

Willaston Social Centre

In 1971, there was a plan to develop the Church Hall into a village social centre by expanding the existing building to the side and rear, to develop it into a Social Centre. There would be a social room and bar, along with refurbishment of the existing interior of the church hall.

The plan was to get a co-ordinating committee together of all community groups, which would be known as the Willaston Social Centre Co-ordinating Committee. This group would develop these plans and undertake fundraising to put them into effect.

A letter in December 1971 to the Memorial Hall explained:

There is absolutely no question of the Social Centre wishing to displace any ... bookings in the Memorial Hall or restricting present amenities. The Social Centre stands for an improvement in all Village Social facilities, an expansion of accommodation to meet growing needs which need not rely on the generosity or charity of village residents to keep it all in first class condition... On a management committee the number of representatives (of village organisations) should exceed the number of elected members (of village residents) and the committee thus formed may then co-opt a limited number of other members. It is hoped that the Willaston Social Centre Co-ordinating Committee of organisations representatives (now formed) will develop in this direction.

At the time, there had been an increase of 14% in Willaston's population since 1966 and it was estimated that future developments would result in a further 50% increase. Village societies totalled 22 in 1966 and had risen to at least 30 by 1972.

Although these plans did not get off the ground, the proposed make up of the committee membership formed the basis of the Willaston Residents' Society and continues with the Willaston Residents' and Countryside Society.

Letter to Mrs MacDonald asking for a representative for the committee from the Playgroup:

*Mrs. C. P. Mac Donald,
Playgroup.*

Will Done
Will Lane
Willaston, Wirral
Cheshire.

9th November 71

Dear *Mrs. Mac Donald,*

At a meeting of organisations at the Church Hall on Thursday, 21st October the consensus of opinion was that it was desirable for the Willaston Social Centre to form a co-ordinating committee of Village organisations. It is not possible here to summarise the broad discussions which took place and resulted in a representative from one Village Organisation proposing and another representative from a different village organisation seconding the motion that Village Organisations should be invited to send one representative to attend meetings of the Willaston Social Centre Co-ordinating Committee. This motion was carried unanimously.

In accordance with the desires of the meeting I respectfully request that you advise the undersigned of the name and address of the person appointed to be your representative or alternatively that your organisation declines this invitation. If no reply is received it will be deemed that the organisation has declined the invitation.

It should be explained that the Willaston Social Centre wish to involve the organisations in the developments which could affect them and eventually from this co-ordinating committee establish a General Committee to manage Village Social Facilities.

For your guidance and to enable immediate progress to be made attached is the Agenda for the first meeting of the co-ordinating committee.

Yours sincerely

E.W. Knowles.

E.W. Knowles
Assistant Secretary
Willaston Social Centre

Note: Every attempt has been made to circulate all organisations although there is no comprehensive list in existence. Representatives are being called from all known independent organisations is not from sub organisations.