

Key Issues from the meeting held on Monday 13th Nov. 2023



WILLASTON
Residents' & Countryside Society

Village Welcome Packs

Prior to the formal meeting, Anita Mitchell gave us an overview of the 'Welcome Packs' which she distributes to new residents of Willaston. She has recently delivered the 77th pack since this activity commenced. On behalf of the Committee, Anita was thanked for this ongoing commitment.

New Treasurer

Following her election at the AGM, Vicky Spraggon was welcomed as the new Treasurer. All other Officers remain in post.

Looking at the future for WR&CS

A discussion took place about the apparent lack of interest of residents to join WR&CS. Possible reasons were discussed. Brian G. clarified that unless we have new Officers in place then WR&CS cannot continue long term. Several suggestions were put forward which included:

- All Committee members should be actively approaching their own contacts to try to secure new members.
- Rather than allowing negative perceptions to continue, the Society should be more publicly positive about what has been achieved, e.g. Christmas lights, the play area, the organisation of village activities such as the Coronation, which are too easily forgotten.
- The production of a Newsletter was felt to be important.
- The idea of a campaign to promote WR&CS & actively encourage people to get involved was suggested. This would provide an opportunity to raise our profile, ask residents what they want, engage with them directly to get involved & share their skills.
- It was suggested that perhaps we should adopt an alternative approach such as community engagement activities (e.g. a coffee morning etc.) to allow direct contact with those attending.
- Councillor Hogg felt that getting involved with WR&CS is a positive way to benefit our village community. He mentioned the Memorial Hall & how the majority of their Trustees are not Willaston residents, but they all work for the good of the Hall which ultimately benefits the village.
- Other options were discussed, such as the formation of a social enterprise (Community Benefit Society or Community Interest Company). Councillor Hogg felt that this was a good idea & suggested that perhaps a sub-group could be set up to look at this in more detail.

This topic is an ongoing discussion which will continue at our next meeting.

Planning Matters

The current position of WR&CS not having a Planning Officer was again discussed. Barry Vowles was thanked once again for supporting this role by undertaking relevant background research & completing the planning reports.

The new Green Belt Alliance was discussed following a recent preliminary meeting. Some WR&CS members attended in a personal capacity. The feedback was that their desired intention is for Willaston, Burton & Hooton to work together to protect the Green Belt areas. Although the group now has an official name, it is not yet formalised, although the plan will shortly be to establish a website & a memorandum. The group want to be a separate entity & not be aligned to WR&CS.

Councillor's Report

We were informed of several new initiatives organised by CWaC. In addition, WR&CS were encouraged to apply for funding for a Village Newsletter.

Love Where You Live

We request that all residents take responsibility for the upkeep of their own hedges & the exterior of their property, to ensure that Willaston looks and remains well-kept and safe for everyone. Any problematic issues should be reported to Councillor Myles Hogg.



What's coming up in Willaston?

See the notice boards, WR&CS website or Facebook page for further information.

- ✓ Hadlow Road Station pop-up café is closed until February 2024.
- ✓ Hadlow Road Station Garden Days will continue in 2024. Dates will be announced soon. Come and join this happy group & enjoy a “cuppa and a biscuit” as thanks for your help.
- ✓ Hadlow Green Singers have choir practices on Thursdays at 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall. New members are always welcome.
- ✓ Willastonhey WI meetings take place at 7.30pm on the 4th Tuesday of each month in the Memorial Hall. New members always welcome.
- ✓ The Knit & Natter group meet in the Methodist Schoolroom from 2 - 4pm on the 2nd & 4th Tuesday of each month, working on various knitting projects. Please feel free to join.
- ✓ The Mobile Library will visit the Nag's Head on Mondays from 2.05 - 4.35pm on: Jan. 8th & 29th, Feb. 19th, March 11th, April 1st & 22nd, May 13th, June 3rd & 24th.
- ✓ Councillor Hogg's Ward Surgeries will take place on Saturdays from 10am to 12 noon in the Memorial Hall on the following dates: January 20th, February 17th, March 23rd.



Would you like more information?



A full set of the minutes of our meetings can be seen on our website. If you would like an email alert when minutes of meetings are posted on our website, please contact us via the website.

If you have any village concerns, then please let us know.

Get in touch with us via the 'Contact Us' page on the WR&CS website where general enquiries can be sent to: secretary@willastoninwirralresidents.org

Information about the wider area is also available on the 'About My Area' website: www.aboutmyarea.co.uk/CH64.

If there is any issue you would like to raise, the first 15 minutes of each meeting is open to any resident. Please let us know if you would like to attend during this session. You are also welcome to attend throughout the meeting as a silent observer - again, please let us know if you will be attending.

Our next meeting will take place on **Monday 22nd January 2024 at 7.15pm** in Willaston Methodist Hall.

Find out more at <http://willastoninwirralresidents.org> or  /willastonresidents.