

The Newsletter of Willington Parish Council



November 2021 Newsletter No. 26



Welcome



Christmas Message from the Chairman of the Parish Council

It's that time of year when we turn our thoughts towards buying and giving suitable presents for our loved ones and friends.

The Christian origin of the giving of presents stems back to the three wise men following a star to the stable in Bethlehem where they presented the baby Jesus with Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh. Each gift had a religious significance. So, I started thinking about what three gifts would we (the Parish Council) most like to give to Willington?

One, the speed limit reduction on Willington Road. Every month we chase and press for progress from CWAC for costing and implementation. We won't give up the struggle and we will deliver on this one, sadly not in time for this Christmas! However, I would like to thank our Speed Volunteers for their continued efforts to record the details of speeding motorists through the village, working with our PCSO to send warning letters to these drivers.

Two, a more resilient electricity supply. Touch wood, the existing supply has behaved itself since we had the repairs earlier in the year. However, delivering a new supply from Waste Lane is proving more complex than we were originally told. Several different permissions are required to facilitate this new route. Councillor Rob Merrick is maintaining communication with Scottish Power to keep us informed on progress.

Three, a more reliable water supply. Hopefully, by the time you are reading this article United Utilities will have installed the pressure management valve in Quarry Lane in an effort to reduce the risk of burst water mains that we have all suffered from. One out of three delivered in good time for Christmas can't be bad? Thank you to the residents who emailed UU to highlight this problem and the disruption it has caused. I followed that up by writing on behalf of the Parish Council and invited their representatives to our September P.C. meeting. You can read in greater detail about what they had to say in this newsletter. At least they came with a positive message and have delivered quickly on a solution. If only other organisations would do the same all of our Christmases would come at once.

Wherever you are spending this Christmas I hope you will all have a great time and whatever you wish for I hope you receive and enjoy. May I wish you all on behalf of your Parish Council, a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Andrew Nicholas
P.C Chairman





Christmas Time



Article written by Councillor Beverley Crossley.

Santa Visit and Carols on the Green – Sunday 5th December - Save the Date Ho ho ho!

Santa and his elves enjoyed their visit to Willington last year so much that they've asked if they can return! Sunday 5th December is the date!

Please make Santa welcome by putting a picture in your house that he can see or something in your garden. There were some fantastic 'Santas' in our village last year and we know that Santa loved them all. We know Santa will start looking out for those pictures and Santa ornaments in the weeks before his visit!

Santa and his elves will be doing a tour of the village again. Setting off at 2pm from Roughlow Farm and visiting Gooseberry Lane, Boothsdale, Willington Road, and back up Chapel Lane. They will end the tour on the Green at approximately 3.30pm when we hope everybody in our village will meet to sing a few Christmas carols, and enjoy mince pies, mulled wine and soft drinks. To avoid the need for wasteful disposable cups and plates, it would be great if we could all bring our own mugs, tumblers or other suitable containers for the mulled wine and soft drinks.

Never miss a date again! Willington Calendar 2022



By now each household should have received a complimentary calendar featuring Willington scenes selected from the entries to the photographic competition and others collected over the year from those of you who kindly shared pictures with us.

We hope that you are so impressed by the calendar that you will want to order some more for work, friends and family (they would make great Xmas presents). To order additional calendars please e-mail: **clerkwillington@gmail.com** providing your name, address and how many calendars you would like.

Please let us have your orders by Friday 26th November 2021. Each calendar (with an envelope) will cost a very reasonable £6.00. Once the calendar orders are complete, we will let you know how to make your payment. We plan to deliver the additional calendars week beginning 29th November, giving you time to post them for Xmas.

Thanks again to RoofPlus for sponsoring the calendar, we really appreciate their support. We will donate the profits from the sale of the additional calendars to a local charity chosen by them – St Luke's hospice.

Making a positive difference IN Willington and FOR the world



What are we doing for a better future? - article written by Councillor Donna Okell

This month we will all see and hear more about the Climate Crisis as the International Conference of Parties (COP26) meets in Glasgow. We're already beginning to see the serious effects of climate change not just across the world, but here in Cheshire too.

Scientists conclude that the window of opportunity to avoid catastrophic and irreversible change is small – 10 years at best but more likely we have eight years to make significant changes to the way we live. Thank you very much to those of you who have offered to support our plans and play our part in making a positive impact on the environment. The Willington Climate Action Plan is designed to support the commitment to climate action from Cheshire West and Chester. CWaC has recently launched Inspire, a platform to inspire, inform and engage everybody in the Borough. Please take a look: <https://participatenow.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/climate-emergency>

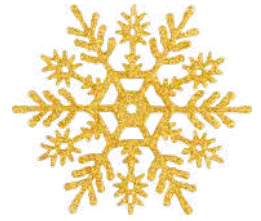
Our initial plan asks that we all follow these three simple steps:

- Understand where we are now: measure your household's carbon footprint. Please use the fabulous free tool designed by WWF <https://footprint.wwf.org.uk/#/>. You can either use the free app (best) or use the link above on your laptop. Our goal is for everybody in Willington to commit to making a positive difference to the environment. It's great to see that some of you have already used the WWF app and have been sharing your stories. It's surprising to see just how significant making even small changes can be.
- Make at least one pledge to improve your score across all areas: power, food, travel, shopping, and activities. So that's at least five commitments in each Willington Household. That's over 700 in our village! Even small improvements can make a big difference.
- Work together, share our scores, and help each other to improve. We are all responsible for creating a better future. Please do encourage everybody in your household to get involved and share your stories either on our WhatsApp or on Inspire....it inspires others to make a change too.

At the end of the year we will record our progress; see how many of us have registered our footprint, how many pledges we've made, and encourage you to share your stories of how you are making a difference. We appreciate that not everybody may have access to a computer and/or would like some help. Please contact Donna Okell at donna@cheshireforgood.com or call her on 07739 799722 if you would like help or have any questions. Your support will make a difference IN Willington and FOR the world. We'll learn a lot, have some fun, and make a difference. Thank you.



A Message from Edward Timpson MP



When Willington and its local infrastructure is working well, it's a great place to live.

But when our roads, water or electricity supply become unreliable, our semi-rural setting can be rather more difficult to cope with.

So what is being done to address these issues?

HIGHWAYS AND BYWAYS

While roadworks are often essential for local authorities like Cheshire West & Chester to maintain roads, and for utility companies to install, repair and maintain their apparatus to deliver their services to homes and businesses, roadworks should not be in place any longer than is absolutely necessary.

I know from driving around the Willington area that this has not been the case recently, and so I have offered to work with the parish should these sorts of problems not be resolved in a timely manner.

The roll out of the lane rental scheme, which encourages utilities companies and local authorities to carry out works at weekends and in the evenings to reduce the congestion and disruption for motorists, and to complete the works as quickly as possible, should go some way to reducing disruption.

£10 million has also been invested by the Government in Street Manager, a new digital system to help plan and coordinate roadworks, which has been adopted by all local authorities and utility companies since its launch in July 2020. It is used across the country, and enables local authorities and other registered bodies to input up-to-date information on live and planned works.

This should allow for better coordination of utilities works and less pressure on roads. It also records all reinstatements, inspections and any defects that are noted from such inspections.

I'm hopeful that this will all mean more targeted and timely roadworks across our local area.

WATER-WORKS

Water is key to life and this is why it features so prominently in the Government's 25-year environment plan, which sets out priorities relating to supply, leakage, demand, consumption and the investment needed in infrastructure. Water companies must consider the plan when producing their own future strategies.

It's clear we must work harder than ever to ensure that we all have enough water in the future, and the Government remains committed to a 'twin track approach' of managing water demand, reducing leakage and increasing supply in parallel. This must take into account water pressure as a factor—one that I know seriously affects Willington in particular (I am one of them!), and I am glad United Utilities are engaging positively on the issue.



A Message from Edward Timpson MP - Continued



Although total leakage has fallen by a third since 1994 following investment by water companies, there is still more to do. The industry is proposing to reduce leakage by 16 per cent by 2025 and has set the ambitious target of a 50 per cent reduction by 2050.

We are asking water companies to develop a consistent approach on fixing customer supply pipe leakage, and encouraging local authorities to adopt a tighter standard of 110 litres per person per day, compared with the current standard of 125 litres. The Government also expects companies to collaborate with one another on regional water resource plans that transcend their boundaries, to identify the most cost-effective solutions for each region and for the nation. Being on the edge of a region makes this all the more important for Cheshire residents and businesses.

POWER TO THE PEOPLE

The energy industry in Great Britain is split into four parts: generation, transmission companies, distribution companies and the suppliers.

The electricity distribution companies own and operate the poles and cables that bring electricity from the national transmission network to towns and villages. They don't sell electricity to customers—this is done by the electricity suppliers.

We've seen some severe weather patterns recently which have, at times, resulted in some homes and businesses being without electricity. This can have an impact on many daily activities that we take for granted—turning on the lights, charging mobile phones and refrigerating food.

I am very pleased to hear that Willington boasts as a resident an experienced engineer who is working with the distributor to resolve recent inconsistency in electricity supply. Community involvement with electricity distributors is hugely important, and Ofgem encourages them to consult widely on a rolling basis.

Ofgem is also charged with protecting customers' interests by ensuring that they are provided with a reliable electricity service, whatever the weather. That is why they have Quality of Service Guaranteed Standards, which are service levels that should be met by each distribution company. If they fail to meet the level of service required, then customers may be entitled to a payment.

The amount paid to customers depends on many factors including the cause of the interruption, and the amount of time the supply was interrupted. Payments under the guaranteed standards recognise the inconvenience caused by loss of supply. We all want the lights to stay on, but when they don't, it's only right that a fair system is in place to repair and recompense bill payers.

KEEP IN TOUCH

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, on this or any other matter, please visit edwardtimpson.com/contact to email me. You can sign up to my Eddisbury Report e-newsletter too.

You can also call my constituency office on 01829 733 385, or write to me at 58A High Street, Tarporley CW6 0AG.

Highways and Byeways



Highways and Byeways

Reduction in the speed limit on Willington Road – unfortunately we are still waiting for CWaC Highways to provide us with a design and full set of costs for the scheme. Only when we have agreed on these can we move on to the second consultation period (for three weeks via a notice in the local press). CWaC Highways are currently experiencing problems with staffing due to Covid, resignations, and injuries to key staff. Our Borough Councillors are pressing our case for the costing work to be given some priority. Once the implementation of the revised limit is complete, the Cheshire Police & Crime Commissioner (John Dwyer) would like to schedule a visit to see what has been achieved to improve road safety in the village (and no doubt to understand how we spent the £2500 grant he awarded us).

Managing Speeds in the Village – our speedwatch volunteers continue to monitor speed through the village with the speed gun. During an 'outing' on 14th of October, around 10% of the vehicles tracked were travelling at more than 40 mph and five of those vehicles were reported to our PCSO for further action including one BMW 1 series travelling long Willington Lane at 66mph towards Kelsall; a sad and disturbing record!

Potholes – we have continued to report the assorted potholes, silted up passing places and damaged road surfaces in the village to CWaC, particularly between the entrances to Willington Hall.

Footpaths - CWaC has installed some 'no cycling' notices on the Little Switzerland footpath. Although they have informed us that they have no power to stop cyclists using this footpath as '*...use of a Public Footpath in any other manner than on foot is a trespass against the landowner and is therefore only prosecutable by the landowner. The Council has no powers to act.*

Finallyif 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 such as blocked or damaged drains and grids) directly to CWaC using 'Report It' online at.... <https://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/residents/contact-us/report-it/report-it.aspx> or using


Or you can contact the Council - General enquiries 0300 123 8123

Willington Parish Council - vacancy

Firstly, our thanks go to Bev Crossley for all her work during her time on the Parish Council. Unfortunately, Bev resigned from the Council in October; Bev's contributions to Council meetings, community events and lots of other things will be much missed. We therefore now have a vacancy for a Parish Councillor. The vacancy has been publicised on the Council website and the notice board on the Green for a couple of weeks. Your Council plans to co-opt a new Councillor at the scheduled Council meeting on 23rd November.

PCSO Change

We have been informed that our Police Community Support Officer (Jack Makin) has decided to leave Cheshire Constabulary and explore pastures new. Our thanks go to Jack for his help and support with our efforts to monitor and reduce speeding in the village. Jack's replacement is PCSO Wendy Leason. We look forward to working with Wendy in the future. Jack says...' It's been a pleasure to work in the community, thanks for being so welcoming and supportive during my time here and I'm sure I will bump into some of you in the future as I am quite local to all the villages.'



Christmas Quiz



Willington Prize Christmas Quiz 2021

1. If Prince Albert bought each of his children two presents and his wife (Queen Victoria) three presents, how many presents would he have to buy?
2. How many of Santa's nine reindeers have names beginning with D?
3. Ignoring the partridge, how many birds are there in the Twelve Days of Christmas?
4. How does Good King Wenceslas like his pizza?
5. On what date do orthodox Russian Christians celebrate Christmas Day?
6. What is next in this sequence.... 3, 15, 18, 2, 2, 3, 29, 26, ? Clue – some of you won't need to go to work on these.....
7. Roughly how many miles did Mary and Joseph have to travel to get from Nazareth to Bethlehem?
8. William Shakespeare wrote a play for Elizabeth I, as a Christmas present. Which one is it?
9. Who wrote the story 'A Christmas Carol'? And who said "God bless us, everyone!"? (two answers required)
10. If you're born on Christmas day, what's your star sign?

Add the answers to Q3 & Q6 together, and then subtract the answers to Q1 & Q2. Send the resulting two-digit number to: ClerkWillington@gmail.com (making sure you provide your name, address and contact number) by Friday 12th December. The first two correct answers drawn at random will receive a Weetwood Brewery gift voucher or a box of chocolates from Tarporley Firestation. The answers and the names of the clever winners will be published in the first newsletter of 2022.



Do you know how to restart a heart?

Sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) occurs when an electrical malfunction of the heart causes it to suddenly stop beating properly. SCA is a leading cause of death around the world. A victim's best chance of survival is receiving high-quality Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and a defibrillating shock from an Automated External Defibrillator (AED). We last organised training in CPR and use of a defibrillator in November 2018. Willington has had quite a number of new residents since who may not even know that we have an AED located in the old telephone kiosk on Willington Corner, or how to access it and use it? Due to Covid-19 it has not been possible to organise training this year. We will explore the possibility of providing another training evening in the New Year.

It is said that you are most likely to witness a cardiac arrest in the home of a relative or friend. If this were to happen to you, would you be able to recognise the signs and symptoms? Would you know the simple steps that you could take to restart a heart? **(Always, always call 999 FIRST)!**

Can you spare 15 minutes to watch a short British Heart Foundation training video on YouTube? Just search 'Call Push Rescue for CPR training'. You can also watch a short video at resus.org.uk Resuscitation Council UK searching for Covid-19 in relation to CPR and resuscitation in first aid and community settings. You can also search your Web browser for Zoll AED Plus... a step-by-step demo and Real CPR help demo (How to use the AED).

Task Force



Willington Task Force - Autumn Cleanup

The village Task Force was out and about on 5th November to complete a few tasks ready for winter.

The jobs completed were:

- washing down all road and parish signs (including the fingerpost near the bus shelter)
- hedge trimming on Willington Road
- collecting leaves (this will need repeating) and removing low lying branches on the Green and trimming the hedge on the field side of the Green
- removing weeds, silt and grass from road gutters around the Green, the kiosk Green and along Willington Rd (from Willington Corner to our boundary with Kelsall)
-and finally trimming back the holly on track to Boothsdale .

Our thanks to Ian, Nigel, Peter, John J, Rob W, Rob M, Gwyn, John G and Richard for their time, effort, and expertise. The task force is always looking for more volunteers. If you are able to spare a few hours three or four times a year, please contact Councillor John Grimshaw on 752177.



United Utilities



United Utilities Visit - water supply issues

Three representatives from United Utilities (UU) were present at the meeting of the Parish Council on Tuesday 28th September 2021 to explain the recent water supply disruptions we experienced and propose a solution to prevent similar events in the future.

The UU team began by apologising for the supply disruptions the village had encountered and went on to describe the frequency of disruptions that had occurred since 2018. There have been three confirmed pipe bursts and one supply interruption since the 3rd July 2018; these resulted in the matter being escalated to a senior level within UU.

UU then provided a timeline of the events that occurred during the recent problems. There was a significant gap between 05:57 when a customer called notifying UU of poor pressure on Chapel Lane, to the completion of the repair at 16:37, United Utilities acknowledged that the root cause of delay was due to the three key issues:-

1. Work Management - a significant breakdown in communication between the overnight scheduling team and the day shift
2. Alternative Supply Vehicle (ASV) availability - there was no availability to send small rigid ASV's. All four were being used on existing jobs.
3. Traffic Management set up - the Traffic Management team had been sent to the wrong location. Network modelling of the water system has revealed that some parts of our supply network were operating at 99 metres pressure which is well in excess of the normal standard of 18 metres pressure. To overcome this issue and to prevent future disruption, the maintenance team have been granted funding to install a Pressure Monitoring Valve in Kelsall. Unfortunately, the UU team could give no date for the implementation of the Pressure Monitoring Valve but they were hopeful that it could be installed prior to the end of November (subject to obtaining the necessary consents from CWaC Highways).

The Parish Council have written to United Utilities thanking them for their attendance and requesting that we are kept advised with the progress of the proposed remedial works.

Tarporley & District u3a

Tarporley & District u3a will be holding their next general meeting on Thursday 25th November at Tarporley Community Centre from 10am (doors open at 9.45am). Speaker begins shortly after 10am following a few notices. Our speaker this month is Gill Moroney who is a member of the Local History Group and will be talking about the Roman Roads of Cheshire. You can find out more from our website at: <https://u3asites.org.uk/tarporley/home> where you will be able to read our newsletters and find out how to join.

Your Council

About Your Council

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: Tuesday 23rd November. 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

