



Above: A Thank You Letter from Buckingham Palace to WMTC, for joining in on the King's Coronations celebrations, with a Litter Pick, in May last Year. Well done to our volunteers!

Bi-Monthly and Annual Litter Picks

Saturday 15th January- Bi-Monthly

Twenty-five litter heroes braved the cold on Saturday 15th, during another bi-monthly litter pick, sweeping 20 full bags of rubbish off the streets of West Moors yet again. Their eagerness is obvious as everyone always arrives early and a lot of the volunteers have their own equipment as they litter pick regularly in between the Council arranged ones.

One volunteer told the organiser:, "It is so nice to know we are doing something useful and the gratitude we receive from members of the public that come and speak to us is so much appreciated".

Some of our litter heroes already volunteer for other organisations and initiatives, so they are so kind for helping us too. Two of our new volunteers that joined for the first time on the 15th January, don't live in West Moors, but work locally, and their New Year's resolution was to get involved with more Community work, so we are very happy to welcome them aboard our mission of 'zero litter' in West Moors.



Saturday 16th March – Annual Litter Pick

After 3 years of bi-monthly litter picking, the consistent culprit always collected/scraped off the streets, are cigarette butts.

West Moors Town Council have plenty of these pouches to give away, in the hope that it will reduce the number of DISCARDED butts to tackle the problem at source and help protect our environment. A number will be given to the public houses in West Moors and the remainder can be claimed from the council office.

The pouches are small, lightweight and reusable with a fireproof lining to extinguish cigarettes which can then be disposed of at home or in waste bins. With the continued support of our wonderful volunteers and Dorset Waste services who help with the rubbish collection at the end and donations of equipment, we will reduce the negative impact on our environment if nothing else.



Triple Star Award

West Moors Town Council were proud to have been presented with a TRIPLE STAR AWARD on 7th March, from [Dorset Association of Parish & Town Councils](#).

This is a tangible sign of West Moors Town Council's commitment to seeking out new opportunities and keeping up to date with changes in legislation and practice, which benefits the whole community.

Triple Star = Over 90% of Councillors attended recognised training.

Local Councillors have a wealth of experience and local knowledge which can be shared with other Councillors. Through the [Dorset Association of Parish & Town Councils](#) Awards scheme, the number of councillors from each Parish or Town Council that further their development by attending its range of courses, conferences, seminars and update events each year, will be publicly recognised and congratulated with a STAR AWARD CERTIFICATE, if the relevant criteria are met. (For more information: www.dorset-aptc.gov.uk/training-events/star-awards).

West Moors Town Council receive Foundation Award



Local councils are at the very heart of their communities; giving neighbourhoods a voice and making people more involved in the decisions that affect them.

The Local Council Award Scheme (LCAS) has been designed by NALC (National Association of Local Councils) to celebrate the successes of the best parish and town councils and provide a framework to support them to improve and develop to their full potential. The Foundation award demonstrates that WMTC has the required documentation and information to operate lawfully and according to standard practice and has in place the foundations and policies for improvement and development.

The next level is Quality and WMTC look forward to achieving this.

Community Speed Watch

West Moors Community Speed Watch is going strong. We currently have 13 volunteers, but it would be great to have more. Thirteen Community Speed Watch sessions have been held at various locations in West Moors since the CSW began in November. During those sessions, approximately 6,763 vehicle movements have been counted with 84 vehicles (approximately 1.25%) being reported to the Dorset Police CSW Co-Ordinator for further action.

The Dorset PCC have purchased a number of Automatic Speed Watch cameras which are currently under trial throughout Dorset. These new cameras continuously monitor vehicle speed during daylight hours. The West Moors CSW team have requested to be part of the trial and are awaiting further information from the Dorset CSW Co-Ordinator. If you would like to join the group, please contact Cllr Salt on: CllrSalt@westmoors-tc.gov.uk and cc the council office on: office@westmoors-tc.gov.uk



communityspeedwatch

Or by contacting the Community Speed Watch coordinator: Maria-Louise Attwood 07709 718960.

You can find out more about the scheme at: <https://www.dorsetroadsafe.org.uk/enforcement-operations/community-speed-watch/>

Grants Awarded – January 2024.

1. Home Start awarded £1,800 targeted support West Moors for



Wessex were to assist with for families in 2023/2024.

2. Additionally East Dorset and Purbeck Citizens Advice Bureau (EDP CAB) received a grant of £1,500



to assist with continued operation. Members felt the CAB bus that now visits West Moors weekly has become a vital service, so should be supported.

Dorset Council - Trading Standards - Friend Against Scams

Website checks to clean up e-commerce

Dorset Council Trading Standards have helped with national checks on websites for businesses offering renovation and repair work. The checks found that nationally, most websites for these trade types, don't comply with the law.

- 97% of 184 websites did not comply with relevant consumer protection law.
- 85% of websites did not comply with three or more laws.
- 14% failed to comply with six or more laws.

The Trading Standards profession is concerned that this lack of basic information, such as business contact details, may make it much harder for people to get things put right, or get a refund if things go wrong.

The checks also found websites failing to display company registration numbers. A registration number provides potential buyers with more certainty around the legitimacy of a company. This is even more important given that copycat and scam websites can exist.

Most businesses checked also failed to mention whether cancellation rights existed. Such omissions can potentially turn customers away, affecting a business' reputation and profits.

This year the national checks focussed on the Home Maintenance Sector. Businesses of all sizes were included in the check; small and large, local and national. Websites were checked for electricians, general builders, plumbers, window companies and gardeners.

The focus was on these trade groups first because they are the types of traders that Trading Standards continue to receive complaints about. Typically, that involves work carried out to a poor standard, unnecessary or excessively priced.

Dorset Council Trading Standards offer free business advice to businesses based in our area. If you'd like more information, then visit www.businesscompanion.info or call a business advisor on 01305 224702.

If you've concerns about a business or would like advice on your consumer rights, then visit the Citizens Advice consumer helpline at citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer or phone 0808 2231133.



Friends Against Scams aims to break the silence around scams, giving people information to be able to spot the signs of a scam, talk with and support others and report scams.

Anyone can become a 'Friend', many people are, and you could too. Visit the national website www.friendsagainstscams.org.uk to learn more about scams, to find a local face-to-face session, or to complete 20 minutes of online learning. You can continue to raise awareness of scams to help people protect themselves against financial abuse by rogues. If you are concerned about a scam, want consumer advice, or want to report something to trading standards, then call the Citizens Advice consumer helpline on 03454 040506 or visit: www.citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer.

[Friends Against Scam Facebook](#)



Criminals won't stand a chance with a call blocker by your side. These amazing units have a track record of blocking 91% of scam and nuisance calls!

Protect yourself and your loved ones by applying for a free call blocking unit at www.friendsagainstscams.org.uk/callblocker. Stay one step ahead of the criminals and enjoy a scam-free phone line.

Annual Meeting Thursday 11th April:

With nearly 50 members of public plus 15 information stands, we had a full house at the Annual meeting this year. Thank you to the Councillors for being there and for the past 5 years of office! Another 5 years to look forward to! A Big Thank You needs to go to all the local groups that had an information stand:- Women's Institute, Towns Women's Guild Drama Society, Painting for Pleasure, GRANGE, Parley Ability Counts FC, WM Youth Club (WMYC), Castleman Community Larder, Home Start Wessex, Citizen's Advice EDP, Lunch & Friendship Club, Community Speed Watch, DC Trading Standards/Friends Against Scams, Flower Group, West Moors Dementia Action Group, and Ferndown Watch Community. There were 2 Guest Speakers: WMYC and Castleman Community Larder and it was a relaxed and visual approach to the reporting of the last 12 months of Council activity and the plan for the next 12 months.

There were lots of refreshments and lots of natter before the meeting and during the interval. Finishing the evening, was the Good Citizen award Presentation, where the winner, Michelle Bennet of Castleman Community Larder, received her award for going above and beyond for the West Moors Community, and 6 other nominees were presented with their recognition certificates;

Wendy Osborne, Trustees and Volunteers of West Moors Memorial Hall - WMMH; Mary Male, Roger Male, Ian Linehan and Andrew Risby and Jamie Gaskin (WMYC event volunteer).



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Office Opening Hours:
Monday to Friday 10.00 – 14.00
Wednesday Closed
Saturday 10.00 - 11.00