

This newsletter has been delivered to every household in the Parish and is also on our website (<http://www.willington.org.uk>)

Contributions to future newsletters are welcomed and for the next issue should reach the Clerk (contact details overleaf) by 30th April 2018.

NO INCREASE IN PARISH PRECEPT

The Parish Council has agreed the budget for the financial year 2018/2019 and is pleased to announce that there will be no increase in the Parish Precept. This is the amount added to the Council Tax bill of each householder that pays for certain local services and activities. It is only a small proportion of the total bill, but as Cheshire West and Chester Council are expected to increase the tax the Parish Council is again playing a modest role in keeping that increase as small as possible for residents of Willington Parish.

SPEEDING

Speeding on Willington Road and Chapel Lane seems to be one of the main issues that residents have concerns about.

The Parish Council have been taking action on this since the Council was first formed. In August 2015 the Council requested the Highways department carry out a speed review along Willington Road. Highways did this (after several reminders) and reported back on their findings in February 2016. The reply was that there was no need for change. The Council then requested to view the report. The main criteria for a 30mph speed limit apparently are:-

- a) Character of road
- b) Existing average speed of 30mph and under
- c) Housing density

The average speed over a 7 day period was 40mph and the housing density did not meet the criteria. The police also would not support a reduction of the speed limit to 30mph. (for further information please see the minutes of the Council meeting in March '16 on the web site)

Feeling frustrated that we were unable to comply with residents wishes the Council invited a Highways officer to attend a Parish Council meeting which he did in June 2016.

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He clearly reiterated what was in the report and it was obvious that there was no room to manoeuvre.

The Council are now looking into various speed calming methods on Willington Road and Chapel Lane including the use of a speed gun by residents. Obviously any decisions on speed calming would have to be taken after a wide consultation as there are a minefield of differing views on the subject.

DOG WASTE BINS

After residents requested more dog waste bins the Council have been in touch with Cheshire Wes and Chester Council and they have acknowledged that in principle they would support another bin being put in place in Willington. The problem is where to site it. It must be accessible for the Borough Council services to empty it and not too close to any houses. Has anyone any ideas? If so please make contact with either one of our Councillors or the Clerk.

PROJECTS

Has anyone any thoughts on priorities for Parish Council spending this year. One suggestion has been a picnic bench on The Green. Your ideas would be welcome.

MOBILE LIBRARY



The Mobile Library will be visiting the Village Green, from 12.20 to 12.50pm on the following dates:

February 23rd, March 16th, April 6th, April 27th, May 18th, and June 8th.

The library has a good selection of fiction, non-fiction, children's and large print books. You can return books to any Cheshire Library but the staff on the Mobile Library will automatically renew books if you miss their visit. You can also catch them at the Community Centre in Kelsall at 4.00pm on the same dates.

AREA OF SPECIAL COUNTY VALUE

Not only is Willington designated as Open Countryside, The Local Plan (Part Two) Publication Plan identifies Areas of Special

County Value (ASCV) in policy GBC2 'Protection of Landscape' as areas of additional landscape character and scenic value that warrant protection through a local landscape designation.

Most of the parish of Willington is covered by this designation. Details can be found in the ASCV review 2017, which can be accessed via the link

<http://consult.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/file/4583252>

Go to page 27 for the Delamere/Utkinton ASCV map which covers an area in the north of the parish, and page 53 for the Willington map. The accompanying text to both maps is well worth reading, and further reinforces how fortunate we are to live here.

FOX HOUNDS

Whilst the Police were informed about the Cheshire Hunt hounds incident through gardens along Gooseberry Lane, there has been no feedback to date.

PARISH CLERK

The Council continues to seek someone to take on the role of Parish Clerk.

This is a paid position for four hours per week. The position of the Clerk is home based providing legal (statutory requirement for parish councils), administrative, financial and managerial support to the Parish Council. The Clerk is required to attend council meetings, take minutes and also be the Responsible Financial Officer for the Council and deal with daily communications from members of the public. If you are interested in this role please either e-mail or phone our present Clerk or one of our Councillors.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS



All Council meetings are open meetings

Members of the public are most welcome to attend and listen to the debates.

If you want to come along but don't want to stay until the end that is not a problem. Come and join us and then leave when you wish to do so. All we ask is that you come and go quietly.

The next meetings are at Willington Hall at 7.30pm on 28th February, 28th March, and 25th April.

The first 15 minutes of each meeting is allocated to the public forum where anyone can have his or her say on any local matter.

An agenda for each meeting is placed on the noticeboard by Willington Green and also on our website.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

It is planned to hold this years Annual Parish Meeting on Tuesday 22nd May, 7.30pm at Willington Hall. Sandstone Ridge Trust have agreed to send a representative along to talk to us about the Sandstone Ridge. This is a meeting for all members of the Parish. Please join us on that evening if you are able to do so.

HAWKERS

Resident's in many local Parishes have reported that Hawkers are illegally selling household cleaning materials. Please do not feel pressured into opening the door to strangers, even if you think they are legitimate, and certainly do not feel compelled to purchase any of the items on offer.

If you do see any suspicious persons in the area. Please report them to Police on 101.

FACEBOOK

A reminder for those who use social media or maybe are happy to use it occasionally, the Parish Council has a facebook page. It can be found by searching for **Willington Parish Cheshire** whilst on facebook.

ABOUT YOUR COUNCIL

Willington Parish Council is comprised of the following 5 Councillors – their contact telephone numbers, all dial code 01829, are in brackets: Cllr John Grimshaw (752177), Cllr Jane Lowthion (751454), Cllr Andrew Nicholas (752029), Cllr Roy Penk (751866), Cllr Pat Tyson-Jones (751757)

To Contact Us in Writing:

Write to: Mike Hassall, Clerk to Willington Parish Council, Roy Cottage, Townfield Lane, Tarvin CH3 8EG. Tel 01829 741075 e-mail ClerkWillington@aol.com

Your Cheshire West and Chester Borough Councillors:

Cllr Hugo Deynem (01829 751830)
hugo.deynem@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk
Cllr John Leather (01829 752558)
john.leather@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk