

The Newsletter of Willington Parish Council



September 2022 Newsletter No. 29

Welcome

Welcome to the third and penultimate newsletter of 2022!

In this edition, you will find the results from the recent village questionnaire, a fascinating article on how dogs 'see' the world, and lots more information including updates on village projects and events such as '**The BIG Willington Trivia Quiz!**'. Our newsletter (paper and digital) is put together by Jeanette of Badgers Gate and our village Clerk. If anyone would like to help with the newsletter, learn more about how it is put together, or if you have any article contributions please contact Jeanette at jeanettekimberley@outlook.com and Rob Winterbourne at clerk.willington@willington.org.uk.

Message from the Chairman of the Parish Council

We deliver our latest newsletter with a mixture of great sadness and celebration. I am sure that the whole of Willington have been shocked at the sudden death of Queen Elizabeth II. She was a much loved and greatly admired monarch and has set the highest standard of public and national service. Most of us will have no memory of any other Head of State and a few perhaps have been fortunate to have seen her in person or met her. We will all mourn her loss. God rest her in peace and take her to His side.

There has been so little time for the new King Charles III and his family to have any time to come to terms with her loss before duty of succession has required them to take up new responsibilities. I may not have been one of his greatest admirers in the past however I, like many of you, have been greatly impressed with the content and tone of his speeches, his actions and the warmth that he has demonstrated in taking time to greet the crowds who came to pay their respects to his mother outside Buckingham Palace. I am confident that Charles will follow in his mother's footsteps and will be a fitting and successful Head of State for the Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. We wish him every success.

Andrew Nicholas

Village Design Statement – update from Councillor Jane Lowthion

In 2018, Ian Dingwall, Simon Walker and I got together to draw up the 'Village Design Statement'. Before Willington became a parish in its own right, one-half of the parish fell under the auspices of Kelsall neighbourhood planning group and the other half had no plan. As the parish is too small to have its own neighbourhood plan it was decided to draw up a 'Village Design Statement'. This is recognised by the Cheshire West and Chester planning department under their local plan-policy STRAT 9. The draft Design Statement was widely distributed and everyone in the parish had an opportunity to comment. The final document was received by every household and passed to the planning department, who have used it when making local planning decisions. New residents have also received a copy.

Village Design Statement – update from Councillor Jane Lowthion continued:

This document is important; it protects, and wherever possible, enhances the local landscape character and its distinctiveness. The agreed key village values are the preservation of:

- Ancient woodland, and predominance of trees and hedgerows, which ensures the village is nestled in the landscape of the Sandstone ridge.
- Historical and ecological heritage.
- The tranquillity of the village and surroundings.
- The views afforded by the villages elevated position.
- The local wildlife sites.

The Parish Council have recently reviewed the document and agreed that there is no need to update it at this time. It is still current, relevant and reflects the key village values.

[The full document can be found on our website](#) - please click on the link to read it.

Any thoughts, queries or comments on the Design Statement would be most welcome.....please contact me, the Clerk or any of the Councillors.

Jane Lowthion

Results and actions from the July 2022 Village Questionnaire

Firstly, we would like to thank all of you who took the time to respond to the questionnaire. Your time to consider your answers and provide additional comments is much appreciated and has given your Parish Council a steer on a number of key issues in the village. Of the 155 questionnaires distributed via e-mail and by hand, 38 responses were received. This is a 25% response rate which is a little disappointing (the previous questionnaire in 2019 had a response rate of nearly 45%). But we do understand how busy everyone is.

The results:

Questions and responses:

(if you would like this information presented in a table format please request via clerk.willington@willington.org.uk)

1. In principle are you in favour of the Parish Council taking ownership of the Green from CWaC? (**Yes - 25, No - 13, No response - 0, % in favour - 66%**)

2. If CWaC do not reduce the speed limit on Chapel Lane to 20 mph, should we proceed with the installation of a vehicle activated sign (VAS) on Chapel Lane? (**Yes - 11, No - 24, No response - 3, % in favour 29%**)

Questions and responses continued:

3. I would be interested in ultra-fast fibre straight to my home (**Yes - 28, No - 10, No response - 0, % in favour - 74%**)

Regarding the quarterley newsletter, do you usually read... (**All of it - 26, Most of it - 11, Some of it - 1 and None of it - 0**).

There were a dozen supplementary comments. In summary, they concerned the risks and costs, and effort required if the Parish Council assumes ownership of the Green, the location and costs of a VAS, and the costs of fast fibre. Residents on all roads in the village expressed interest in fast fibre. At the Parish Council meeting on 31st August, these results were discussed. The Council decided that...

- the Parish Council should undertake further work to assess the feasibility of taking ownership of the Green. Councillor Nicholas has contacted the leader of CWaC (Louise Gittins) who has provided us with a contact to progress the initiative.
- the Council focus on progressing the 20-mph speed limit assessment on Chapel Lane rather than a VAS installation
- the September 2022 newsletter is produced as scheduled and that the frequency of the newsletter is discussed at a future meeting of the Council
- a working party is established to investigate costs and feasibility of providing ultrafast broadband in the village via a working party. Councillor Rob Merrick will lead the working party.

We will continue to provide updates on these activities via the newsletter and website. Thank you again for your contribution.

Ultrafast Fibre Update – Councillor Rob Merrick

The responses to the recent village questionnaire showed that there is overwhelming support for our Parish to explore the viability of bringing Ultrafast Fibre (1000Mbps upload and download speeds) to our village.

We all know how challenging our existing broadband can be at times and I believe that the upgrade to Ultrafast Fibre will future-proof us and allow us to stream music, play online games, seamlessly work from home or video chat with friends on multiple devices; all without the dreaded spooling or buffering spoiling your experience!

At the last Parish Council meeting, it was agreed that I would be the focal point for this project and be responsible for forming a working group to give the project traction. I would therefore like to take this opportunity to reach out to those in our community who would like to help me achieve this.

If you would like to assist me with this exciting project, please send an e-mail to rob.merrick@willington.org.uk expressing your interest.

Rob Merrick



Willington Trivia Quiz evening of Thursday 10th November

QUIZ

Some of you may (fondly) remember the Zoom quizzes that we held on Sunday evenings during lockdown. Now we are thankfully able to meet in person once again, we thought it would be a great idea to arrange a 'proper' face-to-face quiz. **The quiz will take place at Willington Hall on Thursday 10th November at 19:00 for a 19:30 start. It will consist of eight rounds of general knowledge questions (including a music round and a picture round). The quizmaster will be Russ Whitney of Badgers Gate.**

The winning team will receive a splendid prize of a hamper of local foodstuffs kindly donated by a local business. We expect the quiz to last around two hours; of course there will be ample opportunities to visit the bar.....quizzing is thirsty work. So please start pulling your teams of (up to) four together and choose a suitably witty name (or just reuse the name you used during lockdown).

There is an entry fee of five pounds per team which will be donated to St Luke's Hospice. There will also be a raffle in aid of St Luke's. When you have your team organised, please let Rob Winterbourne know at clerk.willington@willington.org.uk or call him on 01829 751266.

Carols on the Green – Sunday 4th December

We know it is only officially just Autumn but it is time to start thinking about our Christmas celebrations. As in previous years, we hope everybody in the village will be able to meet to sing a few Christmas carols, and enjoy mince pies, mulled wine and soft drinks on the Green on the afternoon of Sunday 4th December. And maybe Santa and his elves will join us for a tour of the village once again. Further details will be provided in the next newsletter in November.



Open Gardens 2022 - forget Chelsea, come to Willington!

In early June 2023 (date to be confirmed), we will be organising an Open Gardens event for everyone in the village followed by the annual picnic on the Green.

This will be an informal opportunity for anyone in Willington to open their garden and allow residents, friends and family to have a look around.

To make this happen, we need a small committee of people. **If anyone is interested in helping, please email helen.gill13@btinternet.com. The first meeting will be early in November 2022.**

Clerk's Notes – Quarter Three 2022

The Parish Council WhatsApp Group – The Parish Council WhatsApp group was set up specifically for the dissemination of information from the Council to the residents of Willington. Information such as Cheshire Police alerts, road closures, power and water outages is posted on the group. So please sign up for the WhatsApp group by contacting the Clerk on 07850 057012 or e-mail clerk.willington@willington.org.uk.

Reduction in the speed limit on Willington Road - The formal public consultation process is now complete and pleasingly, the proposal received no objections. The next step is for CWaC Highways to firm up the previously estimated costs before they proceed with the installation. Unfortunately, we expect an increase over the initial estimate due to inflation and the increased cost of materials. We have yet to receive any dates for the revised costs or work.

Once the revised scheme has been in place for a while, we expect CWaC Highways to assess the levels of compliance with the new 30 mph limit. If compliance levels are low, we may have to implement (and fund) further speed reduction measures e.g. a vehicle activated speed sign.

20 mph on Chapel Lane – you may have recently seen a speed measuring device on Chapel Lane; this was installed by CWaC Highways to capture data to support (or otherwise) a reduction in the speed limit on Chapel Lane. We await the results.

Willington Task Force update - the Task Force has continued its fine work throughout the summer; achievements include....

- Tidying overhanging hedges and clearing the gutter of weeds along Willington Rd from Willington Corner to The Hob.
- Removing weeds where CWaC maintenance had killed off the grass on both Greens. The patches on both areas have now been re-seeded (again).....we are now praying for rain.
- Arranging for the relocation of the waste bin by the bus-stop to a position a little further away from the benches and table.
- Installed slabs and limestone chippings around the benches and tables on the Green to make it less muddy underfoot in the winter months.

The remaining works planned for this year will be tackled in October including the cleaning and painting of the metal finger signpost by the bus stop at Willington Corner.

Our thanks go to all members of the Task Force 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 or the Clerk.

Neighbourhood Pride Scheme

In August we were notified that Cheshire West and Chester had made funds available this fiscal year to all Borough Councillors for allocation to qualifying 'Neighbourhood Pride Scheme' projects. The scheme is an opportunity for us to propose small to medium environmental improvement projects within our village.



Neighbourhood Pride Scheme continued

We have submitted three applications for funding for:

- an external defibrillator cabinet to be located at Willington Hall
- a Willington information board on the Green
- a movable bench seat to be located on the Green.



We hope that all three applications will be successful; enabling us to deliver these projects before March 2023.

Parish Council Meetings.... please come along – your Parish Council meets at least six times a year at Willington Hall. The meetings are usually on the last or penultimate Tuesday of the month starting at 19:30. Please consider popping along for all or part of the meeting to see what we talk about and (during the public session) raise any issues or make any comments you have. You are most welcome. The next meeting is on Tuesday 22nd November.

Rob Winterbourne – Clerk to Willington PC

Defibrillator (AED) Update

Towards the end of July our new defibrillator located at Willington Hall Hotel was needed when a customer suffered a stroke. Trained hotel staff were able to respond quickly, and at the request of the emergency services, deploy the defibrillator into a state of readiness in case the patient suffered a cardiac arrest. Fortunately, it wasn't required. But it was very reassuring for the staff to have it close to hand.

We have recently purchased a protective case for the Willington Hall defibrillator, signage and an external cabinet for the one located at The Boot. When installed this will extend the public availability from The Boot's opening hours to 24 hours a day every day.

Tarporley U3A

Tarporley & District u3a will be holding their next two meetings on Thursday 27th October and Thursday 24th November 2022. Both meetings will be held at Tarporley Community Centre from 10am (doors open at 9.45am). The speaker begins shortly after 10.30am following a few notices.

Our speaker in October is John Hooley whose talk is entitled The Royal Yacht and her Predecessors. This is an illustrated talk about the British Royal Yachts from the Victorian era through to the time of Britannia's decommissioning. Featuring pictures of the vessels and their royal passengers and also telling the history of the royal yachts.

Our speaker in November is Paul Burrell whose talk is entitled The Queen. Paul Burrell was – Footman to Queen Elizabeth II for ten years and had an almost unique insight into her life.

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.

Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty - Update September 2022

Probably the most frequently asked question since we were shortlisted for potential AONB (Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty) designation back in June 2021 is 'What is happening with AONB status for the Cheshire?'

Natural England (NE) is the body that leads the process on behalf of DEFRA and the Government. They have already undertaken some preliminary work to become more familiar with the Sandstone Ridge, including two visits with their Senior Executives. Both visits appeared to be positive but NE were keen to emphasise that potential AONB designation represents a 'journey', taking up to 2-3 years, and, at all times, a multiplicity of criteria have to be met, together with a raft of public consultations.

NE's next formal meeting with the Trust was held on 28 September 2022 and included representatives from the two Local Authorities and the Chair and Vice Chair of the Sandstone Ridge Trust. We await the outcome. The Trust continues to update their website with any fresh information, details of which can be found by following this link..... <https://www.sandstoneridge.org.uk/>



Insight into a 'Sniffers' World – Genny Masterman (Canine Behaviour Practitioner)

Have you ever told someone something really important and they didn't respond because they were so focused on something else? Maybe they were concentrating on a book's crucial moment or a football match when an amazing goal is about to be scored? Or possibly there was no response to you because another driver was really irritating them on the motorway.

Unintentionally blending out most of the rest of the surrounding environment when they are very excited is what happens to dogs too whilst sniffing around the neighbourhood. On occasion you see a dog, nose down-tail up, with a human attached somewhere behind trying to keep up - either cursing or looking embarrassed or desperate. It also happens to dogs when they are scared or anxious of something, but that is a whole different story.

A significant difference between humans and dogs is that we humans mainly identify attractive things through our eyes. We have more depth of perception than dogs and the colours in our vision are much more vivid than theirs. Dogs find things much more attractive through their nose. They have more than 220 million receptors in their nose, depending on type of dog, in comparison to our miserly six million. The area of their brain that is devoted to analysing odours is about forty times larger than the comparable part of the human brain.

A dog may see where he is going and what your movements are through his eyes but his nose is how he really sees. One of the most fascinating findings about dogs' noses is that they inhale through the front of their nose and exhale through the side so that they can gather even more information by whirling up the surrounding air low on the ground... or anywhere else for that fact. So if you hear a dog snort or breathe out hard, then that is what he is likely to be doing.

Dogs use their right nostril to sniff out the excitement levels of other dogs as well as investigating very new unknown smells to them. They use their left nostril to sniff familiar smells and those that are not aversive (to them!) as well as to gather information about species that are not dogs. You will know when a dog really is onto something when he has the nose down and the tail up. This is the point when they get into the real fun stuff.

*It's a
dogs
life!*



Insight into a 'Sniffers' World – Genny Masterman (Canine Behaviour Practitioner)

To quote cognitive scientist and author Alexandra Horowitz ... “the dog also knows about the upcoming weather, the way afternoon smells, and whether you are sick or upset. Every inhaled gulp of air is full of information. It holds the odours of people who have recently passed by, leaving olfactory trails in their wake. It catches pollen and plant notes carried on the breeze. Each nose-full captures the traces of animals who have walked, run, cowered, eaten, or died nearby. It traps the electric charge and round humid molecules from distant rainstorms”.

So when your dog goes for a sniff, take a deep breath and stop. Let him read those all-important pages (also known as Pee-Mail) that are the equivalent of the hottest news on the block, and give him a little slack for not listening to you in that moment. He is possibly concentrating on reading the most compelling news of the day. You wouldn't want anyone pulling you away from that enjoyable book, would you?

A lovely example of how dogs use their nose on an emotional level is when they use sniffing as a calming signal. Sometimes when two dogs meet you may see one dog look intensely at the other. The other dog responds by looking away and sniffing the ground. At a rescue centre where I have been volunteering, this situation can be seen quite frequently. Basically the sniffing dog sends out the message “Hey, I see you, I am aware of you. I am not threatening you. Calm down.” It is not that this dog is ignorant of the other dog, he is just trying to show that he is not a threat to the other and is diffusing the situation. They do this when a social situation gets sticky.

But there is also the action of self-calming. I once saw a beautiful example of this self-calming behaviour when I went along for a walk with a friend. Some people she knew (but the dog didn't) approached us and they started to chat. The dog was a little nervous of people; he was a rescue and he started to sniff around behind my friend, keeping half an eye on those scary people (who were not scary at all) and once he was done and a bit more confident about the situation he sat down behind her and waited patiently until she was done. These people were amazing because they didn't try to approach him.

So if your dog, or a dog you meet, tries to sniff around while you are talking, let them, they could be self-calming. And that is what we all need these days.

Genny Masterman ISCP.Dip.Canine.Prac



Your Council



About Your Council

Local residents can contact Willington Parish Council by e-mail, phone, post or by coming along to a council meeting. To make contact by post, please write to the Clerk at the address below. To make contact via e-mail or phone please use the details for the Councillors and the Clerk below:

Cllr John Grimshaw (01829 752177) - email: john.grimshaw@willington.org.uk

Cllr John Lindsay (01829 751057) - email: john.lindsay@willington.org.uk

Cllr Jane Lowthion (01829 751454) - email: jane.lowthion@willington.org.uk

Cllr Rob Merrick (01829 458387) - Vice Chairman - email: rob.merrick@willington.org.uk

Cllr Andrew Nicholas (01829 752029) – Chairman - email:
andrew.nicholas@willington.org.uk

Rob Winterbourne (01829 751266) - Clerk - email: clerk.willington@willington.org.uk

Write to the Clerk: Rob Winterbourne, 1 Lilac Close, Willington, CW6 0PL, Tel: 01 829 751 266

Next Council Meeting:

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Tuesday 22nd November 2022 at Willington Hall. All meetings start at 7.30 pm. The meetings are open meetings; you are welcome to attend and listen to the discussions.

Your CWaC Borough Councillors:

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

Cllr Harry Tonge email at: harry.tonge@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

