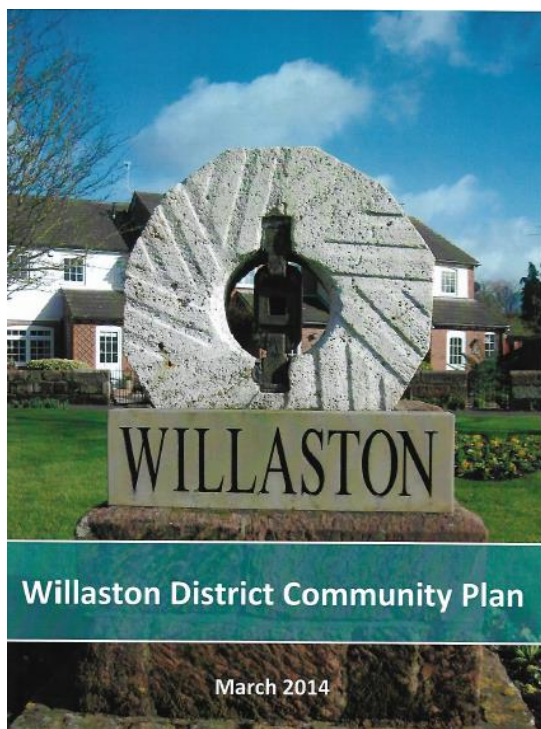


Willaston District Community Plan



In 2011, Willaston Residents' and Countryside Society sent letters to over 35 organisations to ask their views about developing a Community-Led Plan and 23 supportive letters were received. An open meeting in March 2012, attended by 48 residents led to a group being created to facilitate its development. A starter grant was secured from Cheshire West and Chester Council, through Cheshire Community Action (CCA) and CCA provided support and advice throughout the development of the Community Plan.

A preliminary questionnaire was issued which then helped to define the topics that were used in the final questionnaire.

Themes covered in the questionnaire were:

- Transport, including traffic, parking, public transport and cycling
- Village Facilities
- Environment
- Planning and Development
- Business
- General, including volunteering and information

A total of 518 questionnaires, representing a 42% return rate were received. The responses were analysed at a village meeting in September 2013 and the final plan published in April 2014, identifying 42 recommendations.

Theme 1 – Transport – Traffic and Car Parking

1. Implement restrictions to reduce the volume of traffic travelling through the village.
2. Implement the previously promised reduced speed limits on the village approach roads.
3. Implement a 20mph speed restriction through the village centre.
4. Provide more visible policing and frequent police speed checks throughout the village.
5. Reduce the number of HGV's travelling through the village.
6. Improve maintenance of roads and pavements.

7. Inappropriate car parking: a. Increase the presence of Parking Enforcement Officers in the village; b. address specific 'hot spots' including the school and Johnston Recreation Ground.
8. Implement time-related parking restrictions on the Green.
9. Car Park Facilities: a. Encourage cycling and walking in preference to car use; b. Provide additional parking facilities
10. Address residents' concerns with respect to narrow roads and pavements.

Theme 2 – Transport – Cycling

11. Ensure existing cycle routes are maintained and upgraded as necessary.
12. Cyclist safety on roads: a. Conduct a feasibility study for cycle lanes along the main roads leading into and through the village; b. Set up a cycling group to follow up the recommendations; c. Investigate government funding to help pay for any agreed cycling projects.

Theme 3 – Transport – Public Transport

13. Improve publicity of available services
14. Provide direct bus links to Clatterbridge, Arrowe Park and Countess of Chester hospitals.
15. Provide an evening service between Willaston and Hooton Station.
16. Improve frequency of local public transport services.
17. Provide additional bus shelters throughout the village.

Theme 4 – Village Facilities

18. Preservation of Hadlow Road Station: a. Request Council to request improved maintenance by Wirral Country Park Ranger Service; b. Form a '*Friends of Hadlow Road Station*' to investigate options for improvements e.g. refreshments and exhibitions.
19. Wirral Way – improve maintenance.
20. Improve seating facilities at Johnston Recreation Ground.
21. Promote use of Johnston Recreation Ground for a wider variety of sports.
22. Improve the existing children's play facilities.
23. Ensure that there is a transparent process for allotment allocation.
24. Improve seating facilities in the Big Meadow.
25. Consider options for a multi-purpose indoor facility that includes a stage for performances.
26. Support continued provision of library services in Willaston.

Theme 5 – Environment

27. Preservation of the Johnston Recreation Ground as a green space:
 - a. 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; b. Investigate how ownership of the Johnston Recreation Ground would be affected if Willaston residents elected to form a Parish Council in the future; c. Monitor planning applications relating to the recreation ground.
28. Engage in further discussions with the Council Green Space team to prevent misuse of footpaths.
29. Request the Council Green Space team to provide alternative access points to the Wirral Way for horse riders, cyclists and the disabled.
30. Pavements: a. Resurface pavements and improve maintenance; b. Provide drop kerbs where necessary and investigate widening of narrow pavements.
31. Ensure that hedges do not overhang pavements.
32. Provide more regular clearance of roadside gutters, drains and ditches.
33. Ensure better prevention of fly tipping and action taken against those offending.
34. Enforcement of law regarding dog fouling and educate irresponsible dog owners.
35. Consider reduced hours of street lighting and widespread use of low energy technology.
36. Form a group of volunteers to keep Willaston village attractive and tidy.

Theme 6 – Planning and Development

37. Request Cheshire West and Chester Council Planning Department to ensure they take into account the survey views with respect to:
 - i. Village inset and Green Belt
 - ii. Types of housing development that might be acceptable
 - iii. Village views on the Conservation area
 - iv. Village views on green energy sources.

Theme 7 – Business

38. Encourage the business community to work together to ensure their ongoing viability including the development of a tourism plan.
39. Development of facilities at Hadlow Road Station to attract additional tourism.
40. Install signs directing users of the Wirral Way to Willaston Village.

Theme 8 – General

41. WR&CS to improve and develop methods of disseminating information to the village.
42. Create a volunteer 'Task Force' to help with community work e.g. keeping the village free from litter and clearing footpaths.

The responsibility was then handed to the Residents' Society to implement. This work has been influential in developing Friends of Hadlow Road Station and improving the Play Area as well as supportive when responding to consultation documents affecting the village.