

## We need new Officers!

Would you be interested in getting involved? We are seeking a new Chair and Secretary for the Residents' Society.

We are a friendly group made up of Officers, organisational and resident representatives who meet bi-monthly. We would love to hear from you if you are interested in getting involved - please contact us via the website for an informal chat,

### Roles of the Secretary and Chairperson

## Planning

A key item at every Society meeting is to look at the latest planning applications in our area and submit comments to the Council.

Our general principles in commenting are:

- ◆ to protect the Green Belt area around Willaston so that we remain a rural community;
- ◆ to preserve the Conservation area within the village and maintain its unique character.

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

Over the past few months, we have put in a number of detailed objections to planning applications, including:

- Plans to build houses at the rear of Hooton Road and separate plans in the same area to include a paddock in a garden area.
- Objection to building work being carried out in Mill Lane prior to a full review of the planning application.
- Continued objections to McCarthy and Stone applications on the former RBL site
- Objections to proposed crematoria in Hooton.

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

All residents are encouraged to respond to planning applications, via the Council's website: [www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk](http://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk)

## 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 the defined area marking the borders of Willaston shown on our website 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 use the 'Contact Us' page on our website.

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](https://www.facebook.com/willastonresidents)  
Website: [willastoninwirralresidents.org](http://willastoninwirralresidents.org)



# Willaston Matters

Issue Ten- March 2022

Free to Willaston residents

Funded by CWAC New Homes Bonus Fund



**WILLASTON**  
Residents' & Countryside Society

## An Art Trail for Willaston

The joint group co-ordinating festivities for HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee has been considering a long term legacy project. The group has representatives from the Residents' Society and Willaston Village Festival Society and has been in contact with the University of Chester Fine Arts Department to work together to develop an art trail for Willaston. On 27th February a meeting was attended by approximately 40 people to hear the initial ideas.

This is a long term project and the first stage will be to develop metal waymarkers along the proposed route. An application has been put to the Arts Council to help fund this work and there will be workshops in April and May to enable members of the community to get involved in developing the waymarkers. Keep an eye on the noticeboards, website and social media for more information.

We hope to have some waymarkers prepared by June for a launch at the Jubilee celebrations but they are unlikely to be installed until later in the year.

Waymarkers will provide the infrastructure for further development of the arts trail over time. We will consult and involve the community at every stage of development.



Example of a waymarker which is embedded in a pavement or wall



This old photo shows the cottages along Neston Road, in the early 1900s.

At the time, Willaston was a rural farming community and the building on the left is part of Church Farm.

Thank you to David Boumphrey for passing on this photo.

## Mobile Library

The mobile library comes once every three weeks on a Monday and stops at Nags Head car park from 2pm to 4.30pm.. The dates for the mobile library for the rest of the year are:

28th March	22nd August
9th May	12th September
30th May	3rd October
20th June	24th October
11th July	14th November
1st August	5th December

These dates may change so keep an eye on the noticeboards, website and social media.



## What is happening at the former RBL site?



McCarthy and Stone has bought the land from RBL for retirement housing. WR&CS has objected to several planning applications on the grounds that the building proposed was too high, too dense and didn't fit in with the village. Although the size of the building has been scaled down and the number of apartments reduced, the planning applications have all been turned down by Chester West and Cheshire Council.

In February, a four day Inquiry was held by the Planning Inspectorate. Over 25 people took part or observed the inquiry which was held on-line. The Inspector also visited the site, including viewing it from three of the neighbours houses and gardens. It will probably be two or three months before she issues her decision.

## Post Office

The Post Office has changed its days and is now in the committee room of the Memorial Hall on:

- Tuesdays from 12.30pm to 3.30pm
- Fridays 9.30am to 12.30pm

There will no longer be a van outside the Memorial Hall - the door to the hall is open and the Post Office is in the room to the left.

Services in the Post Office include:

Posting letters and parcels; travel money; bill payments; cash withdrawals from bank accounts; personal and business banking deposits; change service for businesses; savings accounts; vehicle tax; one4all gift cards; health lottery; mobile phone top ups; electric and gas top ups.



## Get Involved!

There are several ways to support the village through the Residents' Society:

**Footpath Working Group** - The Council now only strims the footpaths once a year so we have a small group of people to help keep our footpaths in order. If you have a few hours to spare, perhaps once a week, during the summer months to help our Footpaths Officer keep Willaston footpaths clear and safe, please contact Margaret on 07968 245217 for further details.

**Environmental Group** - We are setting up an environmental group to do things like litter picking, painting benches etc.

**Delivery of Newsletters** - Can you help us deliver newsletters approximately twice a year?

If you are interested in helping us, please contact us via our website:  
<https://willastoninwirralresidents.org>

## Celebrate HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee

### 2nd - 5th June 2022



Over the weekend of 2nd - 5th June 2022, there will be an exciting programme of activities to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

These include:

- Princes and Princess party at The Nag's Head
- Exhibition of 70 Years of Willaston History in the Memorial Hall
- Flower festival in Christ Church and the Methodist Chapel
- Event at Hadlow Road Station
- Beer Festival in Pollards Inn
- Jubilee Country Market in the Memorial Hall
- 50s Tea Dance in the Memorial Hall
- Organ concert in Christ Church
- Big Picnic on the Recreation Ground with activities, stalls and classic cars.

The programme is still growing so keep an eye on noticeboards, social media and the website. There is a special Facebook page [/willastonplatinumjubilee](#) where you can find out all the latest information.

### Do you have photos of Willaston in the last 70 years?

We are collecting photos of Willaston in the last 70 years for the exhibition. These may be buildings that have disappeared or events that took place. Or could you record some memories of what the village was like when you were younger? If so, please contact Ruth Hampshire on 0151 327 4511 or Sarah Shannon on 0151 327 5318.

## Get Involved in the Big Picnic

If you have a small business, are involved in a local organisation, or have a special talent, we want to hear from you. Stalls are free and we are looking for local talent to be on the stage during the afternoon of the picnic. If you want to know more, visit our page or contact us via the Residents' Society website.

<https://willastoninwirralresidents.org/>

## Plant your Garden in Red, White and Blue

We want to turn Willaston red, white and blue in June. You can do your bit by planting your garden with red, white and blue flowers.

Start planning now to help us make a big splash of colour in June!