



Willington Village Newsletter

April 2026
issue 42

Dates for your diary

Next Parish Council Meeting 2026

Tuesday, 19th May 2026
Willington Hall Hotel 7.30pm

Annual Village Meeting

Wednesday, 20th May 2026
7.00pm at Willington Hall
Hotel

Annual Village Picnic

Sunday 7th June 2026 on The
Green from 14.00, bring a
chair, a drink and some food!

From your Parish Council Chairman

Welcome to our latest Newsletter for 2026, as we enter Spring and watch our beautiful village come alive with blossom.

We hope you find the latest information useful and insightful, and we look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the forthcoming Annual Village Meeting on 20th May 2026 at Willington Hall Hotel. It is great to get the Parish together and discuss any concerns, ideas or just simply meeting up with your neighbours!

After many years, John Grimshaw has stepped down as leader of the task force and handed over to John Jeffries. Under his guidance and leadership (alongside the tasks he personally undertook such as restoring the finger post sign), the Task Force team has made a real difference to Willington and its environment. Our village is a better place to live as a result of the effort and skills John brought to the Task Force. Thank you John from all of us in the Parish

Enjoy the newsletter and hope to see you on 20th May 2026

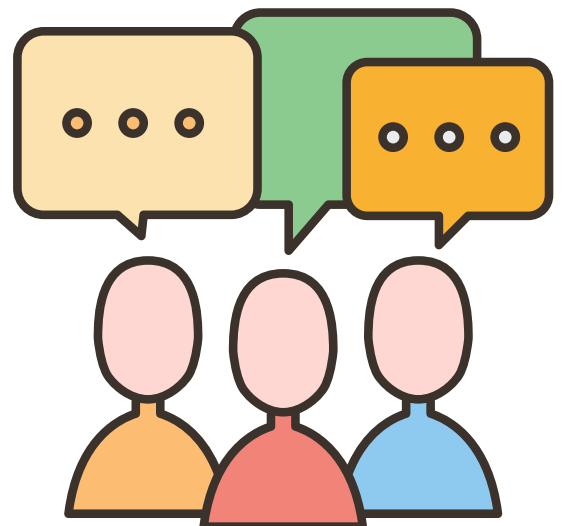
Best Wishes

Stuart Ingram

Annual Village Meeting - 20th May 2026 Willington Hall Hotel

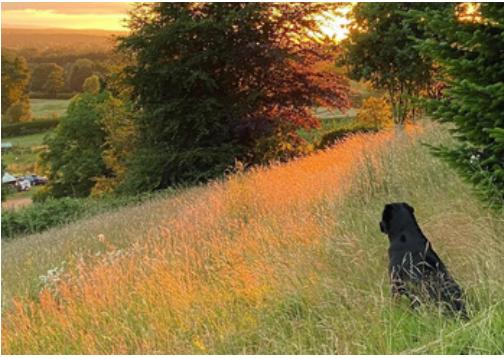
This is your opportunity to let the Parish Council know what's important to you. Come along and join the discussion at Willington Hall Hotel on Wednesday 20th May at 6.30pm for a 7pm start; tea & coffee will be served from 6.30pm, and the bar will be open if you would like to buy a drink! We will cover:

- The Parish Council - who are we & what we do
- Priorities for the coming years
- Financial update & achievements
- Neighbourhood Development Plan - an update
- How you can get involved in the work of the PC and its working groups & Upcoming events
- Q&A - ask us anything!



We really hope you can spare an hour of your time to join us and share your views. And if you have any questions please drop us a line before the meeting at clerk@willingtonparish.gov.uk

Climate & Nature Working Group (CAN) - News



Willington CAN Event 2026 - Rescheduled

Unfortunately, we will have to rearrange the CAN Action Group Event that was planned at 'The Boot' on Sunday 17th May 2026.

Our speakers couldn't attend due to commitments elsewhere, but the work of the CAN Action Group will continue.

Watch this space for the rearranged date!

The Peoples Emergency Briefing Film

Just recently, members of the group and Willington attended a Special Community Screening of 'The People's Emergency Briefing' at the Chester Storyhouse. This film was based on the National Emergency Briefing (NEB) which was held in Westminster in late 2025. It is a really eye-opening film, which brings together leading scientists and experts, who, with well-researched evidence, discuss how our changing climate affects weather, food security, our health and the cost of living.

CAN's aim over the coming months is to get enough Willington residents together to hold a community screening of the film in Willington Hall. This will help us start a wider discussion about these topics, with a view to more people joining CAN, and implementing measures which will help our village moving forward.

Please check out the trailer for 'The People's Emergency Briefing' on youtube. If, after viewing, you would like to know more, please let us know!

Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP)

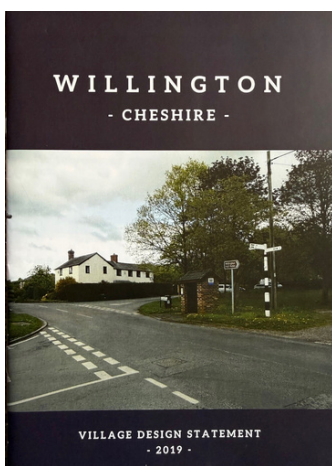
Your Parish Council continues to work with Kelsall Parish Council representatives to update the current NDP for Kelsall and Willington.

The previous plan enabled the delivery of significant benefits to the villages including informing planning decisions by CWaC, the new Kelsall Medical Centre, limiting further building on the edges of Kelsall, and providing over-55s housing in Kelsall. The plan is to draft a revised Plan for public consultation later this year and we need the help of as many village residents as possible to make sure the Plan meets the needs of the community.



A key part of the new NDP Kelsall PC will focus on a 'Design Code' for Kelsall which will direct how any new development looks in the terms of layout, materials, general appearance, parking, etc. A residents' survey is launching today, and will run for 4 weeks, asking for your likes and dislikes about design features in Kelsall village. The survey is accessed at: <https://communities.createstreets.com/Kelsall>. The online consultation is open until 9th May 2026.

Willington Parish have their own published Design Statement issued in 2019. This Document is available for review and reference on the Parish Council Website and will continue to stay in effect within the new updated NDP



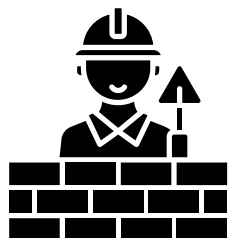
Highways and Road Safety

Roughlow – Repairs to damage caused by the fallen tree

We continue to press CWaC Highways to get the damaged road fixed. We have escalated the lack of progress to Tom Cooper, our Borough Councillor – we look forward to some progress soon.



Little Switzerland Repairs



We are sure you will be pleased to hear that the repairs to the retaining wall on the footpath up Little Switzerland have been completed. Your PC worked closely with the CWaC Footpaths Officer to make sure the repairs were completed in a timely manner.

We are now looking at how best to repair the eroded section of path towards the top of Little Switzerland.

Tackling Speeding in Willington



We continue to monitor the speed of the traffic at various locations in the village with our Speed Indicator Device (SID). In addition, our PCSO has regularly deployed the 'official' tru-cam speed gun in the village catching eleven speeding vehicles one Sunday. The tru-cam captures registration numbers which enables the police to take action against the offending drivers.

We attended a meeting with our Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) earlier in the month to express our concerns about the seriously high speeds we have recorded e.g. up to 74mph on Willington Road and understand how this can be addressed.

Options being discussed to reduce the speeding in Willington include:

- A yellow box speed camera. These cost between £50-100k – a very expensive option.
- Calming measures on the road which can prove unpopular with residents unfortunately
- Deploying the big yellow speed van (as used in Oscroft) – this requires a safe location off the road to park which is tricky in Willington
- Co-ordinate a joint Speed Watch with adjacent villages on the same day/time every 3 months with the PCSO visiting each in turn with the Trucam
- Use Road Traffic Police to pull speeding vehicles over
- Ask Willington residents to contact our MP and CWAC Councilors to demand action is taken
- Contacting the CWAC Road Safety Team, Highways Safety Officer. They are mainly concerned with school road safety messaging, but as we have an issue with speeding at school pick-up and drop-off times on roads without pavements, which may offer a way in.

If you are interested in seeing the speeding data analysis please contact the Clerk.

How Repairing our Roads is Funded By CWaC - Cllr Ted Lush

Highways maintenance spending in CWaC is covered from 3 separate sources. By far the largest is from the Government in the form of an annual cash grant. The next largest block is funded by CWaC, mainly through borrowing or sometimes receipts from the sale of capital assets. The third block is funded by CWaC and paid for from Council Tax, business rates and general grants.

Highways and Road Safety (Continued)

How Repairing our Roads is Funded By CWaC (Continued)

The Government grant is known as the Local Transport Fund and aims to cover the following :

- maintenance and enhancement of the road network
- major transport infrastructure such as bridges and over/underpasses
- replacing streetlights and traffic signals
- repairs such as potholes so long as the road surface is enhanced
- road treatments that extend the life of the road.

The figures are 2026/27 £19.62m; 2027/28 £21.3m; 2028/29 £21.96m and 2029/30 £23.67m

The next block is funded by CWaC mainly from borrowing (over 17 years, presumably the assumed life of the jobs). The annual spending for the next four years commencing 2026/27 is £8.85m pa and this sum includes a figure of £0.5m pa for footway schemes. The CWaC money is pooled with the money received from the Government via the Local Transport Fund. The cost of borrowing the £8.85m equates to £0.53m pa and this cost is funded from Council Tax, business rates and general grants.

The final block of money is £6.5m per annum for each of the next 4 years. This money is used for day-to-day repairs such as responsive patches that do not extend or enhance the life of the road, winter maintenance (gritting), gully emptying and tree maintenance.

In summary next year, 2026/27, £34.97m will be spent on highways maintenance and of this amount £7.03m is paid for by the Council Tax, business rates and general grants.

With the new Combined Authority (CA) coming into being there will be some changes. The changes will become more meaningful in 2027/28 when the CA will be more established, and we will have an elected regional Mayor in post. Hopefully we all know a little bit more about the CWaC highways maintenance spending, but there will still be instances in the future where how it is spent will baffle both Councillors and our residents.



Your Bus - Door to Door Transport

Your Bus is a borough wide initiative from CWaC which went live on 1st April 2026.

It is operated by Changing Lives Together and is independent and able to reach the places that matter most, whether that's medical appointments, shopping trips, social activities, or visiting loved ones.

A fleet of eight new minibuses are fully accessible with space for wheelchair users. The service will operate, as a minimum, from 10am to 3pm Monday to Friday. www.yourbus.info

All users will need to register. This can be done at any time, up to and including when they board the vehicle. Multi-channel booking is available with users able to call, WhatsApp or use a website to book. Your Bus is for residents who are (one of the following applies):

- Over 80 years-old
- In receipt of Disability Living Allowance (mobility component), Personal Independence Payment (PIP) or Attendance Allowance
- Have a health reason why they cannot access public transport
- **There is no public transport provision in their area.**



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Willington Task Force

The taskforce is currently investigating a few new initiatives.

- Repairing the eroded footpath towards the top of Little Switzerland; it is down to the underlying concrete
- Maintenance work on the trees on the Green to address safety concerns and to reduce some of canopy (thereby helping the grass on the Green to thrive). CWaC carried out a survey last year of the Green and as a result have lifted the crown of a cherry at the eastern aspect of The Green which was encroaching on to a neighbouring property, and removed one of the two ash trees at the southeastern corner which was in severe decline and posed significant risk to property and people using the Green. The resulting logs were rapidly collected by some of our residents for their fires and burners 😊.
- We are currently talking to arboreal specialists to identify other tree work needed. £3000 has been set aside in the 2026/27 budget for the initial works and we plan to budget an amount for annual maintenance of the trees in the future.
- Conducting a review of the trees in the village to understand if tree preservation orders can be applied to any of them.

Can you help?....

Willington Taskforce is a small group of volunteers who get together a few times a year to complete tidying and maintenance jobs around the village.

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Please get in touch with
John Jeffries on
j.jeffries100@gmail.com

Clerks Notes April 2026

2026-2027 Parish Council Budget and Precept

The budget for April 2026 to March 2027 was approved at the meeting of the Parish Council on 25th January 2026. Our overall projected spend for 2026/27 is £15725 which will include some of:

- day to day running costs of the Parish Council e.g. Clerk's salary, insurance, subscriptions to outside organisations and services, maintenance of our three defibrillators
- £3000 Chapel Lane speed limit reduction (2026-27?)
- £550 for a planter on the Green/Triangle
- £250 for another round of bat and bird boxes
- £3000 for tree management on The Green

This will be funded from the 2026-27 precept which we have already received from CWaC plus previously accumulated reserves and grants.

Your Council has reduced the precept (the money we ask CWaC for to enable us to run the Parish Council) for the coming financial year to £6535 from £6589 in 2025/26. In 2025/26 the Band D household charge (what the average household will pay to support the Parish Council activities) was £42.87 per annum. The 2026-27 charge for Band D households will be £41.73, a decrease of £1.14 per annum (just under 3%).

In the circumstances that due to unforeseen circumstances, the 26-26 budget is inadequate, the Council would be able to draw on its reserves without detriment to its work.

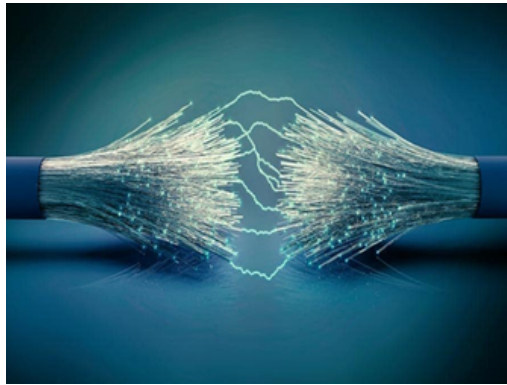


New Bench at Top of Little Switzerland

The bench (made from recycled materials) has been installed for several months now. It has been well used, and survived the winter without any deterioration. We hope you continue to enjoy the bench and the fabulous landscape below it.

A notice asking folks to take their litter with them has been installed. Please take your litter with you.

And if you see other people's litter, do the right thing, pick it up and pop it in a bin somewhere.



Fast Fibre to Willington - Update

We have been advised by CWaC that Building Digital UK (BDUK) have now signed a contract directly with OpenReach to cover the area previously covered by Cheshire Lot 17 - which they cancelled in 2025.

This is potentially very good news for the Parish, however, we do not have the details of unit / area coverage within this new Contract. We will continue to liaise with CWaC Digital Officer, and update you all as we can.



You can contact Willington Parish Council by e-mail, phone, post or by coming along to a council meeting.

To contact us by post, please write to the Clerk, Rob Winterbourne, at 1, Lilac Close, Willington, CW6 0PL, Tel: 01829 751266. To contact the Parish Council via e-mail or phone please use the details below:

Cllr Stuart Ingram (07534 459528) - email: stuart.ingram@willingtonparish.gov.uk

Cllr James Abbott (01829 751187) - email: james.abbott@willingtonparish.gov.uk

Cllr John Lindsay (01829 751057) - email: john.lindsay@willingtonparish.gov.uk

Cllr Matt Bloxham (07900 692209) - email: matt.bloxham@willingtonparish.gov.uk

Cllr Andrew Nicholas (01829 752029) - email: andrew.nicholas@willingtonparish.gov.uk

Rob Winterbourne (01829 751266) - Clerk - email: clerk@willingtonparish.gov.uk

Your Cheshire West and Chester (CWaC) Borough Councillors

Cllr Ted Lush 01829 741468 or email at: edward.lush@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

Cllr Tom Cooper email at: tom.cooper@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

Parish Council Meetings

Our next Parish Council Meeting is on Tuesday 19th May 2026 at Willington Hall starting at 19:30.

All are invited to come along and contribute to the open forum, or just sit and watch the proceedings. You are all very welcome.