

Implementation Plan for the Willaston District Community Plan (updated January 2018)

The plan produced as a result of the Willaston and District Community Plan identified 42 Actions that the community felt should be addressed. The plan identified the degree of importance of each action to the community, with additional information on the “priorities” for action being determined at the 21 June 2014 Public Meeting. With this information the Willaston Residents’ and Countryside Society committee, who are leading the subsequent work, including implementation, reviewed how easily these actions could be implemented bearing in mind the availability of suitable volunteers and any necessary funding.

The actions have then been rated according to the following colour scheme:

GREEN – An action that has been completed, or is being done on a regular basis by Willaston Residents’ and Countryside Society.

YELLOW - An action that Willaston Residents’ and Countryside Society has done some work towards but has not, or cannot, complete.

RED – An action that has not been done or is very difficult to undertake.

CW&C – Chester West and Chester Council

WDCP – Willaston District and Community Plan

WR&CS – Willaston Residents and Countryside Society

TRANSPORT – TRAFFIC

Issue		Recommendation	WDCP Priority	WR&CS Assessment and Actions
1	Volume of traffic passing through the village	Implement restrictions to reduce the volume of traffic travelling through the village.	HIGH	In 2017, we discussed this with CW&C and looked at options which CW&C are now assessing. We wrote to Aldi and received a positive response, asking them to encourage suppliers to use the A540 rather than the B5133 through Willaston. We have also written to Highways England about improving signage at the Hooton Crossroads. We understand that there is also an initiative to put in CCTV at the Nag’s Head corner.
2	Speed limit on village approach roads	Implement the previously promised reduced speed limits on the village approach roads.	HIGH	In 2013, CW&C implemented the 20mph speed limit in the centre of the village and we have 30 mph to the village limits. We have asked CW&C to extend this. They currently have a programme of speed limit reduction and Willaston will be considered in 2019-20
3	Speed limit in village centre	Implement a 20mph speed restriction through the village centre.	HIGH	This has been done and monitoring has shown a significant reduction in average speed.
4	Visible policing of vehicle speeds through the village	Provide more visible policing and frequent police speed checks throughout the village.	HIGH	This is being done with a team of village volunteers who support the PCSO. Without additional volunteers, this policing cannot be progressed further. We need to ensure that it continues to be done and monitoring of speed is maintained. Monitoring of the speed limit has shown a significant reduction since the 20 mph limit was introduced.

Issue		Recommendation	WDCP Priority	WR&CS Assessment and Actions
5	Heavy goods traffic	Reduce the number of HGVs travelling through the village.	HIGH	In 2017, we discussed this with CW&C and have been told that it is not possible to put in a weight restriction as the B5133 through Willaston is a diversion route for the motorway and Two Mills. In 2017, CW&C monitored the number of HGVs using the road and established that it is less than 3% of vehicles.
6	Maintenance of roads and pavements	Improve maintenance of roads and pavements.	HIGH	We inform CW&C when problems exist and we will continue to do so. Generally, CW&C respond positively to issues raised.

TRANSPORT – CAR PARKING

Issue		Recommendation	WDCP Priority	WR&CS Assessment and Action
7	Inappropriate car parking	Increase the presence of Parking Enforcement Officers in the village. Address specific 'hot spots' including the school and Johnston Recreation Ground.	HIGH	We have encouraged people to ring 101 and take photos of offending vehicles. In addition, parking enforcers have been more active within the village centre and outside the Primary School.
8	Car parking time restrictions	Implement time-related parking restrictions on the Green.	HIGH	In 2014, CW&C held a consultation on this but there were strong objections from the business community. In 2017, WR&CS undertook a survey about parking on the Green over several weeks and on different times of the day. The results of the survey established that parking is largely self-regulated. There are occasional problems but these are not persistent or consistent. Therefore, we have agreed that no further action should be taken.
9	Car park facilities	Encourage cycling and walking in preference to car use. Provide additional parking facilities.	HIGH	We have not done a campaign to encourage cycling and walking but would support one if volunteers could be identified to lead it. It is not possible to identify where additional parking facilities could be put.
10	Narrow roads & pavements	Address residents' concerns with respect to narrow roads and pavements.	HIGH	When pavements are overgrown from residents' hedges and undergrowth is brought to the attention of WR&CS, we initially contact the owners and politely ask them to cut back their hedges/trees. If this is unsuccessful, WR&CS then requests the CW&C to take action. If you are aware of problems, please let us know the address of the property or use CWAC's website to report it directly.
				In 2017, we have raised the issue of the narrow roads and pavements with CW&C but there is little that can be done.

TRANSPORT – CYCLING AND PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Issue		Recommendation	WDCP Priority	WR&CS Assessment and Action
11	Usability and upkeep of cycle routes	Ensure existing cycle routes are maintained and upgraded as necessary.	MEDIUM	This is something we could consider but it would need a team of volunteers to progress and implement it, liaising with CW&C where necessary.
12	Cyclist safety on roads	Conduct a feasibility study for cycle lanes along the main roads leading into and through the village. Set up a cycling group to follow up the recommendations. Investigate government funding to help pay for any agreed cycling projects.	LOW	This is something we could consider but it would need a team of volunteers to undertake an initial feasibility study before any other actions can take place.
13	Residents' awareness of public transport services	Improve publicity of available services.	HIGH	The bus services operate under a commercial contract with each bus route and timing determined by the company. When the 22 service ceased in 2014, we did publicity about alternative options and Cllr Hogg support a weekly bus to Chester, which was poorly used. When the 22 service returned in 2016, WR&CS featured the new service on the front page of our newsletter and promoted it on our website.
14	Hospital transport services	Provide direct bus links to Clatterbridge, Arrowe Park, and Countess of Chester hospitals.	MEDIUM	This is something we could progress but it would need a team of volunteers to review options for working with the bus companies and/or voluntary groups to assess options to identify which ones may be implemented. This might need considerable funding to implement,
15	Evening bus services to / from Hooton Station	Provide an evening service between Willaston and Hooton Station.	MEDIUM	This is something we could progress, however bus services are deregulated & bus companies will only take on a profitable service. There may be opportunities for funding when developments are made at Hooton Station which we can investigate, but other opportunities appear to be very limited.
16	Frequency of local bus services	Improve frequency of local public transport services.	MEDIUM	This is something we could progress. However bus services are deregulated and we have recently seen a key service disappear. It is unlikely that we will be able to improve the frequency but we may be able to push for improvements to the reliability of the remaining services.
17	Bus shelters	Provide additional bus shelters throughout the village.	HIGH	In 2013, we looked into providing a shelter on the Village Green but it is very expensive.

VILLAGE FACILITIES

Issue		Recommendation	WDCP Priority	WR&CS Assessment and Action
18	Preservation of Hadlow Road Station	Improve maintenance and enhance facilities.	MEDIUM	Friends of Hadlow Road Station is now established as a separate entity and has made many improvements to the station. It has successfully raised over £22,000 from several grants. This will be used for further improvements in 2018.
19	Wirral Way	Improve maintenance.	MEDIUM	This is something we could progress but it will probably need a dedicated team of volunteers to liaise with & assist the Ranger.
20	Seating at Johnston Recreation Ground	Improve seating facilities.	MEDIUM	This was included in the play area upgrading in 2015 that WR&CS achieved.
21	Use of community space in Johnston Recreation Ground for sports	Promote use of Johnston Recreation Ground for a wider variety of sports.	MEDIUM	This is something we would like to see progressed but any action on this would need to be progressed by the Johnston Recreation Ground Advisory Group and WR&CS.
22	Children's play facilities within Johnston Recreation Ground	Improve the existing children's play facilities.	HIGH	The first phase of improvements took place in 2015 and the second is planned for 2018. We will now seek funding for the final phase.
23	Allotment allocation	Ensure that there is a transparent process for allotment allocation.	LOW	The Johnston Recreation Ground Advisory Group ensures that this happens and monitors use of allotments.
24	Big Meadow seating facilities	Improve seating facilities.	MEDIUM	New seating has been put in the Meadow.
25	Lack of multipurpose indoor community facilities	Consider options for a multi-purpose facility that includes a stage for performances.	LOW	In 2017, we put together a group to consider how to improve the indoor facilities that we currently have in Willaston and hope to work together to do a community needs assessment and seek funding. This assessment will take time to develop in 2018.
26	Library facilities in Willaston	Support continued provision of library services in Willaston.	MEDIUM	CW&C replaced the library in the Methodist Church with a mobile library service, after consultation with WR&CS and the new mobile service is used by more people.

ENVIRONMENT

Issue		Recommendation	WDCP Priority	WR&CS Assessment and Action
27	Preservation of the Johnston Recreation Ground as a green space	Council consultation with all Willaston residents regarding any proposed changes to the Johnston Recreation Ground trust deed that might affect its charitable status as a green space.	HIGH	This is something that is in hand through the Johnston Recreation Ground Advisory Committee which is currently in the process of updating the trust deed.
		Investigate how ownership of the Johnston Recreation Ground would be affected if Willaston residents elected to form a Parish Council in the future. Monitor planning applications relating to the recreation ground.		All planning applications are monitored by WR&CS with discussion on any contentious issues. WR&CS respond to CW&C if there are concerns. Following a review by CW&C in 2017, there are no proposals to form a Parish Council in Willaston.
28	Footpath usage	Engage in further discussions with the Council Green Space team to prevent misuse of footpaths.	HIGH	This is something that we regularly monitor and when issues are identified, we discuss them with CW&C.
29	Access to the Wirral Way	Request the Council Green Space team to provide alternative access points to the Wirral Way for horse riders, cyclists and the disabled.	HIGH	We have tried to develop a new access point at Damhead Lane onto the Wirral Way. However, it was not possible to get permission from landowners.
30	Condition and improvement of pavements and verges	Resurface pavements and improve maintenance. Provide drop kerbs where necessary and investigate widening of narrow pavements.	MEDIUM	In 2015, there was a programme of installing drop kerbs throughout Willaston. We monitor the condition of pavements and verges and when we are aware of problems, report them to CW&C. If there are any concerns, please let us know or report them directly on CW&C's website.
31	Obstruction of pavements	Ensure that hedges do not overhang pavements.	HIGH	When pavements are overgrown from residents' hedges and this is brought to our attention, WR&CS contacts the owners and politely asks them to cut their hedges. If the request is ignored, WR&CS asks CW&C to enforce this. If you are aware of problems, please let us know the address of the property or contact CW&C directly on their website.
32	Maintenance of highway drainage	Provide more regular clearance of roadside gutters, drains and ditches.	HIGH	We monitor the condition of highway drainage and when we are aware of problems, report them to CW&C or other relevant authority.
33	Fly tipping	Ensure better prevention of fly tipping and action taken against those offending.	HIGH	If we are aware of specific incidents, WR&CS will follow this up with CW&C.
34	Dog fouling	Enforcement of law regarding dog fouling and educate irresponsible dog owners.	HIGH	CW&CS has asked the CW&C's dog 'roadshow' to come to the village on several occasions when education is undertaken. To enforce the law, evidence is required which we can then take to CW&C who are willing to prosecute.

35	Energy saving street lighting	Consider reduced hours of street lighting and widespread use of low energy technology.	MEDIUM	CW&C are undertaking a programme of replacing lights with low energy units.
36	Overall village appearance	Form a group of volunteers to keep Willaston village attractive and tidy.	HIGH	This is something we could consider but it would need a dedicated team of volunteers with a leader.

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

Issue		Recommendation	WDCP Priority	WR&CS Assessment and Action
37	Village planning, development and related issues	Request Cheshire West & Chester Council Planning Department to ensure they take into account the survey views with respect to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Village Inset and the Green Belt; - Types of housing development that might be acceptable; - Village views on the Conservation Area; and - Village views on green energy sources. 	HIGH	<p>The WDCP group sent a copy of the plan to the Council's Planning Department who have assured us that it will be of material consideration when making planning decisions.</p> <p>We use the findings from the survey when responding to planning issues on a regular basis.</p> <p>We have developed planning guidelines which we use to determine how we respond to any application. These are available to read on our website.</p>

BUSINESS

Issue		Recommendation	WDCP Priority	WR&CS Assessment and Action
38	Business development	Encourage the business community to work together to ensure their ongoing viability including the development of a tourism plan.	MEDIUM	This is something that we could consider but it needs a volunteer (preferably from a local business) to lead on it.
39	Tourism assets	Development of facilities at Hadlow Road Station to attract additional tourism.	MEDIUM	Friends of Hadlow Road Station is now established as a separate entity and has a pop-up café that operates twice a month in summer and once a month in winter. In addition, Santa's Grotto is held every year in the signal box. Further improvements to the station are planned to encourage additional tourism.
40	Signposting of local shops and services from the Wirral Way	Install signs directing users of the Wirral Way to Willaston Village.	MEDIUM	WR&CS has been working on this and hope to have a sign installed in 2018.

GENERAL

Issue		Recommendation	WDCP Priority	WR&CS Assessment and Action
41	Village communication	WR&CS to improve and develop methods of disseminating information to the village.	MEDIUM	<p>WR&CS has developed a website for the village, which all organisations are able to use to promote their activities.</p> <p>WR&CS has also developed a Facebook page, which has over 400 people following it.</p> <p>WR&CS produces a newsletter twice a year which is distributed to all households in the village.</p> <p>Wr&CS also has various email listings that people can sign up to if they want to receive information electronically.</p> <p>We would welcome additional ideas for improving the dissemination of information that take into account our limited budget.</p>
42	Community action	Create a volunteer "Task Force" to help with community work e.g. keeping the village free from litter and clearing footpaths.	MEDIUM	<p>We have developed a database of volunteers that we can contact when volunteers are needed and people on the list are regularly told about different opportunities in the village.</p> <p>CLlr Myles Hogg leads the occasional litter clearing day (links to item 36).</p>