



March 2023 Cllr Ron McKail & Cllr Craig Miller

## WORKING TOGETHER FOR WESTHILL & DISTRICT

**This is our first communication to the electorate since the last council elections held in May 2022. We appreciate the trust put in us by the voters of Westhill & District to represent them on Aberdeenshire Council and we will do our utmost to represent all residents to improve the amenities in the ward during this term.**

Ron was re-elected for the 4th time as councillor for Westhill & District and Craig joined him for the 1st time replacing Cllr. Alistair McKelvie who retired shortly before the election.

It has been a busy time since the election with residents raising many issues to us and we are happy to have been able to help achieve results for many.

Going forward, we know there will be challenging times ahead as the cost of living crisis bites and with the lack of funding for Aberdeenshire Council from the Scottish Government, there will undoubtedly have to be cuts in

services, but we shall do our best to ensure that the mainstays that everyone expects from their council continue to be provided, not least grass cutting, tree felling, maintenance of public areas, bin collections, bus services and road maintenance (to name but a few).

To successfully represent you, we want to hear your views. Please use the details in the contact section overleaf if you wish to bring issues to our attention. We work closely with other elected representatives, including Andrew Bowie MP and Alexander Burnett MSP.



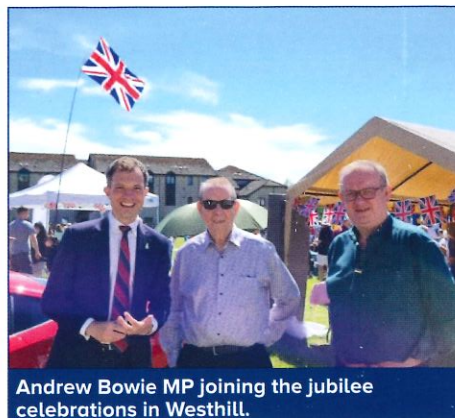
Ron and Craig host regular surgeries in the ward.

### PLATINUM JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

Shortly after the elections, the first major event to be held in Westhill was the celebration of the platinum jubilee of HM Queen Elizabeth II, a feat achieved by no other monarch in British history.

The Rotary Club organised a fantastic Sunday afternoon party which Ron & Craig were delighted to attend, together with local MP Andrew Bowie. The attendance numbers demonstrated the importance of this celebration to the local community.

Congratulations to Westhill & Elrick Community Council who successfully petitioned the council to have the A944



Andrew Bowie MP joining the jubilee celebrations in Westhill.

between the 6-mile fork and the Tesco roundabout renamed as "Jubilee Drive" in recognition of Her Majesty's achievement.

### DANGEROUS DRIVING

Concerns continue to be raised in the outlying villages about excessive speed, particularly Dunecht & Echt.

Dunecht residents have been working effectively with the police and primary school to highlight the dangers this poses to pedestrians, and have in fact pulled drivers over and allowed the school children to question them.

A recent survey recorded 96 mph as the highest speed recorded through Dunecht – clearly this is unacceptable and Ron & Craig are working with residents to ensure a safer environment on our rural roads.

## GREEN OPEN SPACES

**Ron & Craig are currently supporting the application for funding made by Westhill & Elrick Community Council to enhance the open spaces at Denman Park, Arnhall Moss and Carnie Woods.**

These green spaces are precious to the local community and indeed promote well being and nature watching right in the heart of Westhill. The proposals include improving the walkways, (particularly in Carnie Woods), and improved

linkage to existing paths through Arnhall Moss and Denman Park, linking these areas directly to other public walkways around the area.

Ron & Craig are also happy to continue supporting the use of other leisure amenities in Westhill such as the well utilised swimming pool and the football and rugby parks at Westdyke and Lawsondate.



Ron and Craig are keen to support the development of local green spaces.

## WESTHILL PHARMACY SERVICES

**A recurring issue for a considerable period has been complaints about the pharmacy service in Westhill.**

The community council heard a presentation of a proposal to build a third pharmacy in Westhill by Porter's Pharmacy but this was withdrawn after an approach was made to buy the existing pharmacies instead. This took place in December 2022 and the pharmacies are now operating under new management. The improvements in the service have been well received by residents.

Ron & Craig have both met with the new owners and will support them in any way they can and we wish them well in their new endeavour.



Ron was pleased to recently meet with the new owners.

## News **SNIPPETS**

### REMEMBRANCE SERVICES

Ron & Craig were honoured to represent Aberdeenshire Council at the annual remembrance day services in Midmar & Echt. There was an added poignancy to the services this year following the death of HM Queen Elizabeth II shortly before.

### ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL ONLINE

Aberdeenshire Council has an online presence! This can be used to obtain information on local services and it can also be used to report routine problems encountered by residents.

You can access this at:  
[www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/my](http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/my)

## YOUR SCOTTISH CONSERVATIVE & UNIONIST TEAM FOR WESTHILL & DISTRICT



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Ron & Craig were pleased to hear Prime Minister Rishi Sunak reaffirm his, and the UK Government's, commitment to the NE Oil & Gas industry. The industry, and energy industries of tomorrow, play a vital role in the local economy and will for many years to come.

Get involved with your local Conservatives at [wakconservatives.uk](http://wakconservatives.uk)