

#### **XIV.B. WESTBERE DEMOGRAPHICS:**

**The Electoral Roll:** The total number of electors and properties according to the most up-to-date electoral roll (2001) is as follows:

Properties: 126

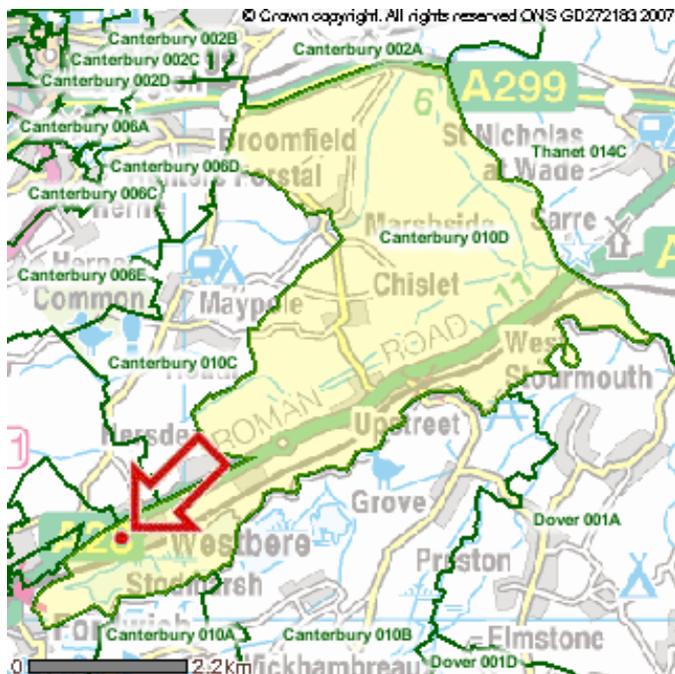
Electors: 291

This is broken down as:

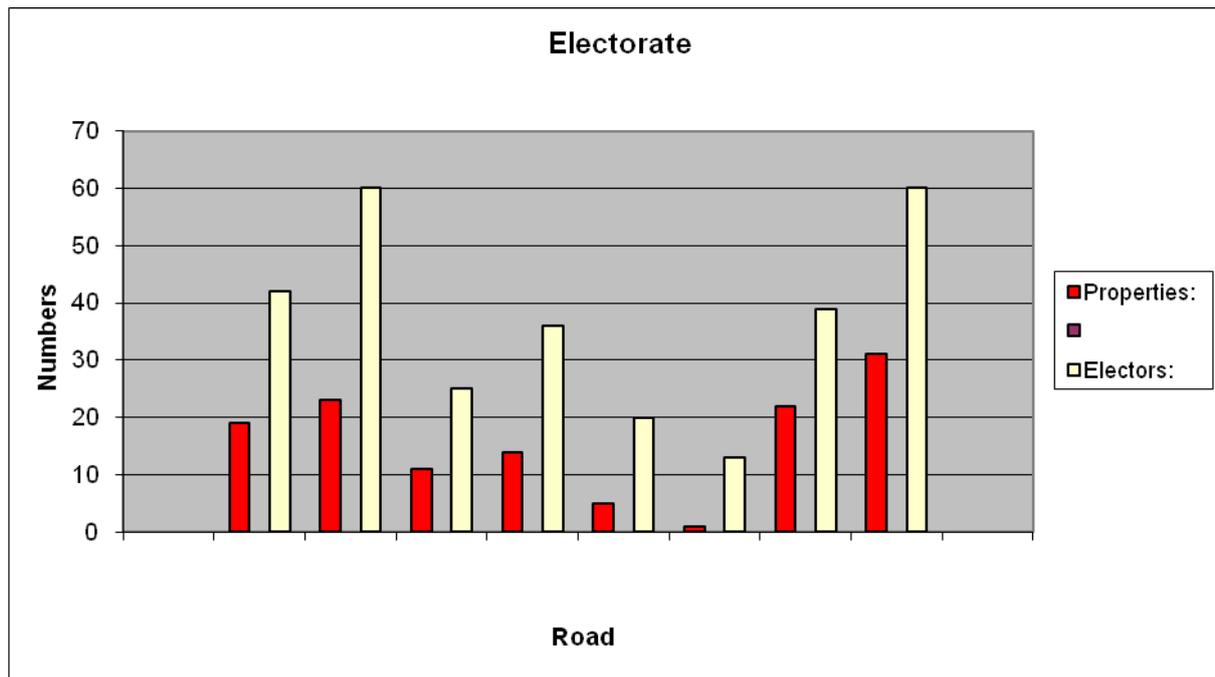
Bushy Hill Road:	19 properties	42 electors.
Church Lane:	23 properties	60 electors
Island Road:	11 properties	25 electors
Pennington Close:	15 properties	36 electors
Staines Hill:	5 properties	20 electors
St Anne's Convent:	1 property	13 electors
Walnut Tree Lane:	22 properties	39 electors
Westbere Lane:	31 properties	60 electors

Unfortunately this does not give the resident details.

The smallest unit on the government website is a “Ward” which covers a greater area than Westbere alone. Details below:



## The Electorate:



**The Great Westbere Census of 2005:** Unfortunately, the details of the national census of 2001 will not be available for Westbere Village until 2101. However, the Great Westbere Census of 2005, initiated by WVPS as part of the Heritage Trail project, is available and gives us the following information:

In July/August 2005, 18 enumerators, including young adults, interviewed the villagers and recorded their results.

Although this exercise was entirely voluntary, virtually every resident responded. A total of 114 households participated; 11 were away (it was the holiday season) and 11 properties were unoccupied.

Details of 318 residents were recorded and these results enabled the WVPS to compile an up-to-date age-sex chart. The WVPS were then able to compare this with similar charts compiled for 1851 and 1901 (using official census data).

From its 1901 total of 370 the population had fallen considerably by 2005. This was probably because Westbere did not experience a 20<sup>th</sup> C housing boom. In addition, a number of properties were lost in parish boundary changes in 1987. The percentage of children was smaller, and the proportion of those aged 60 or over had increased to 30%.

Interestingly, of those aged 70 or over, 74% were female. In 1851, 96% of residents had been born in Kent. This figure had fallen to 75% by 1901. The WVPS survey revealed that, by 2005, only 42% of current residents were born in Kent and only four people were born in Westbere!

This 2005 survey also revealed that of the 318 collaborating residents: 71 were children/ students; 132 were employed and 115 were not employed. Of the 132 employed: 17 were long-distance commuters working outside Kent.

Of the 115 who identified Kent as their county of employment: 38 worked in Westbere – most of them from home. Undoubtedly this had been made possible by computer technology.

