGATE THE EFFECTS OF GLOBAL WARMING AND IMPROVE NATURAL ENVIRONMENTS ALL IN THE WIDER INTERESTS OF FUTURE GENERATIONS”**

Climate emergencies are being declared internationally by governments and locally by public organisations to draw attention to the effects of human activity, resulting in an ever-warming planet and its potentially catastrophic effects on natural environments, wildlife and human habitats: these can be manifested by a rise in temperatures, rising sea levels and deteriorating conditions for all human and animal life

Around 75% of UK councils have declared a Climate Emergency. Colchester Borough Council voted unanimously to declare a climate emergency back in July 2019 and internationally COP 26 has reaffirmed the need to keep global temperatures from rising by more than 1.5 degrees and to reduce the amount of carbon released into our atmosphere to achieve this.

What does this mean for the residents of West Bergholt?

- Are you are concerned about the prospects for this planet?
- Are you concerned about the deterioration of our natural environments and diminishing wildlife levels and habitats?
- Do you want to do more than simply re-cycle your plastic, paper and glass?
- Do you have ideas about how we could individually or collectively reduce our carbon footprints or improve local wildlife environments?
- If so, we are seeking volunteers, across all age groups, to join or maybe lead a new Working Party forward, to help produce a strategy and a plan and initiate workshops.
- We need people with communications skills to help spread the word by writing articles for the web and other social media.
- We aim to have regular meetings, workshops and talks from external speakers etc. so there will be plenty to organise.
- We need to produce a strategy for local action and a plan for those initiatives we can achieve in our village.

- Funding for initiatives is available from the Government and ECC and many other organisations to help with green projects.
- Please email Laura, our Parish Clerk, on [westbergholtpc@gmail.com](mailto:westbergholtpc@gmail.com). Once she has your contact details, she will send you further information on the first meeting.
- Please join us to help improve the future, to safeguard as far as is possible an environment that future generations can enjoy.

Some interesting web sites for further information:

<https://www.essexclimate.org.uk> - <https://giki.earth> - <https://www.lovessex.org> -  
<https://www.ealc.gov.uk> -

Press contact: Cllr Bob Tyrell, Chairman: Climate Emergency Working Party, West Bergholt Parish Council