



WILLASTON

Residents' and Countryside Society

February 2017 Update

The Residents' Society includes Officers, village organisations and co-opted individuals. The Willaston District Community Plan has guided our priorities and focus to help improve the village for the benefit of all. Any individual can attend a meeting to raise issues or concerns and can contact us via our website: www.willastoninwirralresidents.org. Our main activities over the past two years included:

- Establishing the Play Area Working Group and raised the money to fund Stage 1 improvements. The second phase is well under way with over 1/3 of the money required now raised.
- Establishing the Friends of Hadlow Road Station (FHRS) group which has raised funds to improve the historical Station. FHRS have also put on various events over the last 2 years including 150th Station Opening event and Santa's Grotto 2015 and 2016; all of which have been very well attended. A light refreshments service has now also been established which currently operates once a month and has proved to be popular with customers.
- Regularly reviewing planning applications to ensure protection of the green belt around the village along with the conservation area. Cheshire West and Chester Council (CWaC) make the decision on planning applications and always take into account the views expressed by your Residents' Society in their decision-making process. The Residents' Society views have also been expressed at Planning appeals heard by an independent Planning Inspector.
- Proposing a disabled parking bay on the village Green which is now regularly used by disabled badge holders.
- Reviewing and commenting on the plans to move the Post Office into Martins Newsagents and ensured the provision of disabled access with a portable ramp and a buzzer to request assistance.
- Ensuring footpaths are kept open and can be used. This has included contacting the Council about overgrown paths, securing funds to replace styles with kissing gates, arranging for a new walkway on the footpath behind Pollards and installing new footpath way marker signs and maps for our village walks.



- Creating a Residents' web site and Facebook pages that are used to disseminate information to a wider audience. Both are regularly used by residents to raise village related issues and to ask questions.
- Producing and distributing a twice-yearly newsletter that goes to all houses in the Willaston area.
- Acting as a point of contact for CWaC on changes that require public consultation and distributing information to residents. This has included changes to the library service (to a mobile library) and information on recycling.
- Requesting householders cut back trees that restrict light from street lamps and hedges that restrict footpath use and escalated to CWaC who have the legal powers to enforce this when a polite request is ignored.
- Operating a Willaston Lottery to raise small amounts of funds to enable us to do work and support local groups.
- Installing a new noticeboard on the village Green.



Other areas discussed by your Residents' Society but where no resolution has yet been identified include:

- Spar delivery lorry parking. Discussions have been held with the Spar locally and regionally, the Council and the delivery company but no workable solution has yet been identified.
- The lack of parking in the village. The Residents' Society worked with the Council on a village consultation that considered restricting parking on the Green. However, there were a number of objections at that time although we plan to undertake additional research on this issue over the coming months.



We are grateful for the support of Cllr Myles Hogg who has often used his Councillors' fund to support various solutions identified at the Residents' meetings. In addition, a number of grant applications by the Residents' Society have been successful including:

- CWaC Environmental Services.
- CWaC New Homes Bonus Fund.
- CWaC Rural Support Fund.
- Mersey and West Cheshire Ramblers.
- Wirral Borough Council.
- Wirral Footpaths and Open Spaces Preservation Society.
- WREN (Waste Recycling Environmental Ltd).

