

# West Lavington Parish Council

Serving the communities of Littleton Panell and West Lavington

## Protecting livestock and crops within our parish

Spring is coming in the countryside!

The duty to maintain the Rights of Way network is shared between Wiltshire Council as the Highways Authority and the landowners/occupiers of the land over which the path exists. The Parish Council acts as custodian on behalf of your community.

With the days lengthening, spring is on the way and a busy time of year for our local livestock farmers. Lambing and calving will be starting in the next few weeks so we would ask all of you, especially those of you with dogs, to ensure that your dogs are kept on leads if crossing livestock fields on public rights of way. It is permitted to keep bulls on fields with footpaths provided they are accompanied by cows. If you are in any doubt, please find an alternative route.

Please do not damage fences or electric fencing put up but if you have any concerns, do not hesitate to contact the Parish Council Clerk [clerk@westlavington.org](mailto:clerk@westlavington.org)

Faeces left lying on the ground are of particular worry to farmers. They can contaminate the grass crop and lead to cows becoming ill and aborting calves. The fouling of footpaths by dogs has improved but please, owners, pick up faeces and dispose of in your bin.

Later in the summer, another problem is loose dogs running through ripe crops spilling seed, so lowering yield and leaving the seed to come up the following year in another type of crop. Incidents of large sticks left lying (having been thrown for the dog) can also cause damage to very expensive farm machinery.

We are fortunate in our parish to have 22 miles of footpaths and bridleways, so plenty of wonderful countryside for us all to enjoy!