

A Message from Town Mayor Cllr Fraser Tinsley

& the members of the Greater Willington Town Council



On 4 May this year there will be elections to form a new Greater Willington Town Council. This is a good time to look back at what the current Town Council has achieved over the past 4 years and look forward to the challenges facing the new incoming Town Council and Greater Willington as a whole.

Working in partnership we have achieved a huge amount which has real benefits for Greater Willington. A new CCTV system has been installed on the Main Street. This will help in the fight against anti-social behaviour and make us all safer. The Town Green playground has been renewed; our Christmas and Halloween events have gone from strength to strength. The South Dene wood has been reopened up and is a real amenity for the area. The North Dene footpaths have been improved. We have introduced a new free Citizens Advice service. We have relocated to the former Market Hotel, which has helped regenerate the Main Street by bringing this building back into active use. We have secured a defibrillator to be installed on the front of the Town

Council office for use in heart attack emergencies. In partnership with Beamish Museum we are embarking on a major new project to celebrate our history which will include subsidised visits to Beamish for residents. We have overseen projects to plant bulbs, tackle dog fouling and improve the overall environment in which we live.

We have continued to support many voluntary organisations in the area. This is an increasingly important role for the Town Council, when support for groups and organisations which help to maintain and foster a sense of community in this area is under pressure. From parent and toddler groups, to groups for pensioners and older people, our sports clubs, churches, allotment groups and environment improvement

groups have all benefitted from Town Council funding.

I am also delighted to say that good financial management by the Town Council means all this has been achieved and we are able to freeze the Town Council element of the Council Tax this year. There will be no increase because we know many people are finding it difficult to make ends meet.

As we move forward there are new challenges that the Town Council and this community must face. Continuing government cuts means that we are going to need to identify new sources of income that can be used to support our area. We are increasingly 'on our own.' Maintaining and growing a sense of community is vitally important as many new people move into this area.

Partnership working with other organisations and County Councillors is increasingly important as we need to make every pound we have work harder.

Finally, I thank everybody in this community for their support over the past 4 years. I thank the Town Council staff, other Town Councillors and fellow County Councillor Olwyn Gunn. I am confident in saying that the Town Council is now in a stronger position to make a real difference in this community than when I took over its leadership 4 years ago. This is important as it will be central to securing a better future for our Town.

Fraser Tinsley
Town Mayor

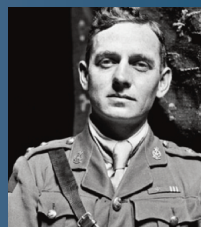
Inside this Issue



Page 2



Page 3



Page 4



Page 8



Page 9



Community Newsletter Issue 11

Serving Our Community

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Council Tax Charges

– No increase for 2017/18

The Council proposed that there would be no increase in the 2017/18 GWTC Band D Council Tax.

The 0% increase on 2016/17 charge will mean that it remains at £52.29 per annum. Most properties in this area are in bands A and B. The rates for various Bands is detailed below.

Band C £46.48

Band B £40.67

Band A £34.86

Greater Willington Town Council's Charges are £20.00 per year less than our neighbouring parishes at Brancepeth and Tow Law and less than a quarter of the cost billed to residents living in Spennymoor, Great Aycliffe or Shildon.

Citizens Advice Outreach at Greater Willington Town Council

In September 2016 we launched a new Citizens Advice service based at GWTC Office on the High St. It is funded jointly by the Town Council and County Councillors Olwyn Gunn and Fraser Tinsley, using their Neighbourhood budgets.

This service can help with many issues including, benefits, debt, relationships, consumer rights and housing.

Since it started in September, there have been over 200 client contacts in the sessions. Of this 57% of issues relate to benefits (mainly Employment Support Allowance and Personal Independence Payment). These include practical help with form filling and appeals against decisions. So far this year the estimated annualised financial outcome for clients is £286,000 (not confirmed as some appeals remain undetermined). This is a truly staggering figure in one small community and a real example of where the Town Council working in partnership with County Councillors are making a real difference to people's lives.

You can access the service at a 'Drop In' on a Monday or a Wednesday between 10am and 1pm. Tuesday's session is by appointment only. Appointments can be made via the Advice Line on 03444 111 444 Monday to Friday 10am until 4pm. You must make your own appointment. We are sorry but the Town Council cannot make appointments for you.

The service has proved popular and appears to be supporting residents through their individual circumstances. The Town Council is committed to continuing to provide towards the costs of Citizens Advice staff and services in 2017.

Greater Willington Town Council @ The Market



It is approaching a year since the move to the new Council Office. Town Councillors and staff are now all based @ The Market they can be contacted on the telephone numbers listed in this Newsletter.

With the improved meeting facilities, the Town Council meets the first Wednesday of each month at 6.30 pm. There is a recess each August.

Members of the public are welcome to observe the conduct of Council Business. Residents who wish to address the meeting may do so during the Public Participation Agenda Item. Please contact the Town Clerk no later than 12 noon on the day of the meeting so that you can be added to the Agenda to speak.

Dog Bags are still on sale for parishioner's pooches at a discounted rate of 50 pence a pack. Please continue to support us in our efforts to combat Dog Fouling by encouraging family members to clean up.

Photocopying services are also available at 15 pence per side for black and white.

Unfortunately due to security considerations we do not have public access to Fax or IT equipment and would encourage the use of the Library facilities.

Big thanks to Stephen Pardew and Kenny Tutty for doing a great job with the Office Window Boxes, which has improved the front of the building.

Pat Glass MP Caseworker can also be found here on the first Tuesday of the month.

Meetings with community groups have been held throughout the year to develop local solutions. We are pleased to report that the Oakenshaw Neighbourhood Plan group have been meeting and making progress.

Public meetings are organised when necessary to listen to residents views e.g. around Planning issues.

The new accommodation has played host to number of successful community events including a Official Opening Day on the 8th July 2016, a Let Them Eat Cake Day, the Clerks fundraiser for McMillan Cancer Care, a Children's Halloween Pumpkin Carving afternoon and Fancy Dress Party and the Christmas Illuminations.

New Close Circuit Television (CCTV)

Safety on the High Street and combating all aspect of anti social behaviour is important for many of our residents.

The Town Council has listened to your views and taken out a contract to install new CCTV equipment.

There will be five strategically placed cameras in operation, with the 24 hour monitoring being staffed by Durham County Council at the Chilton depot. There is a direct

link to Durham Constabulary Officers who can intercept or follow up on any crime or anti-social behaviour incident that is detected.

Funding for the scheme is provided by the Town Council, Ron Hogg, County Durham Police, Crime and Victim Commissioner, the Area Action Partnership and your County Councillors Olwyn Gunn and Fraser Tinsley. Partnership working at its best.



Willington Foodbank



Two areas of Greater Willington are defined as being in the 10% most deprived in the country (2015).

It's a sad reality, but an increasing number of people in our community need to access the Foodbank in order to feed themselves and their family. There has been a notable increase in demand in recent weeks and reasons for needing to access include changes (delays) to benefits

payments, zero-hours contracts and relationship breakdown. Worryingly there are increasing numbers of older persons aged from 50-65 accessing the Foodbank who have never experience poverty in the past.

The foodbank operates from the Willington Community Action Centre next to the Town Council Offices on the High Street. It is open on a Tuesday from 1pm to 3pm. Clients using the foodbank require a referral

note to get food from doctors, schools, Job Centre Plus etc.

Donations of food and toiletries are urgently needed. These can be left at the Town Council Office. Please help if you can.

The foodbank are also seeking volunteers to help with distribution. Anybody with a few hours of time to spare is most welcome. There is a particular need for people with counselling or social work experience.



New 20mph Zones for our Schools

Durham County Council are establishing two 20mph Zones in our area that will operate during school opening and closing times.

These are proven to improve safety for children and parents and will be located on the Main Street near to Willington Primary School and Our Lady & St Thomas R.C. Primary School.

We are working with County Councillors Olwyn Gunn and Fraser Tinsley to provide an additional 20mph Zone on Hunwick Lane next to Sunnybrow Primary. These are programmed to be in place by the end of 2018.

New Willington Town Green Play Equipment



The old play equipment on the Town Green was worn out and has been removed and replaced with new surfacing and play kit.

Gatheris Castle includes eleven new play features; a high steel slide, a trapeze crossing, 3 curved castle towers, castle theme walls, inclined rope bridge, a fireman's

pole and 2 twisted ladders.

More fun can be had on the Crazy Twister, the Buddy Board, the Swirl Inclusive Roundabout and the Viking Swings. Speed round the Fitness Trail then enjoy Leaf Hopscotch, Snakes and Ladders and Noughts and Crosses.

The scheme has been financed by the

Town Council, your County Councillors Olwyn Gunn and Fraser Tinsley's Neighbourhood Budget and s106 Housing Development funds.

We hope the eleven years and under get great use out of it over the summer months.

A New Playground for Sunnybrow

County Councillors Olwyn Gunn and Fraser Tinsley have funded a new playground for Sunnybrow.

It will redevelop the existing playground opposite Huntsgarth,

which everybody agreed needed improvement.

Children and parents of Sunnybrow asked for a new playground to match the one provided on Willington Town Green. Even better news is that children from

Sunnybrow Primary School helped with the design. All being well, it will open this April in time for the Easter holidays.

That's two new playgrounds in two years. Not bad going!



Memory of Willington War Hero Comes Home



In April 2018, Willington will receive one of seven Victoria Cross Commemorative Stones to be presented to communities in County Durham.

This commemorates 100 years since events on the night of 27-28 April 1918. During a raid on German trenches at Gavrelle, near Arras, patrol led by Willington born Lieutenant George Burdon McKean was pinned down by intense machine gun fire and hand grenades thrown from a strongly-defended German position. George McKean rushed the barbed wire barricade and, armed only with his revolver, leapt over the top and fought with two German defenders before killing them both. The remainder of the Canadian patrol then joined McKean as he cleared the trench and dug-outs with Mills bombs, killing or taking prisoner several German soldiers.

We will be working with Durham County Council on a project to install the stone and commemorate this important event in the history of our Town.



Remembrance Sunday

Remembrance Sunday is an important day in our Town's calendar when we gather at the War Memorial to remember our war dead

The occasion has grown in recent years and we have included events to commemorate 100 years since the start of the Great War and the Battle of the Somme.

On Sunday 6th November 2016 the Town Council hosted the Remembrance Sunday service at the War Memorial and the Parade to St Stephens Church.

The Services were led by Reverend David Spokes and our grateful thanks are extended to Marine Andrew Richardson 1AGRM who performed the Master of Ceremonies Role.

Aycliffe and Brancepeth Brass Band once again provided the musical accompaniment.

The Council supported the Royal British Legion Wreath distribution and the Poppy Collection Boxes from the Council Office. Our thanks are extended to Pam Rossell, Honorary Poppy Organiser and Lillian Bennett gave the boxes out to local collection points.

We will gather again this Remembrance Sunday at 2.45 pm. Please join us and pause for a moment and remember our fallen heroes.

War Memorial Cross

Councillor Carr and Councillor Cogdon have been liaising with Durham County Council and Historic England and are pleased to announce that the Willington, Oakenshaw and Page Bank War Memorial at Low Willington has been awarded Listed Building status Grade II.

The Story of Our Town

This is a new project being developed to explore and record one hundred years of history in Willington and will look back at life in the town in 1918.

The project aims to research the town's social, military and industrial history and produce an Exhibition. We would like to involve local families and Clubs in the Exhibition.

The Story will focus on 1918 and include the development of

a new civic space dedicated to George Burdon McKean from Willington who was awarded the Victoria Cross and became one of the most decorated surviving soldiers in British/ Empire forces history.

Heritage Lottery Funding is being applied for and first meetings have been held. Project partners include Durham County Council, Beamish Living Museum, Durham Miners Association, Durham County Records Office, Veterans Affairs

Canada, Durham Light Infantry Museum and local businesses.

As well as the written word, we intend to use a range of mediums to tell our Story including performance art, re-enactment, music, poetry and media. If you have time to spare to help us in any aspect of the project or if you would like to be trained in research skills, please let us know that you would like to join us in this very exciting project.

The King Coal Day

A Discounted Day Out to Beamish Museum for parish residents



We are pleased to announce that we have been working closely with Beamish Museum over the last few months and will be launching The Story of Our Town project with a visit to Beamish.

This fabulous day out to one of Durham's leading tourist attractions will be on Saturday 1st April 2017. Free Transport is being provided from the Willington Town Green leaving at 9.30am and returning at 3.30pm.

All of the museum will be open for you to enjoy and you will receive information about the

various attractions on arrival.

There will be a Miners Gala Parade with three Brass Bands to the pit village and Beamish have requested that the people of Willington lead the march to the restored Hetton Band Hall which is now at Beamish.

This will be followed at 1.30pm by the unveiling of the newly restored Brancepeth Colliery Disaster Memorial formerly sited in the Miners Welfare Hall on Hunwick Lane.

Participants are encouraged to wear mining related fancy dress. There will be a first and

two highly commended prizes for the children.

Entry tickets are normally £19.00 however a discount has been secured from Beamish for our town and is subsidised further by the Town Council

There will be a small charge of £4.00 for adults and £3.00 for children twelve years and under.

Tickets will be sold on a first come first served basis and will be available from the Town Council Office.

Look out for posters and on social media advertising when the tickets will be available.

The Miners Brazier Beacon



The Miners Memorial Beacon has been lit on two occasions since it was commissioned last year.

The Town Council organised ceremonies to commemorate those who lost their lives in the Brancepeth Colliery Pit Disaster held on the 13th April 2017.

We then joined in the national event to light beacons throughout the

Country in honour of Her Royal Highness Queen Elizabeth's 90th Birthday on the 21st April 2016.

Our thanks are extended to all residents who attended.

The Brazier will again be lit this year on Thursday 13th April at 8pm (sunset) to commemorate the disaster. Residents are invited to attend to hear the reading of names of those who died in the disaster.



High St Project

We have been working on a project to look at the Main Street in Willington which everybody realises is struggling.

There are many reasons for this including changing shopping and work patterns and increased internet shopping.

Local resident and student at Newcastle University James Vasey volunteered and surveyed the Main Street for us. We still have butchers, green grocers, a post office and a number of other specialist retailers in areas including vacuum cleaner sales and repair, discount shops, pet shop, newsagents, cafes, convenience stores, hairdressers and take-a-ways. We have relaxed parking time restrictions on the Main Street and with County Councillors have supported a general ongoing environmental improvement scheme for the area.



Many thanks to James Vasey for his help with this project. Please use our local shops if you can. We will continue to look at ways at improving the Main Street but we need everybody to play their part no matter how small.

High Speed Fibre Broadband comes to Greater Willington

Greater Willington now benefits from High Speed Fibre Broadband.

This has been made possible by Digital Durham at Durham County Council working with Openreach to ensure that we get the speeds necessary to access the internet at the speeds required for business and entertainment today.

A Heart Defibrillator for Willington

Councillor Henfrey has led the charge to provide a Heartstart Defibrillator and Outdoor Cabinet for emergency first aid on the High Street. It will be in place in coming weeks.

In the hopefully unlikely event that you will be called on to use it simply telephone 999 and you will be given the code to open the cabinet.

The equipment has clear diagrams on how to use it and once switched on will tell you what to do. The machine is very safe and will not shock a patient who is still conscious.

Please make yourself familiar with where the Defibrillator is located on the outside of the Town Council Office your quick thinking could save someone's life.

Willington Disabled Club

We continue to support the valuable work of Willington Disabled Club.

They meet every Tuesday evening at 6 pm in the Open Door

Methodist Church for Bingo, a cupper and a natter. New members are always welcome and if you would like to find out more contact Jean Graham on 07973872918.

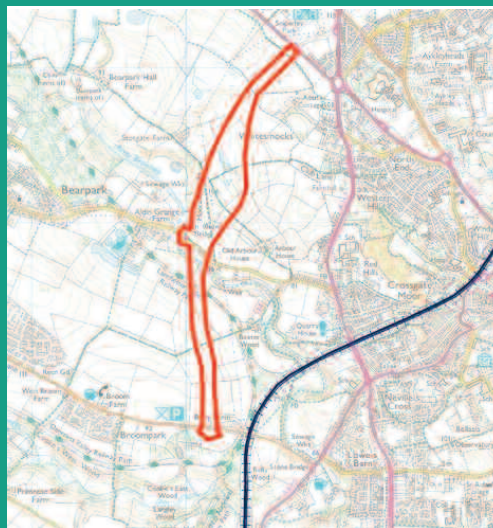
Durham Western Relief Road

GWTC are working to support the Durham Western Relief Road proposals.

This is a new road that will run from Stonebridge to Snipely Roundabout, Durham and will make a huge difference reducing traffic congestion on the A690 approaching Neville's Cross, which as many of us in this area know, is terribly congested at peak times.

We have lobbied the County Council who are preparing a new County Durham Plan to include the Western Relief Road as critical new infrastructure. It is a major investment costing in the region of £30 million and subject to support from government could be completed in 5-6 years.

It will dramatically reducing travel times from this area to Durham and Tyne and Wear at peak times and improve the quality of life for the many commuters from this area.



PACT Meetings

The Police and Communities Together (PACT) meetings are held in the Town Council Office on the last Thursday of the month at 6pm. The meeting venue alternates with St Catherine's Community Centre, Crook.

The Willington meetings are planned for;

- 30th March 2017
- 25th May 2017
- 27th July 2017
- 28th September 2017
- 30th November 2017

If you haven't been before this is your opportunity to talk to local Police Officers and County Councillors about issues that concerns you. The meetings help set police priorities and inform the Altogether Better Policing approach.



Oakenshaw Nature Reserve

The Town Council continues to work with Banks Mining and Oakenshaw Community Association to develop a lease and a management plan for Oakenshaw Nature reserve.



Footprint March

Councillor Fraser Tinsley and Helen Cogdon were pleased to support the Footprint March for the NHS between 22nd – 29th October 2016. The march wanted to prevent service closures and say no to privatisation.

The Council provided a rest stop and refreshments for the groups march through Willington.


Willington A.F.C.

With a long and proud history, Willington AFC continues to fly the flag for the Town in Division 2 of the Northern League.

With this seasons victory over Ryhope, they became only the 7th Club in history to record 1000 victories in the Northern League.


Watching a match at the Hall Lane ground is grassroots football at its finest and won't break the bank. Take in a game if you get the chance.

Check out the local press, Bishop FM and www.northernleague.org for fixtures.





WILLINGTON A.F.C

FOOTBALL TRAINING



AT PARKSIDE ACADEMY

HALL LANE, WILLINGTON, CROOK, COUNTY DURHAM DL15 0QF

MONDAYS		ON THE 3G PITCH
6.00-7.00	UNDER 12'S	
TUESDAYS		
6.30-7.30	UNDER 10'S	
7.30-8.30	UNDER 14'S	JUNIORS
WEDNESDAYS		CONTACT US
6.30-7.30	UNDER 12'S	
THURSDAYS		07907083479
5.00-6.00	UNDER 7'S	
6.00-7.00	UNDER 9'S	
7.00-8.00	UNDER 16'S	
FRIDAYS		 RICHELLE.SPORTS@HOTMAIL.CO.UK
6.30-7.30	UNDER 8'S	



Willington Cricket Club
Sportsman's Evening
Friday 24th March 7.30pm
guest speaker
Julio Arca
(Ex Sunderland / Middlesbrough)
Also top Comedian John Gillan
Hot beef sandwich & chips
Entry by ticket only £20
Tel. Sammy 07759 842974

Willington Cricket Club

Willington Cricket Club play at the Manor Road Cricket Ground (MRCG) in the North East Premier League

There are 3 senior men's teams, juniors at under 18, under 15s, under 13s and a ladies team.

Games take place during the season on Saturdays and Sundays.

There is a Friday night 20Twenty competition during June and July which is great fun and a good opportunity for a pint and crash bang cricket.

Take in a game if you get the chance and support your local club.

Check out the local press and www.nepremierleague.pitchero.com for fixtures



ROAD Project

The ROAD (Reaching Out Across Durham) Project will run for the next two and a half years.

Staff act as Navigators to support people over 26 years who have been out of work for more than 12 months.

Help includes benefit application support, confidence building, health and wellbeing and life skills.

This project complements the Durham Works project for younger people.

Leaflets about both projects are available in the Town Council Office.


Councillor Tinsley thanked Karen Anderson and Tara Hallimond for sharing their information when they presented the project to the Town Council in February.


It was confirmed that;

- Staff help with benefit and ESA claims
- DCA cannot give Foodbank referrals
- Project funding is from the Big Lottery and European Funding


We wish the ROAD project every success.

finding your potential







Be positive




Health & wellbeing




Tech




Build confidence




Money



Develop new skills



Find out



Start

Call us today to begin making a real difference to your life!

01207 524 833
road@groundwork.org.uk

©2016 in partnership with the Big Lottery Fund and the European Social Fund

Allotments

If you love your wellies then an Allotment Garden could be just the thing for you.

As a Town Council we are responsible for providing allotment gardens to households in our Parish.

In order to provide uniformity across the County. Big changes are afoot as we review our allotment management procedures and policies to mirror those of Durham County Council and introduce co workers as opposed to joint tenants.

The basic principles of existing letting agreements will remain in place, namely;

- Allotments will be let from the Council Waiting List.
- One allotment garden per household to feed his or her family for parish residents.
- A twelve month unsecured tenancy.

Applications from residents who have been previously been instructed to vacate the garden for whatever reason will not be accepted.

Allotment tenants must sign to agree that;

- Over 50% of the garden will be cultivated.
- They will not cause nuisance or annoyance to any other occupier or obstruct any path set out for the use of the occupiers.
- They will not shall sublet or part with possession of any part of the allotment garden.
- Asbestos or tyres or non gardening items shall not be brought on to the site.

Applications for the erection of any building suitable for keeping hens or rabbits, or a fence will be made in writing and no building work will be undertaken without written consent.

The allotment or its water supply will not be used from which to operate a business or to store business materials.

In order to maintain good sites we will be approaching those tenants who feel that the rules don't apply to them and be vigilant about eligibility to a further twelve month tenancy.



Winners of the Annual Allotmenteer Gardening Competition 14 July 2016

Oakenshaw

1st Prize	Plots 45 & 46	Mr & Mrs D Berry
Highly Commended	Plots 5 & 6	Mr & Mrs R Kitching
Best New Plots	Plots 43 & 44	Ms Y Golding

Park Top

1st Prize	Plots 2 & 3	Mr J Beard
Highly Commended	Plot 4	Mr J Fleming

Springfield

1st Prize	Plot 4	Mr J Blakey
Highly Commended	Plot 18	Mr I Joyner
Best New Plot	Plot 8	Mr M Smith

Many Congratulations to our winners. There was an extremely high standard once again last year with some fabulous quality crops.

We hope you enjoy lots of sunny gardening days this year and thank those people who have worked with us to maintain our Allotment Sites.

The National Allotment Week runs from 14 August to 20 August 2017.

Environmental Work

Greater Willington Town Council has agreed to provide an annual allocation for plants and materials to replenish the twelve planters around the Parish.

Our thanks are extended to Greater Willington Environment Improvement Group who organise this throughout the year. They are always looking for willing helpers so if you have time to lend a hand, please let us know.

The Town Council recently submitted a successful Grant Application to National Tree Week and the Environment group used the funds to plant six Rowan Mountain Ash trees

at Willington Wood. Our appreciation is extended to Graham Sewell for his work on behalf of the town.

Also a thank you to Mr Sunter for providing two Oak Trees he has grown and planted near the War Memorial.

This year's Big Spring Clean runs between the 27 February and 16 April 2017. The Town Council will be organising a litter pick at the South Dene. Look out for posters telling you how you can get involved and help to protect our ancient woodland.

The environmental improvements the town council organised at Willington Traffic

Lights, St John's Gardens, Sunnybrow and around Willington AFC ground and roundabout are now in full bloom. We hope you are enjoying the fantastic displays. The Town Council will be planting more bulbs later in the year to continue brightening up the town.

The heather designs at Low Willington Roundabout and at the Stone Planters are also looking good this time of the year well done to the environment group who worked with D.C.C to design them.

HALLOWEEN SPOOKTACULAR

This years Halloween celebrations were bigger and better than ever.



Pumpkin Carving and Crafts were held on the afternoon of Wednesday 26th October 2016 this was then followed at 6pm by a Halloween Party.

With pumpkin judging, fancy dress and fun and games. Not forgetting the Spooky Soup, Horror Hotdogs and Scary Story.

The winners were:

Carved Pumpkins

- First Prize Daisy Evans age 10
- Second Prize Louise Lakin Jones age 8
- Third Prize Genevieve Portlock age 11

Fancy Dress

- First Prize Sophie Elliott age 6
- Second Prize Reece Evans age 7
- Third Prize Daisy Mullholland age 7

Musical Statues

- Olivia Blanusha age 8
- Louise Aker Jones age 8

Scary Faces

- Oscar Joshua Lee age 8
- Poppy Robinson age 11

The winning Shop Front

- First Prize Fosters Opticians.
- Highly Commended Haircut 2000.

A big thank you to Arthur Burnham who delivered the G.W.T.C Pumpkins to Parkside Academy, Our Lady and St Thomas, Willington Primary and Sunnybrow Schools for the children to enjoy and take home.

Civic Duties

The Mayor and Deputy are asked to attend numerous Civic Events throughout the municipal year.

This duty has been fulfilled primarily by Deputy Mayor Councillor Ken Henfrey and his wife Margaret. They have been representing the interests of Willington throughout the County

and networking with other Councils. They have committed a lot of their free time to this and their hard work and dedication is much appreciated.

Judging by the support we receive from other Councils they have well and truly put Willington back on the map and raised our profile.



Macmillan Cancer Support



GWTC were proud to sponsor Helen's Fundraiser for Macmillan Cancer Support. Cancer has affected so many of our residents recently and MacMillan Nurses are an invaluable help to those families that need them.

The World's Biggest Coffee Morning was held @ The Market on 27 September 2016 and raised £1572.08 towards care for those who are having

cancer treatment and are living with cancer.

Helen Cogdon said "it was a tremendous how many people responded to the Fundraiser and I cant thank people enough for their kindness and generosity. The money raised included a £100 donation from a person who wishes to remain anonymous. It was a great day for bringing everyone together with the added bonus of lots of cake.

I would like to mention the following who helped make the day a success. Emma Mennouni who joined in to organise and publicise everything. Dorothy Spencer, Laura Wilson, Janet Graham, Carol Prest, Olwyn Gunn, Caroline Spirit, Gillian Spokes, Angela Smith and Jan Clews who made fantastic cakes. Ross Glasper and Anne Glynn who provided Tombola prizes."

Despite getting frequent approaches for donations nearly every business in Willington was willing to respond to Helen's request for a Raffle prize. Personal prizes were also donated as listed below.

Joe Cogdon, Lillian Bennett, Barbara Lowson, Caroline Spirit and Adrian at the Black Horse did a great job selling raffle tickets which was much appreciated.

A big thank you to the following for their generosity.

- Greater Willington Town Council
£50 Asda Shopping Voucher
- Willington Dental Centre
£50 OFF Voucher for Whitewash Professional Teeth Whitening
- Willington Dental Centre
£50 OFF Voucher for Whitewash Professional Teeth Whitening
- Paul Gethin
£40 Morrisons Shopping Voucher
- Anne Glynn
Harry Potter Cake
- Mr & Mrs Jean Graham
Slow Cooker
- Father Murphy
Cognac Imperial
- Heavenly Bliss Beauty Salon
£20 Treatment Voucher
- Lillian Bennett
Sandwich Maker
- Hair 2000
Cut and Blow Dry
- K9 Pamper Salon
£20 Next Voucher
- Gold'n Tan
20 Minutes Tanning Time
- The Mermaid Fish Bar
£10 Meal Voucher
- Councillor Margaret Elgie
Whisky
- Annette Parkin
Gel Nail Polish
- The Summer House
Gel Manicure
- Anne Glynn
2 Floral Art Picture
- Co-operative Food Store
Red, White and Rose Wine
- D&J Meats
A Large Mixed Grill
- The Cutting Company
Haircut
- Food4Less
Huggable Memory Pillows
- Glynnis Haggerstone
Prosecco
- Anonymous
Large Baylis and Harding Gift Set
- Nancyannes
Candy Rock and Ice Cream for 2
- Caroline Spirit Avon
Pamper Products
- Willington Dental Centre
Professional Whitening Toothpaste Set
- Pizza Tima
A Family Size Pizza
- Discount Motor Spares
Universal Car Mats
- Britton and Robson
Dove Pamper Kit
- Willington Dental Centre
Professional Whitening Toothpaste Set
- Councillor Angela Smith
Calcot Manor Gift Set
- Willington Cards
Union Jack China Mug
- Anonymous
Small Baylis and Harding Gift Set

NO ONE SHOULD FACE CANCER ALONE
WE ARE MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT

An update from Sunnybrow Primary School

In January, a lady from the local food bank came into school to talk to pupils about how a food bank works and why people may need to use a food bank.

Our children learned the many reasons that someone might need to use a food bank and also how important it is for the community. We held a non-uniform day on the 9th of February and asked our staff and pupils to bring a food donation to help our local food bank in Willington. We raised a huge food donation for the Willington food bank and our local Sainsbury's at Bishop Auckland also donated two food hampers to our event.

Our Parents group, Friends of Sunnybrow are currently fundraising to buy a defibrillator, this will be situated in school but available for community use. We will be holding an Easter raffle to help raise the funds and any donations of prizes to the raffle would be gratefully received.

County Councillor's Report



We are your County Councillors Olwyn Gunn and Fraser Tinsley and work closely with the Town Council (Fraser is both a County Councillor and Town Councillor) to help improve this area and address residents issues.

We are always out and about in your area.

In WILLINGTON we've been out and about joining in with the amazing activities run by volunteers in our community.

From our Councillor budgets we've provided

funding for the Disability Club, Phoenix Centre Playgroup, Rosedale Day Care, Open Door Carers and Tots, Willington Lunch Club and the Taekwondo Club. We know these activities would not be there without the generosity of the volunteers. THANKYOU

People in Willington told us the Town needed a clean-up so we've put Councillor money in for new planting and seating.

At monthly Police and Community Together meetings people told us they were worried about anti-social behaviour so we've put

money in for new CCTV on the High Street. You told us you were concerned about fly-tipping, so we purchased a covert anti-fly-tipping camera which has led to prosecutions.

In SUNNYBROW you asked for a new playground. So, we visited Sunnybrow school and talked to the children about what they want. They drew pictures and gave us ideas. Some ideas we couldn't use....like a full size Gruffalo and a working spaceship! But we've managed to include most and work will be starting soon. THANKYOU to Sunnybrow children and teachers.

In OAKENSHAW we've been working with the Community Association on their projects including the Neighbourhood Plan. We've attended their activities and provided seating for the Community Garden. THANKYOU

And finally, a big THANKYOU for working with us to improve our community.

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Community Fund Awards



The Council continues to encourage applications from Local Groups. You can apply for up to 75% of the total project costs or £500 whichever is the lesser. Unfortunately we cannot accept applications from individuals, businesses or statutory organisations.

- Willington & District Angling Club received £500 towards the restocking of trout and the fishing lease.
- Willington Cricket Club was awarded £450 to help refurbish the Junior Pavilion.

- Weardale Holiday Activity Planning Group received £448 towards a Christmas outing to Bowes Museum.
- Rosedale and Victoria Allotments were granted £500 to improve the access road and buy materials for planters around the site.
- St Stephens Church were given a £500 donation to spend on the installation of LCD screens and cameras around the Church.

- Greater Willington Environmental Improvement Group were awarded £500 to plant and restock the twelve parish planters.
- Chi Taekwondo applied for £500 to purchase matting and training equipment.
- Willington Disabled Club received £500 for room hire.
- Willington Football Club were successful in drawing down £500 for facilities and pitch maintenance.



Civic Fund Awards

The Civic Fund is a small donation to help towards community activities or services that are used to benefit our community. If your community group is working in this way to help others. Simply write to the Town Clerk outlining how you would like to spend the £50.00 that may be available to you.

- Willington Luncheon Club used their donation to help with social activities.
- Durham Cathedral received help towards running costs and conservation costs for this wonderful historic building.

- The Civic Fund was used to help host The North Of England Brass Band Championship at the Gala Theatre.
- We regularly try to support the Great North Air Ambulance who have helped many people in our area.
- Sunnybrow Community Centre used their donation to provide a Christmas meal that was much appreciated.
- There was a fantastic Older Person's Christmas Lunch with Parkside Academy that is now becoming an annual event.

- Willington Disabled Club members enjoyed a great Christmas meal and Christmas activities.
- St Stephens Church parishioners worked together and used the donation to produce a Traditional Foods Recipe Book.
- Fifty pounds was approved to help organise the Dale and Valley Homes, Queens Birthday Street Party for the Customer Panel.
- A donation was made to the School Benevolent Fund to help provide families in need with their Children's school coats and shoes.

Christmas Pantomime 2016



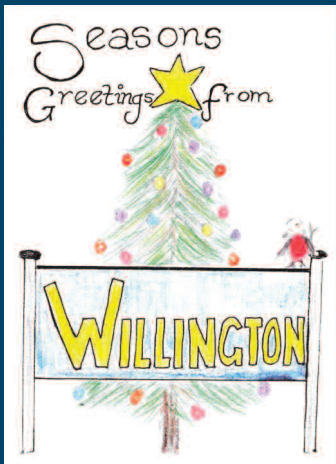
The Town Council in partnership with Willington Working Mens Club hosted Beauty and the Beast on 3rd December 2016.

This was followed by a surprise visit from Santa who talked to 180 children and gave them each a Christmas present.

The costs of the event were met by a three hundred pound donation each from County Councillors Olwyn Gunn and Fraser Tinsley, a one hundred and fifty pound donation from The Club and an eight hundred and sixty nine pound contribution from the Town Council.

It was good to work with The Club's representative, Shirley Liddle who helped sell tickets and a Great venue from which to host the Pantomime.

There will be another Pantomime the first Saturday in December 2017. We are looking forward to another noisy and fun packed afternoon.



Christmas Card Competition 2016

Town Council staff and Claire Young from Parkside Academy got together to organise the 2016 Mayor's Christmas Card. Traditionally many Parish Council's choose a card that reflects their Parish and has been designed by younger residents.

The Winners were;
First Prize, Carter Cunningham
Highly Commended, Jack Patterson and Amber Tulip
Chairmans Christmas Cracker, Harry Weatherald

The Towns Christmas Tree and Illuminations

We were proud once again to provide the Town's Christmas Tree in 2016 which looked very pretty with its white lights.

This year the Christmas Tree Lights were switched on by Ruby and Cameron Brunskill from Willington Primary School, Head Boy Jaylen Troughton and Head Girl Niamh Blackett from Parkside Academy and Genevieve Portlock and Daisy Evans from Our Lady and St Thomas RC Primary School.

Willington is increasingly gaining a reputation for having the one of best Parish Christmas Lighting Displays and the feedback we have received from people travelling through the area has been very complimentary.

Provision of the Christmas Lights is one of our biggest project expenditures and we have extended the Lighting Display each year. In 2013 we had thirteen columns decorated, by 2016 we now have twenty five columns illuminated.

Plans for 2017 include providing new deciduous tree lights on the Town Green and preparing street columns to receive lights around St Stephens Church.

Christmas Carol Service

The Christmas Civic Service at The Open Door Methodist Church was very well attended. It was led by Reverend Sue Wigham with music provided by Aycliffe and Brancepeth Brass Band.

Our appreciation is extended to the readers and Glynis Haggerstone and volunteers who worked with us.

The Town Council received considerable support from the following people who attended

- Major Chris Lawton, Deputy Lord Lieutenant.
- Vice Chairman Mike Dixon and Consort Mary Dixon, Durham County Council.
- County Councillor Olwyn Gunn

- Mayor Brian Jones and Mayoress Doris Jones, Darlington Borough Council.
- Ceremonial Mayor Rob Cook and Brenda Cook, Hartlepool Borough Council.
- Mayor Trish Pemberton and John Wilson, Shildon Town Council.
- Deputy Mayor David Fleming and Monica Fleming, Bishop Auckland Town Council.
- Mr and Mrs John Jameson, Assistant District Manager County Durham & Darlington Fire and Rescue.
- Mr Stephen Gregory, Deputy Head Parkside Academy.

- Father Brian Murphy Our Lady and St Thomas R.C.Church
- Reverend David Parry, Phoenix Christian Centre.
- Representatives from Community Groups and Organisations.

Councillor Fraser Tinsley, Town Mayor welcomed everyone to Willington and spoke about the value of Christmas and the importance of partnerships in our town. He then extended an invitation to watch the lighting of the Town's Christmas Tree, followed by refreshments @ the market.

Catering was provided by Party Platters.