The Newsletter of Willington Parish Council

February 2021 Newsletter No. 23



Welcome

Welcome to the first
Willington Parish
Council Newsletter of
2021! Happy New Year!

E-Newsletter



Your Parish Council would like to deliver as many of these newsletters via email as possible.

The E-Newsletter contains a wealth of bonus articles and colour pictures.

Your newsletter has been put together by our editor, Jeanette at Badgers Gate. We welcome all contributions to our next newsletter, please forward them by 01/05/2021 to the Clerk or you may post your articles into the council post box which is situated on the council notice board at the Village Green. Articles may include: book reviews, recipes, gardening and housekeeping tips, Willington history, Willington wildlife etc.

We hope you enjoy your 23rd newsletter, there are many contributions from your councillors, local residents and our MP!



Highways and Byeways

Speed limit on Willington Road



As mentioned in the last newsletter, CWaC have confirmed that the stretch of Willington Road between Beeston View and Underwood Cottage (including the stretch of road towards Oscroft currently limited to 40 mph) can be designated a 'restricted road'...that is subject to a 30-mph limit. Unfortunately, due to Covid-19 restrictions and other demands on CWaC Highways, we have been unable to make much progress with getting a site survey completed, costings agreed and an implementation plan pulled together. Rest assured we will continue to press CWaC to move forward with this initiative.

Managing Speeds in the Village

Our Speed Watch volunteers have already been out with our speed gun a couple of times since the last newsletter. Generally, there seem to be less speeding recently which is good news. The number plate on the one seriously 'offending' vehicle, that was spotted during our recent session, was too dirty to read...that's two offences....whomever you are. As the days lengthen and the weather improves, expect to see our volunteers out and about a little more frequently.

We planned to borrow a smiley face speed device (SID) from CWaC in January 2021 but unfortunately, the Covid-19 restrictions have put paid to this for now.

S-bend and horses sign on Roughlow

Although we agreed on a suitable location with CWaC Highways on Roughlow (on the left-hand side about 50m down the hill from the entrance to Roughlow Farm) for suitable warning signs a while ago, there has still been no progress with the installation – we continue to ask CWaC for the work to be completed.

Finally

if you witness a traffic incident in the village, we encourage you to inform the police of the incident via the 101 phone number or online at:

https://www.police.uk/pu/contactthe-police/what-and-how-to-report/how-toreport/.

And you can report any road or path issue (and other things) directly to CWaC using 'Report It' online at: https://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/residents/contact-us/report-it/report-it.aspx or using the Cheshire West and Chester 'Report It' App.

Census 2021 and Your Council Budget



CENSUS 2021

Households across the country will soon be asked to take part in 'Census 2021'. The census is a once-in-a-decade survey that will give the most accurate estimate of all the people and households in England and Wales. It has been carried out every decade since 1801, with the exception of 1941. It will be the first run predominantly online, with households receiving a letter with a unique access code, allowing them to complete the questionnaire on their computers, phones or tablets. Census day will be on March 21st 2021, but households across the country will receive their letters with online codes allowing them to take part from early March.

"A successful census will ensure everyone from local government to charities can put services and funding in the places where they are most needed," Iain Bell, deputy national statistician at the Office for National Statistics, said. "This could mean things like doctors' surgeries, schools and new transport routes. That's why it is so important everyone takes part and we have made it easier for people to do so online on any device, with help and paper questionnaires for those that need them."

The census will include questions about your sex, age, work, health, education, household size and ethnicity. And, for the first time, there will be a question asking people whether they have served in the armed forces, as well as voluntary questions for those aged 16 and over on sexual orientation and gender identity. Results will be available within 12 months, although personal records will be locked away for 100 years, kept safe for future generations. For more information, visit census.gov.uk.

Parish Council Budget and Precept 2021-22

Your Parish Council has set the precept (the money we ask Cheshire West and Chester Council for to run the Parish Council) for the coming financial year at £5277. This represents an increase for a Band D property in the village of £3.78 per annum (equivalent to £0.32 per month) to £35.98.

Our overall projected spend for 2021/22 is £7898 which includes significant funding for the speed reduction projects. The difference between the projected spend and the precept will be met from Parish Council reserves and from grants that may be available to us to part-fund the speed reduction works. After funding the speed reduction projects, our reserves will still meet prudent and legal levels. The 2021-22 budget details are published in the draft minutes from the Parish Council meeting held on 26th January 2021 (available on the Parish Council website) or via the Clerk.



A Message from Edward Timpson MP

The Parish of Willington - Contribution from Edward Timpson, our local MP

As many of you will know, this is the parish I live right on the edge of, so I'm more than familiar with local concerns, being a local resident for the last 16 years myself! I wanted to focus on three topical issues I know are important for our area: speeding, highways maintenance, and the environment.

As 'A' roads become busier, our 'B' road network now takes more of the strain, including here in Willington. With more traffic comes more speeding and more danger to other road users, dog walkers, cyclists and horse riders. Local traffic authorities, rather than the central Government, are best placed to set local speed limits given their knowledge of local needs and priorities, and Willington is no different. As we've seen in other parts of Cheshire, councils do already have the power to implement 20mph speed limits if they so choose, in association with other measures to encourage—by providing a more attractive and safer environment for—more cycling and walking, activities that have become even more popular during the pandemic.

By investing in our local, major and strategic roads we can reduce journey times, improve road safety, boost local growth and level-up across the country. To that end, in the recent Spending Review, the Chancellor announced that £1.7 billion has been made available for local highway authorities in England (outside London) for 2021-2022 to improve the condition of local roads and associated infrastructure. This welcome funding will also support small scale transport enhancements such as road safety and public transport improvements. In addition, a new £2.5 billion Pothole Fund will run between 2020/21 and 2024/25 to help local authorities fill-in around 50 million potholes across the country and stop them forming in the first place. This financial year £500 million from the fund will see 11 million potholes repaired, with Willington a prime candidate.

In 2021 I know we all understand the importance of protecting both the UK's vibrant ecosystem and the natural environment worldwide. With the Sandstone Trail on our doorstep, we have first-hand experience of this. The Environment Bill will place environmental ambition and accountability at the heart of Government, including meeting net-zero by 2050, as well as wider long-term legally binding targets on biodiversity, air quality, water, and resource and waste efficiency. Achieving net-zero carbon emissions will eliminate the UK's contribution to climate change. With increased Government investment in renewables, the costs of supply for many energies have been reduced. Renewable energy will play an ever-increasing role in the UK's future energy mix.

But none of this will be achieved solely through national policymaking, and that's why it's so important for us to get it right in Willington too, so please support the Parish in its future efforts to go green and make our roads safer.

Members of Parliament can help their constituents by advising on problems (particularly those that arise from the work of Government departments) and representing the concerns of their constituents in Parliament. So if you need to get in touch, please visit edwardtimpson.com/contact to email me and sign up to my Eddisbury Report e-newsletter. You can also call my constituency office on 01829 733 385, or write to me at 58A High Street, Tarporley CW6 0AG.

I look forward to keeping in touch or maybe seeing you on one of our many long walks!

The Task Force in and around Willington



In and around Willington - Contribution from Councillor John Grimshaw

Taskforce

Prior to the third 'lockdown', we managed to clear the leaves from the Willington Rd footpath and some from The Green. Then a couple of fine days in early February allowed us to cut the hedge on the village green by working in a socially distanced pair. As the weather improves and hopefully lockdown eases, working parties will recommence work on our long list of tasks (adhering to the guidelines in place at the time, of course).

Road Drains - Willington Rd

After much pestering, Cheshire West and Chester Council (CWAC) Highways dept have cleaned out the road gullies from Willington Corner to Quarry Lane. You will probably have noticed that water is no longer collecting in the hollow by Mead Cottage. There are mixed feelings about this as the 'lake' used to slow the traffic down!

Recent Flooding - what we can do to help

Thankfully, the vast majority of us in Willington escaped any serious flooding as a result of all the rain and snow this winter. CWaC have asked us to remind our communities that if we have ditches, drains, culverts or watercourses in our gardens and fields, we should make every effort to ensure they are kept clear of vegetation and debris. This will help with the speedy dispersal of excess water, and help us all keep our gardens, houses and feet dry.

Little Switzerland Footpath

CWAC have now received a quotation to repair the dry-stone support wall, and as this will have been quite significant, they are currently 'thinking about it'. As this path is used regularly by local people and increasingly so by visitors, we will continue to press for some action here.

Walks Around Willington

For obvious reasons we are all walking more locally than usual, and now that the redundant kissing gates have been re-sited on Willington FP2, you can extend the walk beyond Primrose Wood with more ease. On exiting the wood cross to Tirley Lane and just past the 'Stone House' you will see a footpath on the right which takes you down to John Street. This path has open views (rather than the Bridle Way on the other side of Tirley Garth which is quite enclosed). At John St go left and then right down a FP to the left of Charlotte Rose House and on to Bentley Wood, there joining the Sandstone Trail leading to Rock Farm, Sandy Lane and eventually homeenjoy! Note for dog owners, there are still a couple of wooden stiles in Bentley Wood and one on Willington FP2 but we hope that this will be replaced when the owners of Tirley Garth receive permission to re-route the final section.

Sponsorship of village publications and events

Your Parish Council are seeking sponsorship to help cover the cost of printing this newsletter and the 2022 village calendar and maybe supporting some village events going forward. If you have a business or know of a company who would be willing to help us with some sponsorship, please contact the Clerk or speak with any Councillor. Your support would be much appreciated.

Walking in Cheshire



Are you fed-up with doing the same old walks?

Walking in Cheshire www.walkinginengland.co.uk/cheshire is the website for you!

With hundreds of walks to download and print, free, it also has books of walks, contact details for all the walking groups in the county and much more. Whether you want to walk on your own or with a group all the information is there in one place.

John said 'There is so much walking information on the web but it is difficult to find. Walking in Cheshire (part of the Walking in England suite of websites (www.walkinginengland.co.uk) – one for each county in England) has brought it together in one place so whether you are walking from home, or away on holiday, you will be able to find a walk suitable for you'.

With walks from half a mile to twelve miles plus long, and a note of suitability for pushchairs and wheelchairs, everyone can find a walk to enjoy. So home or away, check out the websites and get walking! John Harris www.walkinginengland.co.uk email: john@walkinginengland.co.uk

Do you have any favourite walks in Cheshire? Get in touch to share them in the next edition of our newsletter!



Community Update and Photo Competition!



Website

The Willington Parish website: http://www.willington.org.uk/default.aspx is updated on a regular basis with agendas and minutes from the Parish Council meetings, parish finance information, and latest news stories and photographs from Willington events and projects. Our appointed Covid Champion, Rob Winterbourne, also posts relevant information regarding the Covid pandemic that he receives from Cheshire West and Chester and the government on the home page.

The Community Events page is documenting events over the last few years. There are loads of pictures here ranging from the hardworking task force team to our VE day celebrations. The website is quite basic and images are not always of the best quality. But we hope that you will all enjoy the content and use the site to keep up to date with the Parish Council and village news. We are still looking for anyone in the village who would like to have a go at managing the website; we would be keen to hear from you. We hope to keep documenting events in the village on the site so it is important that we know if you do not agree to us using photographs of you or your family. If you do not wish your photographs to go on the website please let us know by contacting the Clerk or one of your Councillors.

Don't let your future go to waste - Contribution from Cheshire West and Chester Waste Consultation Cheshire West and Chester Waste Consultation CWaC would like to hear your views on their proposed waste strategy, which will shape how the Council delivers waste services over the next 10 years. The current waste strategy was developed in 2002. CwAC are preparing a new strategy to ensure that the waste strategy reflects the needs of our communities, are aligned to emerging national plans and policies, as well as helping to address our climate emergency. The new strategy will also help the Council ensure that the waste collection and, recycling services are managed in a cost-effective way in order to address the unprecedented budget challenges faced by the Council. The aim of this consultation is to: describe the current waste service in Cheshire West and Chester, share some of the challenges and opportunities we face over the next 10 years, receive feedback on the proposed key priorities for the strategy and the options under consideration. Please take time to read the information and complete the related questions in our consultation questionnaire: https://participatenow.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/waste-strategy-consultation

Attention all Smartphone Users and Camera Owners - Willington photo competition!

You are invited to enter a competition to provide a new photograph for the home page of the Willington Parish website, one that you feel represents Willington and shows it in its best light. This can be a Landscape, Event, People, Collage etc. Your entry will also be considered for publication in the Willington 2022 calendar which will be provided to all households in the village and be available to purchase as a splendid Christmas present. The competition is open to all ages and all abilities, we hope you will enjoy the challenge and have fun discovering and photographing the best of Willington.

Rules:

- **1.** Only one entry per person, taken in or around Willington.
- **2.** Two age groups; Under 18's and Over 18's. One prize for the best photograph for each age group.
- **3.** The best photograph will be put onto our website displaying the winner's name.
- **4.** All other entries along with any previous competition entries will be considered for publication in a Willington 2022 calendar with acknowledgement of the photographer.
- **5.** Entries close 31st May 2021. Entries to state; Age & Address (optionally you may also include information about where your photo was taken).
- 6. Entries to be sent via emailed or WhatsApp to Freda Markham flmarkham@hotmail.com or 07702184495

Let's Go Green! Let's Go Electric!



Let's Go Green! Let's Go Electric! - Contribution from Councillor Merrick Connecting electric vehicles - driving the way to a more sustainable future.

The time has come when the world is decarbonising its economy and finally embracing the new era of Electrification!

Whilst there has been a lot of scepticism in this sector over the last decade, the market is growing at a fast rate of knots with more than 164,100 pure electric cars on the road at the end of September 2020. This now accounts for approximately 6.7% of total new car registrations and when you add in plug-in hybrids (PHEVs) it brings that figure upto 10.5%.

Being a High Voltage Electrical Engineer myself, I am fortunate enough to be invited to attend regular Stakeholder sessions with the local Regional Electricity Company to discuss and debate the way we can manage this electrical revolution from a practical/technical perspective. Upon reflection from these events, I always ask myself the following questions:--

Is this new Green revolution sustainable for those of us living in a rural community? Will the Electricity Network be robust enough for all residents to charge their vehicles without compromise?

Will there be enough electric vehicle charging points available and in convenient locations so that I don't run out of fuel? and...

Will I be able to charge all of my cars overnight at the same time?

Well, in essence, the answer to these questions is that we will be able to meet the challenge ahead, however, we will need to work smarter in the way we use our Electricity to ensure that there is enough capacity to go round. With most domestic vehicle Chargers rated at 7.4kW (circa 32Amps), most homes will struggle to service two-vehicle chargers per household without overloading the supply.

You can imagine the scenario when coming back from work or shopping. You park your vehicle and plug in your EV Charger (30Amps), then on goes the kettle (10Amps), now the oven (30Amps), Dishwasher (10Amps), Washing Machine (10Amps) & Tumble Dryer (11Amps). Theoretically, at this point, you have overloaded your system and the lights go out!

One solution that is being considered to prevent this nuisance tripping from becoming a daily occurrence is by using a device that can monitor the load being consumed in your household and trimming the amount of energy that is being sent to the Car Charger. This clever technology will ultimately do a lot of the thinking for us and decide which appliances should be kept on and which could be deferred to a time when there isn't as much load required.

Following a recent free-of-charge load-flow study conducted by ScottishPower, we currently have sufficient spare capacity to provide up to three single-phase 7.4kW AC Charger Units or a single three-phase 22kW DC Charger Unit in Willington in addition to those in your own homes.

There is far too much to cover in this newsletter, but I will endeavour to keep you informed of any new developments that I am made aware of during the sessions that I attend and how we can all contribute to drive forward this exciting Green and Sustainable future that lies ahead of us!

Happy Healthy Pets!



Happy Healthy Pets! - Contribution from Councillor Bev Crossley

Most of us know that it's not healthy for us to be overweight and the same applies to our pets – particularly our dogs and cats. During the COVID lockdown we are all probably enjoying one or two extra treats (well, I am!!!) and so we are probably also falling into bad habits by giving our four-legged friends a few naughty snacks or additional treats!!!

During the lockdown and all the uncertainty now, knowing how to keep your pet happy and healthy and at the right weight should give you some peace of mind and help their wellbeing – after all, there is a risk of weight-related illnesses and these can be avoided. Here are a few simple tips: Avoid giving your Pet Human food: You may think that the odd piece of cheese or a biscuit is innocent, but did you know that this seemingly little treat can be like a whole meal for dogs. I read somewhere recently (a vet's website) that just one human biscuit is the same as one and a half burgers to a medium-sized dog! A small cup of whole milk is the same as 3 burgers to a medium-sized cat. If your dog is begging this can usually lead to overfeeding and could, in turn, lead to overweight and obese animals. Rather than giving in it could be they just want attention or fuss, wanting to play or have a grooming session with you. Try an alternative distraction with them and see if this helps.

Make Mealtimes Fun! The aim is to make them eat slowly and stimulate them when possible. If they eat dry food try scattering it around the home or garden to slow them down and it also encourages them to be active. There are slow feeders and puzzle feeders on the market – these help to make the mealtime last longer and helps to stimulate them. I've tried setting up little treasure hunts for Lola so she must find her food. I also do this in the groom room so that when we have little breaks during a grooming session the dogs love hunting down the little biscuits that I have hidden (low-fat ones of course!!) If your dog is always hungry (or appears to be) you could try splitting their meals into smaller portions and given more often – this works well with wet food as well as dry food. Alternatively, you could use dry food as treats so rather than give your dog its full allowance at mealtimes save some for treats in between. If you are managing your dog or cat's diet, it is a good idea to weigh their daily feed allowance – sometimes the measuring cups are less accurate and often you can overfeed without realising. Life would be dull without treats though so we have found that our Labrador Lola loves vegetables – carrots particularly and these are a good alternative to prepacked snacks – carrots also help to clean their teeth in the process. Look at what the treats "cost" - A medium Pedigree Dentastix has 82 calories; Greenies Dental Chews, regular size has 90 calories: a 2.5cm cube of Cheddar Cheese has 70 calories and a half medium-sized carrot has 10 calories!!!! Make sure the whole family are on board with any new feeding patterns - watch the little ones - they love giving their puppies treats!! And of course, make sure they get plenty of regular exercise or activities around the house and the garden. Cats are a little more difficult to exercise however use wand toys to encourage play with your cat. Also, they love ping pong balls and catnip toys so that they play independently.

Next time: Exercising our pets both physically and mentally......Did you know that February 20th is NATIONAL LOVE YOUR PET DAY – I am sure, like me, you love your pets every day!!!

Tip of the season: Protect your dog's paws from ice and snow on winter walks with a paw/pad balm. There are plenty on the market but just recently I've been road testing one from Monstar for £3.25, available on a new website you might like. Lots of dog care information and a shop! https://www.doglife360.co.uk



Between the Woods and the Water



Artist: Dai Owen, reproduced by cheshirenow.co.uk

Contribution from Sue Masterman

If you had stood on the ramparts of Kelsborrow Castle iron-age fortifications a couple of thousand years ago and looked out over the plane towards the distant hills, what would you have seen? Water. Lakes, meandering streams, marshes, with the occasional eruption of higher ground, such as Oscroft and Tarvin. You get a similar effect now on an autumn day when the mist settles low over the fields. When you wake up one January morning and find back gardens down by Willington Corner awash, with flooded roads hemming us in on all sides, it's just a blast from the past. So, you might ask, why on earth did they ever establish a village here?

Willington's first official mention is in the 1086 Domesday Book, but it was already well established then. What always surprises me is that while some other local villages mentioned there have disappeared into oblivion, Willington has persisted. It has survived flood and drought, military threats from within and without, a pestilence or epidemic on average every century and the whims of those who owned the land. Maybe because it had the then-vast forest behind it and the treacherous swampland in front of it, clean water, food sources and building materials to hand, Willington was able to keep its head down and just get on with the harsh business of survival.

The brooks that now trickle through and drain the fields in Willington's lower reaches flow to join Milton Brook, a tributary of the River Gowy. Back in the 7th century, the Gowy appears to have been the border to Wales. More recently the river's local tributaries sustained at least 22 water-powered mills, including Willington mill and that at Duddon. A mill needs access. So how did people get around all this swamp?

In 1698 the bold Wiltshire lass Celia Fiennes, then 36, travelled all around England on horseback and wrote a diary of her progress, later published as "Through England on a Side Saddle." Her travels through Cheshire include a description of many lakes and marshland as she travelled from Nantwich to Chester and from Northwich to Whitchurch. Her journey repeatedly refers to "causeways" as the main means of transport and mentions crossing the three stone bridges on the Hockenhull Platts near Tarvin. They, in turn, are mentioned back in 1353 when the Black Prince crossed them and found them in such a sorry state that he promptly apportioned 20 shillings to pay for their repair.

There's a solid path leading down from near Willington Hall to Willington Mill, but I would suspect that before roads were built in the 1800s connections with Oscroft, Tarvin and, later, Kelsall, were carried by such causeways.

As you mop up the utility room, survey your soggy lawn, hose down the dog or scrape the mud off your boots, spare a thought for all the good water has done for us. Willington's very survival may have depended on it.



Community News and Events

Community News - Contribution from Councillor Donna Okell

The one comment we see regularly on our WhatsApp group is "how lucky we are to live in such a special community". And we are. Despite so much sadness and madness currently dominating our daily news, our community in Willington continues to be a connected, supportive, and fun place.

Thank you to everybody for supporting our various village events and ideas. Here's a summary of just some of the things we've done in the past couple of months:

The Great Big Willington Christmas Quiz

Our Christmas quiz was great fun and well attended. It's always impressive to see the range of knowledge, skills and experience we have in our village. And it's not just the more 'mature' amongst us. Our younger residents have shown us how brilliantly creative they are. Congratulations to Christmas Quiz Winners Sam Piddington and The Moores (Vee, Shawn and the indomitable Aggie!)

Our monthly quiz continues on Zoom on the first Wednesday of the month at 7pm. It is a lovely way to catch up with neighbours, have some fun...and even learn something new! Our next quiz is on Wednesday 3rd March. Please WhatsApp me if you would like to join in.

Santa Trail and Visit

Huge thanks to Bev Crossley for organising the Santa trail and thank you all for joining in. Who knew there could be so many Santas in one village! Everybody enjoyed spotting them in our houses and gardens. The icing on the cake was Santa's special visit to Willington. Supported by his chief Elf Bernard, and supporting Elves 'Elf and Safety', Santa met most of our young people and many of our more mature residents. It was a lovely day and a great to see so many people celebrating a community Christmas in a Covid-safe way.

2021 Social Events - Contribution from Councillor Beverley Crossley

Given the current uncertainty, it's difficult to plan anything concrete which involves us meeting in person. It may be Easter, it may be summer...let's keep our collective fingers crossed. In the meantime here are a few ideas we are working on:

Easter – is in early April (2nd to 5th) this year – and exciting news - we have had confirmation that the Easter Bunny plans to visit the village - so kids and chocoholics lookout for more information about the big furry fella's visit and how to join in.

May/June – let's join together in planting sunflower seeds as we did in 2020. But this year, we feel a competition coming on – watch out for further information.

September – Harvest and Gratitude Festival - we should be in a position to celebrate being able to get together once more by the Autumn by enjoying both an afternoon and evening event; celebrating as a village. We have some amazing talent in the village, and these will be on display, along with tea and cake etc – more news and dates to follow!

We'll keep you posted regarding the progress of these events, but if you have any ideas or want to add your name to the WhatsApp group please let Donna Okell or any of the other Councillors know. Donna Okell: t: 07739 799 722 or email: dokell@btinternet.com

Your Council

About Your Council

The Parish Council has a Facebook page; search for: Willington Parish Cheshire.

Cllr John Grimshaw (01829 752177) Cllr Rob Merrick (01829 458387) - Vice Chairman Cllr Andrew Nicholas (01829 752029) -Chairman Cllr Donna Okell (07739 799 722) Cllr Beverley Crossley (07812 071633)

Next Council Meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on: 30th March 2021 @ 19:30 via video conference. Parish Council meetings are open meetings; you are welcome to 'attend' and listen to the discussions.

To Contact Us:

Write to Rob Winterbourne, 1 Lilac Close, Willington, CW6 0PL, Tel: 01829 751266 or email at: clerkwillington@gmail.com

Your CWaC Borough Councillors are:

Cllr John Leather (01829 752558) or email at: john.leather@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk Cllr Harry Tonge email at: harry.tonge@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk



Village Notice Boards

We currently have two notice boards on our Village Green; one for Parish Council notices, which is secured, and the other for community spirited messages.

Please add any newsworthy items or messages you may have on the community board, which is unlocked and further up Chapel

