

Willaston Christmas Lights 2018

For years the beautiful beech tree on the Green has been a focal point for the community, especially at Christmas when the lights are lit and families come along to sing carols beneath it. Many of us have spent happy evenings with our children and grandchildren enjoying this festive spirit which brings the Willaston community together. However, this year, the tree may be in darkness as the Council has advised us that the lights need to be replaced. Sadly, they are no longer able to pay for Christmas lights in most towns and villages, including Willaston, because of the need to prioritise their budget.



Photo credit: Laura Jones


We are currently working with suppliers to look at options to purchase/hire new lights and install them.

If you would like to help keep the lights shining this Christmas, then we all have to make it happen. Our aim for this year is to fully light the tree as near to the top as possible. The Residents' Society has set up the Willaston Christmas Lights group with volunteers from the village and we need your help. We will be undertaking different fundraising activities including events, raffles and much more throughout the year. Keep an eye out for more information coming through your door and around the village.

If you are interested in getting involved, please get in touch. Our next meeting is Wednesday 9th May at 7pm in Pollards Inn. Everyone is welcome.

Email: hohoho@willastonchristmaslights.co.uk

Phone: 0771 9009770

 /willastonchristmaslights

What is the Residents' Society?

As Willaston does not have a Parish Council, the Willaston Residents' and Countryside Society was formed to:

- Protect and improve the environmental amenities of the village and its surroundings;
- Preserve and encourage village cultural and social activities;
- Represent the views of the village and monitor matters of common interest.

Anyone who lives within a radius of two miles of the village green is automatically a member of the society. The committee are all volunteers who give our time freely and do not claim expenses. A full list of our committee members, our constitution and minutes of our meetings can be seen on our website.

How Can I Get Involved?

If there is a particular issue you would like to raise, the first 15 minutes of each meeting is open to any resident to discuss issues with us. Residents are also welcome to attend the rest of our meetings, as observers. Please contact us if you would like to attend. You can contact us through the 'Contact Us' page on the our website. Alternatively, you can write to us c/o The Chair, 11 The Courtyard, Willaston CH64 2UT.

We keep a list of volunteers that we contact periodically if there are roles that we need people to fill or one-off opportunities for volunteering in the village. If you would like to help out, in big ways or small, let us know and we will add you to our volunteering list.

 /willastonresidents

Website: <http://willastoninwirralresidents.org>.

Willaston Matters



WILLASTON

Residents' and Countryside Society

Issue Five— April 2018

Free to Willaston residents

Funded by CWAC New Homes

Bonus Community Fund

Play Area Improvements

The Residents' Society has worked with the Council to install a roundabout and a tractor/trailer in the play area next to the school. In addition, 'road' markings have been put on the pathway for the children to use with their scooters and a fun trail, complete with wobble board, stepping stones and coloured 'blobs' has been developed to join up some of the pieces of equipment.



This completes the second phase of a three stage programme of improvements to the play area that we are undertaking.

This second phase cost £18,500 and we are grateful to the following who have helped fund these improvements:

- Cllr Myles Hogg (Councillors' Budget)
- CWaC New Homes Bonus Fund
- CWaC Rural Support Fund
- Willaston Festival Society
- Willaston School
- Willaston Pre-school
- Individual donations

This £18,500 is in addition to the improvements we made in phase one which cost around £60,000. We still hope to put in a large adventure climbing unit at a later date which will cost a further £35,000, if we can raise these additional funds



HGVs in the Village

In September, the Residents' Society met Kay Parry from the Council to discuss a range of traffic issues in the village. One issue that is regularly raised with us is the number of HGVs that come through our village. During one week in July 2017, the Council did a traffic survey which identified that in Hooton Road, there were around 6000 vehicles over a 24-hour period, of which 18 were over 11.5m long. In Hadlow Road, there were around 2600 vehicles, of which 40 were over 11.5m long. These figures are too low for the Council to take action.

However, we have subsequently written both to Aldi and to Normans asking that their vehicles avoid the village when possible and adhere to the speed limit. A very positive response has been received from Aldi, saying they will add the B5133 to the list of roads to avoid. Subsequently committee members have reported significantly fewer lorries on our roads. If you suspect that an HGV in the village is going to or from Aldi, please take their registration number and let us know the time and date and we will follow this up with Aldi.

Sign on the Wirral Way



The Residents' Society has commissioned and installed a new sign on the Wirral Way, directing people towards the village and shops.

We feel that many visitors walk along the Wirral Way but never come into our village. Hopefully this will encourage some to do so and help to support our local businesses. Thank you to Ray Riley (pictured) for his help installing the sign.

In Brief

Community Speed Watch



Community Speed Watch was in Neston Road on Tuesday 6th March 2018. 18 vehicles were caught in 50 minutes doing between 26 mph and 32 mph in the 20 mph section. Please be aware and keep your speed down in our village.

Willaston District Community Plan

The Residents' Society has updated action on progress on implementation of the plan. The plan outlines 42 actions. We have completed or are regularly doing 19 of them; we have done some work on 11 actions but have not, or cannot complete them; and 12 actions have not been done or are very difficult to undertake. Full details can be seen on the WDCP page of our website.

Willaston Surgery



We have been contacted by Willaston Surgery about an increasing number of people who are using the car park when they do not have an appointment there. This means that patients who are unwell/have disabilities cannot park there for appointments. Please be considerate and find alternative parking. The surgery is open from 8am-6.30pm Monday to Friday and 9am-12 noon on Saturday and Sunday.

Footpaths and Bridleways

Some work has been done on FP32 (behind Pollards) but there are still issues with flooding at this time of year. Cllr Myles Hogg's fund is paying for a small access ramp on the footpath from Wallcroft to the Wirral Way close to Hadlow Road Station. A volunteer working group spent two sessions clearing BR64 (opposite New Hey Lane) – thanks to all those involved.

Useful Contact Numbers

There is a list of useful local contact numbers, including Council departments on our website. Scroll to the bottom of the home page to access it.

<http://willastoninwirralresidents.org>



/Willastonresidents

Councillor's Column

Cllr Myles Hogg writes:



Willaston and district is a vibrant community which supports a myriad of local clubs and societies run by an army of volunteers who give their time and expertise freely for the benefit of us all. They deserve our wholehearted support for without them the wide range of activities available to all age groups would be greatly reduced.

My Councillor Budget helps some of these worthy organisations in a variety of ways. A storage box for the tennis club, monies to help improve Footpath 32 for walkers and riders and help for Santa's grotto at Christmas time are amongst recent beneficiaries. Please contact me if my fund could help your club or society.

The next big task will be to replace the Christmas lights on The Green ready for Christmas 2018 as the existing ones are well past their sell by date. I am working hard with the Council and the Residents' Society to help accomplish this (see the back page for more information).

The details of my monthly surgeries are published in the Village Noticeboard, my email address is myles.hogg@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk and my phone number is 0151 327 4096.

Winds Survey

(Willaston In Door Space)

With the closure of the Willaston in Wirral (Royal British Legion) Services Club Ltd venue in Hooton Road towards the end of last year, the Residents' Society was prompted to bring together the remaining organisations that offer, or have potential to offer, space for groups to meet indoors. These are: Christ Church, Willaston Memorial Hall, Willaston Methodist Chapel and 1st Willaston Scout Group HQ. We are keen to see that each space develops to its potential and are working together to understand the needs of the community with the aim of then seeking funds to develop and improve our indoor spaces.

As a first stage, we are conducting a Needs Assessment to understand what people currently think about the premises we have and what potential they have for future use.

A copy of the survey is enclosed with this newsletter. Please fill it in and return it to one of the venues above. Alternatively, you can go online via our website.

Planning Issues

A key item at every meeting of the Residents' Society is to look at the latest planning applications in our area and submit comments to the Council. The map below is taken from the Cheshire West and Chester website.



Our general principles in commenting are:

- to protect the Green Belt area around Willaston so that we remain a rural community. The village inset area is shown by the black line, outside of which is the Green Belt area.
- to preserve the Conservation area within the village and maintain its unique character. The conservation area is shown by the red borders.

A more detailed document explaining how we respond to planning applications is available on the planning page of our website.

A monthly planning report, summarising planning applications made and our submissions to the Council Planning Department is also available on our website.

Current Main Planning Proposals

Former Royal British Legion site

McCarthy and Stone has acquired an interest in this site, with a view to building 35 retirement living flats. A formal planning application has now been submitted to the Council under the reference 18/01252/FUL. Comments can be made to the Council on this up to 10th May 2018.

Land Adjacent to Hooton Station

Outline planning approval was given in August 2013 for a new development on this site, with further approval in January 2017 for additional details of the design and layout. The plans include 265 dwellings plus a 65 bed care home. Remedial work on the site has taken longer than originally expected, but last year a builder, Stewart Milne, was appointed for the development and they are in the process of finalising further approvals for their design with a view to building work taking place from 2019 – 2023.

Station Master's House, Hadlow Road Station

A planning application for change of use has been approved which will enable the house to be developed to provide a commercial café and craft rooms run by a local company, Love Stitch, who have a business in Heswall. This is separate to the community pop up café run by the Friends of Hadlow Road Station.