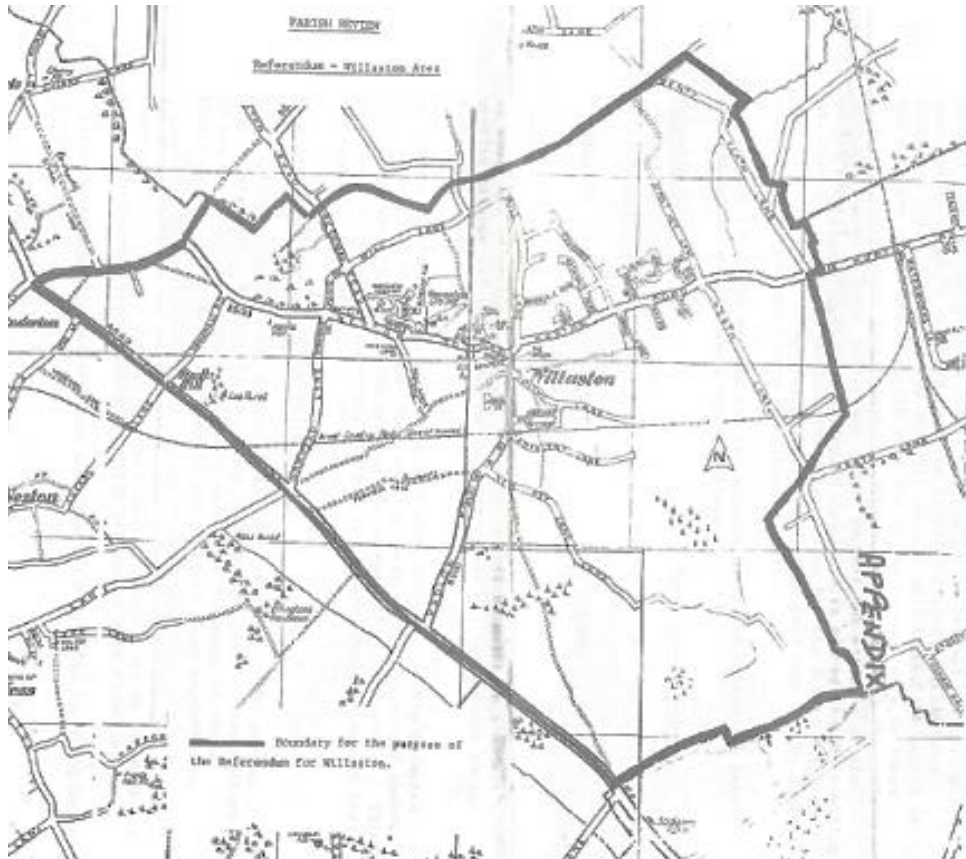


1982 Referendum to Decide whether to have a Parish Council

In 1982, Ellesmere Port and Neston Borough Council carried out a review to decide whether to have parishes in the Borough. There was an initial public meeting, following which the Council decided to hold a referendum. The boundary for the proposed Willaston parish is shown:



The Residents' Society was divided in their views and decided to adopt a neutral approach. They suggested the key reasons to vote for a parish council were:

1. It is a democratically elected group of individuals
2. It has statutory power to be formally consulted on all local issues
3. Because it is a statutory body, it can represent the interests of the village more effectively and get things done.

The reasons against were:

1. There will be an additional cost to householders in the village. The informal way things are done works quite well so why change things?
2. There will be another level of bureaucracy.
3. It could introduce party politics into some issues in the village.

The suggestion was that a village of Willaston's size would have about 9 councillors.

The cost for householders would be between £3 and £4 a year.

The outcome of the referendum was against establishing a parish council.