

# Community Newsletter

## Issue 15

## MESSAGE FROM THE TOWN COUNCIL

**W**e welcome you to the latest GWTC newsletter. Who would still have thought that we would still be living with the corona virus. However, the future is looking a lot more positive as we all get our vaccinations and many restrictions start to be lifted.

Fortunately, we are able to deliver and support the community more this year, whilst still adhering to restrictions still to, we have still been able to organise various events starting with a Halloween party for our young people, it was really lovely to see so many families joining in and having fun. I must give a big thank you to Flash for his magic show, fun and games. The children were well entertained, also a big thank you to all the staff at the Working Men's Club, who give their time to support for this event.

We are pleased to see the community take part in the Remembrance Sunday both at the War Memorial and at St Stephens church, it was lovely to see so many people come along to show their respect.

The next event is our annual Christmas celebration, please look for more details later in the newsletter.

We are proud to see how many of our local community groups are going the extra mile to help support residents and the environment of Willington. It's been said before, but you all know who you are and you are amazing what you do to support the people who have found themselves struggling because of the pandemic.

The Town council are delighted to say that we will be working with Northern Heartlands again, they have received funding to deliver workshops and more, watch out for updates on the exciting events been planned for next year.

Greater Willington Environment Group has also gained funding to start planting bulbs in various areas of the Town, this will make Willington look a prettier place for our residents. The flower beds on the Town Green are also to be improved.

We were delighted that we were able to have a meeting with the police commissioner, local police, County councillors to discuss issues in our community and how we could look to supporting local residents. Commissioner Joy Allen kindly said she would have a walk around and knock at local residents doors, to ask their concerns and also how we could all work together to make our town a better place to live. We look forward to joining forces again with relevant parties and engaging with the community.

We would like to say a big thank you to our new councillors who have given a lot of their time to overseeing allotment issues and looking at ways to ensure that the Town council are able to support and invest in the parish and our community groups were necessary.

We hope you enjoy reading about other initiatives we are involved in and general information provided that we think may be of use to you.

Best wishes for a Happy Christmas from all the GWTC councillors and staff

**Councillor Angela Smith**  
Deputy Town Mayor

## MEET THE COUNCIL

All council members work in a voluntary capacity without payment. They can be contacted through the council office.

### Councillor Ken Henfrey, Town Mayor

Councillor Henfrey is a lifelong Willington resident and retired electrician. He chairs the council meetings. He is an avid supporter of CCTV cameras and helped introduce the towns defibrillators.

### Councillor Angela Smith, Deputy Town Mayor

Councillor Smith lives in Willington she is driven to champion community solutions to community problems. As a teaching assistant she spends a lot of time working with young people wanting to achieve outward bound awards. She is also a school governor.

### Councillor Emma Berry

Councillor Berry lives in Oakenshaw she has responsibility for the management of allotments. She is an active member involving herself in most council initiatives.

### Councillor Charles Hales

Councillor Hales can be found in Low Willington he has shared responsibility for allotments with Councillor Berry.

He is a former lecturer whose interests include local history and heritage.

### Councillor Margaret Elgie

Councillor Elgie is retired and from Sunnybrow. She values the importance of Neighbourhood Watch Schemes and any initiatives that help tackle crime. She organises the Dovedale Bingo group.

### Councillor Emma Jordan, Member

Councillor Jordan is a local business owner who is passionate about working with the community and improving the town. The Bait Room sponsors Willington Youth under 10s and Willington Workingsmens Club and The Black Horse Football Teams.

Councillor Jordan was part of the covid response force and played a key role in the provision of hot food deliveries with the town council throughout the Covid lockdown.

### Councillor Fraser Tinsley

Councillor Tinsley has been the Town Mayor for the last eight years. His background is in town planning.

As a Durham County Councillor, he aims to attract investment into the parish and ward.

### Councillor Malcolm Read

Councillor Read joined the Council this year in the hope of making a difference and to get the Council working as a respected part of the community. He believes that GWTC should be an agent which drives change and achieves 'best value' in all that they do. GWTC needs to be efficient, effective and seen as a major resource for the area.

He is an educationalist who has worked for many years in Higher Education, including developing innovative solutions to enable people to achieve their potential. As a communitarian he sees the development of the area as a community as being the most important thing to do – but we can only do that together and the Council desperately needs people to join and devote some time to achieve the change the area needs and deserves.

### Helen Cogdon, Town Clerk

### Emma McCann, Deputy Town Clerk

## COOPTED COUNCILLOR VACANCY

Greater Willington Town Council intends to co-opt new members to serve the Town Council until the next election in May 2025. The position is voluntary and without a salary.

### To qualify you need to:

- Be over eighteen years of age.
- Live or work in the Parish area of Willington, Sunnybrow, Oakenshaw and Page Bank for the last twelve months.
- Be a British subject or a citizen of the Commonwealth.

### You must not:

- Be subject to a bankruptcy restriction order or interim order
- or
- Within the last five years have been convicted in the UK of any offence and have a sentence of imprisonment (whether suspended or not) for a period of over three months without the option of a fine

### You will be able to:

- Attend evening and weekend meetings
- Work with regard to the legal requirements of the Local Government Act 1972.
- Be objective and declare any conflict of personal or prejudicial interest.
- Be committed to the Local Council Code of Conduct.
- Be a good communicator and listen to peoples views.
- Demonstrate confidentiality and diversity at all times when representing the Council.
- Be committed to supporting the integrity and policies of the Town council.
- Have a genuine ability to help others often with complex issues and develop your own caseload.
- Undertake training when necessary.

For a Nomination Paper please contact Mrs Helen Cogdon, Town Clerk on 01388 417725 or email [helen@gwtc.co.uk](mailto:helen@gwtc.co.uk)



67 High Street, Willington, Co Durham. DL15 0PF  
t: 01388 417725 e: [office@gwtc.co.uk](mailto:office@gwtc.co.uk) w: [www.gwtc.co.uk](http://www.gwtc.co.uk)

## HOME AND AWAY

This project is intended to bring a sense of community spirit and happiness to all within the Parish following lockdown. Working alongside local schools, businesses and families to bring back some normality following the disruptions caused by Covid19.

This will include;

**Donating a planter to all four Primary Schools in the area.** Introducing new school activity to children. Gardening engages all different senses which helps children to develop and recognise without realising. It is believed as children garden, they develop important motor skills that help improve academic skills such as writing, cutting and typing.

**Providing Hanging Baskets to local businesses.** Brighten up the High Street by showcasing colour and beauty for all to see. Flowers have long-term positive effects on peoples' moods and bring happiness to all who see them.

**Installing a seat.** Since lockdown, the Town has seen an increase in socially distanced walks. Low Willington has nowhere for the residents to take a rest and chat with fellow walkers. Providing these seats will create a unity as people socialise again – safely of course.

**Planning Away Days for local families.** Helping bring families closer together as they can spend quality time in settings other than their home. Making memories and taking time to recharge while aiming to improve mental health.

**Holding a Pantomime.** This allows people to laugh, sing and take part in the joy of theatre. It has increased community spirit, cheer, engagement and involvement with children and adults. Supporting a local venue. This includes a visit to Santa in his grotto where children will receive a Christmas gift

**Erecting a Fence.** Improving Heritage Woodland which is used as family recreation space. This should deter fly tipping, improve public safety over a severe drop on the bankside.



## WILLING TO BLOOM

As part of the Covid Recovery funding available to the three towns area. The Greater Willington Environmental Improvement Group submitted a major planting project to brighten up our area.

A snowdrop and bluebell path will be planted along the railway line between South Dene and Moorland Close by Sunnybrow and Willington Primary Schools.

A covid rainbow will be planted on the town green by our Lady and St Thomas and St Stephens Primary schools.

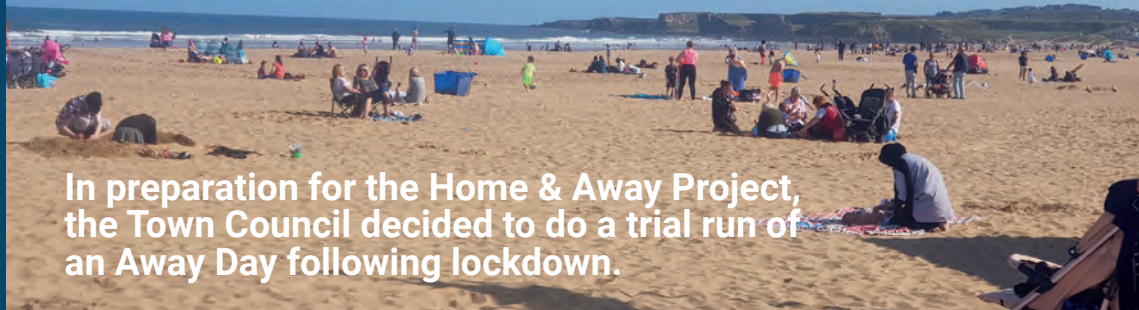
The flower beds are to be replaced with lavender and herbs. A new winter flame bed is to be introduced.

The gateways into Willington and Sunnybrow are to be planted with successional multi bloom bulbs in October 2022.

Congratulations on raising £12,000 for our parish. The Group is always looking for new members so if you are interested in helping to plant up the town, please volunteer.

The town green planters have just been restocked and look amazing. Great Job.

# Willington's Summer Away Day to South Shields SEAS THE DAY



In preparation for the Home & Away Project, the Town Council decided to do a trial run of an Away Day following lockdown.

We arranged a trip to South Shields for Saturday 28th August 2021. Leaving Willington at 9.30am and returning from South Shields at 4.30pm.

Concessionary tickets were £3 each and all were sold. Willington Open Door Methodist Church supplied food packs for all children 12 years and under. The Town Council provided each child a small gift.

Excellent feedback was received from residents who came along on the trip. Many of them happy that 'the old club trips are making a return'.

Please look out for news on future away days for 2022. They will be advertised in the Town Councils office and on our Facebook Page. There will only be a limited amount of tickets for each event.



## Police and Crime Commissioners visit

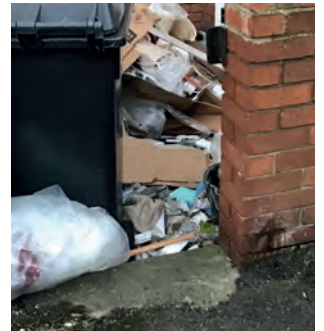
Residents asked the Clerk to arrange a meeting to look at how to tackle neighbourhood issues and anti social behaviour. This was attended by Joy Allen, Police and Crime Commissioner in October.

A multi agency meeting was coordinated with representatives from Durham Constabulary, D.C.C Neighbourhood Wardens, D.C.C Anti Social Behaviour Unit, County Councillor Gunn and Town Councilors.

Discussions with residents centred around bins and fly tipping. Violence and threatening behaviour, Neighbourhood issues.

The importance of reporting every incident on the 101 number was stressed. As then it is possible to trigger priority areas to direct multiple resources towards. The meeting also talked about the introduction of home security equipment.

Joy Allen returned to Willington in November to conduct a walk about. She told residents about the Keep In the Know Scheme and setting up your own Neighbourhood Watch.



## NORTHERN HEARTLANDS

Northern Heartlands have submitted an application to the Heritage Lottery for a 2-year programme of work in Willington – This has been approved.

The work will build on all the relationships we put in place during the Man Engine, and with Lonely Tower for 'Our Willington', and some creative workshops we've run recently at the Open Door Church and in Willington Care Village.

The bid will also build directly on the work that historian Jeremy Lake has done with children at Willington Primary School which resulted in the development of two pamphlets and two films (also working with Mark and Marie) – links to the films are here:

**WHAT MAKES WILLINGTON DISTINCTIVE – Captions** <https://youtu.be/vSGiaaEkPDY>  
**YOUR PLACE IN CONTEXT – Captions** <https://youtu.be/3nd3bpsam0>

We're looking at working with different groups and at different levels of engagement – from residents in Willington Care Village to those interested in developing more in-depth research into the history and heritage of the town - and will hope to include

some sort of celebratory event on the Green again as well as a lasting legacy in the form of (possibly) a publication, or something digital, or a heritage trail.

The reason we want to do this is to find ways of making more people aware of the rich history of the town – not just mining and railways, but it's importance before that, even though it was a small settlement – but we also (and perhaps more importantly) want to help demonstrate the link between heritage and wellbeing. Finding out about your place and being proud of its history and therefore feeling better about yourself is a difficult thing to measure, but the Heritage Fund have asked us to develop a project with a strong wellbeing outcome. And after all the hardship and difficulty people have faced with Covid this seems a great thing to be able to develop, and we feel we have some firm foundations to build on.

County Councillors Olwyn Gunn and Fraser Tinsley together with the town council have all match funded the Heritage Lottery application to make this project happen.

We look forward to working with Northern Heartlands once again.



# A Frightfully great time was had by all

Big appreciation to Willington Working Men's Club who worked with the council to organise a Halloween Event this year.

The Flash Halloween Magic Show held on 28th October 2021 was a great success. The decibel level showed how much the children enjoyed themselves.

The show was followed by fun and games and the town councils fancy dress competitions.

The winners received a £20.00 gift voucher

- Seven years and under Ronan, Isla and Payton
- Eight years and over Arron, Ellie and Jack

There were five entries to the pumpkin competition all of whom were winners.

The Club provided the children with free hotdogs and a drink.

After the show the Council gave everyone toffee apples to go home with.



## REMEMBRANCE DAY

This years Remembrance service was two fold not only to pay our respects to those immortalised on the War Memorial from the world wars. But also to mark the 100th year of the Royal British Legion whose care and services continue to support veterans and serving military today.

Despite those who made the ultimate sacrifice to ensure our safety during peacetime. Our armed forces are still called up to theatres of war across the world.

On Remembrance Day we also pay our respects to all the armed forces who are operating in areas of conflict, tyranny and oppression. We thank the serving military for their professionalism, integrity and bravery.

Today we stand together and say that the abuse of power will not be tolerated in any form in any country nor will bullying behaviour become acceptable in our community.

The Council would like to thank Her Majesty the Queens Representative, Deputy Lord Lieutenant Major Chris Lawton. Father David Spokes, St Stephens Church for leading the commemoration, Sargent Ryan McClellan, Army Cadet force, as master of ceremonies, County Councillor Olwyn Gunn and PCSO 7816 Mike Gracie Crook NPT as readers. Mr Joe Cogdon for organising the wreath laying. The Aycliffe and Brancepeth Brass Band who support the town every year. Durham and Darlington Fire Brigade. Durham Constabulary. Also Bryan Pyle, Royal British Legion for organising the poppy boxes and working with Town Council staff to distribute the wreathes.

And most importantly yourselves who support this annual event.

# Christmas Celebrations

## THE CHRISTMAS PANTOMIME WAS JACK AND THE BEANSTALK

Performed at Willington Working Men's Club on the 27th November 2021. Tickets sold out very quickly. An enjoyable time was had by all.

The Council received a £100 donation towards the pantomime. Every child was given a sweet cone. The Club provided the room free of charge. The Bait Room provided snack packs for Children under 12s.

The town council provided children with a gift from Santa in his new willington grotto constructed by Cornerstone.

## CHRISTMAS LIGHT SWITCH ON

The 2021 High Street Christmas Illuminations will be switched on 28th November 2021.

We are often asked why Low Willington Lighting columns are not decorated.

This is because we are not allowed to use the old NPG street lighting columns.

However the council has been asked if they can provide tree lights and we are going to explore the feasibility of doing this for Low Willington next Christmas.

Last years **Christmas Baubles** designed by Sarah Anderson and containing your family members names can be collected from the Town Council Office week commencing 29th November 2021.

## CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE

The Christmas Carol Service will be on the 2nd December 2021 at 6pm, around the Christmas tree.

The Christmas tree lights will be switched on during the service.

We look forward to seeing you there.

## WILLINGTON WORKING MENS CLUB ENTERTAINMENT

Christmas Eve	Caitlin Black
Boxing Day Night	JJ (Small cover charge)
New Years Eve	Michael Richards and Chyrelle Addams (Small cover charge)

## PARKSIDE ACADEMY OAP CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Wednesday 8th December 2021 11.30am till 2.30pm  
Ring Donna Heslop to book your place. 01388 746396



## COMMUNITY FUND AWARDS

- Willington Youth Football gained £500 towards tournament costs.
- Durham & Dales Community Health Initiative CIC was awarded £500 for a community gardening project.
- Bringing Back a Smile secured £500 to organise a Willington Carnival. This has been deferred.
- Sunnybrow Community Centre Bingo was given £500 towards room hire and an afternoon Tea.

## SPONSORSHIP

- The Great North Air Ambulance received £200 sponsorship to assist with the running of their emergency services.



Lock down was a very difficult time for people on furlough and working from home however in true British spirit we kept calm and carried on.

Out of isolation came the creation of a wonderful poppy net for the town. It was made by Judith Guthrie and her friends and shows hours of dedicated work. Judith was gifted a bouquet of flowers for her hard work and dedication.

The net is on display in the Council Office.

# COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SCHEME

Thousands of households across County Durham will continue to receive help in covering the cost of their council tax bills after Durham County Councillors agreed to the extension of the scheme.

Durham County Council provides council tax discounts of up to 100 per cent to eligible households through its Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme (LCTRS) and is one of only a small number of authorities to continue to offer this level of support.

There are currently 56,250 LCTRS claimants in County Durham, of which 21,150 (38 per cent) are pensioners and 35,100 (62 per cent) are working age claimants. Almost 80 per cent of all working age applicants receive maximum help, leaving them with no council tax to pay, with LCTRS support forecast to be circa £62million in 2021/22.

Durham is the only local authority in the North East and one of a small minority in the country to continue to offer the same level of support to all claimants as was available under the former Council Tax Benefit (CTB) scheme. The LCTRS is open to residents on a low income, whether in work, unemployed or retired, who have less than £16,000 savings.

There was an increase in claims for Council Tax Reduction last year as a result of the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on household income levels. At the peak in May 2020 the working age LCTRS caseload was almost 3,000 higher than in January of the same year.

In order to ensure that low-income households continue to access this vital support, the council has approved the continuation of the current LCTRS for a further year into 2022/23, which will continue the protection afforded to all claimants in line with what their entitlement would have been under the former CTB system.

## VULNERABLE PEOPLE SUPPORT PAYMENTS

Durham County Council is set to receive **£4.6 million** from the government's Household Support Fund to help struggling households with their essential costs over the winter months.

The support will be given to residents in County Durham that are most in need through to March 2022, with a minimum of 50 per cent of the funding to be given to vulnerable families with children.

The funding is intended to assist financially vulnerable residents with essential costs such as food, energy and water bills, clothing, and utilities.

The council and key partners will be issuing this support in a variety of forms, including food vouchers to households with free school meal eligible children, distributed periodically over the winter months from now until March, and hampers to vulnerable households identified by council support services.

There will also be various other schemes where social care and other professionals will be able to make referrals to target further support for vulnerable households. This can be used to help purchase essential household items, cover the cost of boiler services or repairs, provide vouchers for food or fuel, or support with other essentials.

Support will be provided to households identified through the council's adult and children's services teams, Housing Solutions, the Discretionary Benefits team, and by working with schools and partners across the county.

# Willington Youth Football

Despite a very difficult time for everyone over the last two years our fantastic people have been working very hard to keep ahead of the game.

We started two new teams in September and there will be two more in the New Year - very possibly three!

Two of our former players are taking their Level 1 Coaching Badges so that they can start a new team next September at an age group we don't currently have.

Our ambition is to introduce more groups in the future to guide our youth on the football journey.

All sessions are held at Parkside Academy, Willington



## Training Sessions

Monday	Wednesday
Under 12's 5pm - 6pm	Under 12's 6pm - 7pm
Under 10's 6pm - 7pm	<b>Thursday</b>
Under 13's 6pm - 7pm	Under 7's 5pm - 6pm
<b>Tuesday</b>	Little
Under 9's 5pm - 6pm	Footballers 5pm - 6pm*
Under 13's 6pm - 7pm	Under 11's 5pm - 6pm
Under 14's 7pm - 8pm	Under 8's 6pm - 7pm
Under 15's 7pm - 8pm	Under 14's 7pm-8pm

\* Spectrum as Parkside Sports Hall is unavailable due to exams



# WILLINGTON MEDICAL PRACTICE

We have been given this exciting opportunity by our Patient Participation Group to write an article in the Greater Willington Town Council newsletter. We hope you find the information useful and we would be keen to know what other information you would be interested in if we are given the opportunity in future.

We have been open throughout the Pandemic. The Pandemic is not over and we are continuing to work to keep our patients and staff safe to ensure we are available to provide a service to our patients. This remains as important as ever, whilst there are high COVID rates in the community.

We thought you might be interested in a typical day for your GP.

**7.30 - 8.00am** - Arrive at the Practice Log onto computer system and check blood and x-ray results that have been sent electronically. Send messages to the Reception team to contact patients to book appointments or inform them that they have prescriptions to collect. Check positive COVID results and contact at risk patients to offer them additional monitoring. Sign electronic prescriptions to go to patient's pharmacy. Check messages that have been sent by the Reception team, including requests for sick notes or letters. Check internal emails and also external NHS emails. Say hello to team in Reception. Grab a cuppa and say hello to other GP Partners and the rest of the team.

**8.30am - 12.00pm** - Start morning surgery Ring patients booked in for telephone consultations. Patients will be informed by the GP during the telephone consultation if they need to be seen face-to-face for examination. An appointment will be made with the patient and the patient will be informed whether to check in at the front desk or asked to come to the back door depending on their symptoms or their vulnerability to be near other patients. If a GP suspects a patient may have COVID due to their symptoms, patients will be asked to wait in their cars and the GPs may see them there with their consent. We will ensure that privacy is maintained at all times. We have had positive feedback from a lot of our patients for how they are being seen during the pandemic.

**12.00 - 1.30pm** - Do home visits that are planned reviews or visits that have come in during the morning for patients who cannot physically get to the Practice. 2.00pm - Grab lunch and check letters that have come in from hospitals and need actioning. Sign electronic and paper prescriptions to go to the various pharmacies our patients use.

**2.30pm - 5.30pm** - Afternoon Surgery, including telephone consultations followed by face-to-face examinations made during telephone consultations. Our GPs find that a lot of problems can be dealt with by telephone alone and will always see our patients for examination if required.

**6.00pm** - Practice is closed and Reception, admin and nursing teams go home. Partners continue working through until at least

**7.30 - 8.00pm** - Catching up on admin work including:

- Dictating referral letters from earlier consultations.
- Signing of further prescriptions.
- Actioning any messages from patients or colleagues, including district nurses and hospitals.
- Review with GP registrar if supervising their surgery.
- Reviewing letters that have come in and actioning as relevant.
- Checking results and covering additional admin work of any GP Partners on annual leave .

We have recently updated our Practice Website to hopefully make it more accessible for our patients. Our website address is

[www.willingtonmedicalgroup.nhs.uk](http://www.willingtonmedicalgroup.nhs.uk)

We also have a Facebook Page

[www.facebook.com/WillingtonMedicalGroup](https://www.facebook.com/WillingtonMedicalGroup)

### Acute Medication Requests

If you require further supply of a medication which is not on your repeat prescription, we ask that you provide us with as much information as possible about your use of this medication. This enables your GP to determine whether it is necessary to review your condition before issuing further medication or if it is safe to continue.

Please provide the following information: -  
**Medication required - Dose you take daily - Reason for taking - Has the medication been beneficial? - Have you noticed any side effects?**

Please submit this information to your GP to review via online access or the Practice e-mail address: [willingtonmedicalgroup@nhs.net](mailto:willingtonmedicalgroup@nhs.net)

If you do not have access to the internet i.e. on-line access to your record or e-mail, please telephone the Practice with your acute medication request and provide the information as requested above.

We aim to respond within two working days.

# OAKENSHAW Community Association

The Oakenshaw Community Association has been in existence since 2008 and became a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) in 2015 with the aim of benefitting residents of Oakenshaw and the surrounding area to provide facilities in the interest of social welfare for recreation and leisure-time occupation to promote other charitable objects for the benefit of the community.

In its time the OCA have provided a play area, Multiple Use Games Area and a community garden; lots of small improvements like dropped kerbs for wheelchair users and seating on the nature reserve. In the spring, the amazing display of daffodils the whole length of the village was planted by the OCA.

The OCA gained planning permission for a wind turbine. The income from this will allow us to be a bit more ambitious in restoring some amenities lost when we became a Category D village after closure of the coal mine. The OCA supported the development of the Oakenshaw Neighbourhood Plan. That took seven years, but has provided us with a strategy to protect, improve and develop the village. All our plans are based on consultation with the village and trying to deliver resident's agenda.

The commitment is long term and at times very challenging. The committee are made up of volunteers with very differing views. The residents have strongly held and different views. We must at all times deal with the appropriate authorities. Everything takes ten times longer than you expect. We don't have enough money to deliver all our plans and need to apply for grants. So there are constant challenges.

But it is worth it. It puts Oakenshaw in the driving seat to deliver resident's agenda. This year we have improved parking, a small area of woodland, put signage in the reserve with Bank's Group support and refurbished goal posts on the green. As well as delivering sports sessions, social events including a summer fete and Halloween.

Recently, I have been told that having the OCA has allowed us to access financial and other support because we exist and have a track record for delivering. We are creating a network of people to help us achieve our aims. It is only recently that we have also gained council representation on the GWTC.

We are aiming to keep Oakenshaw's rural character, improve amenities and the environment. It will not happen on its own. That's where the OCA comes in. If you have the skills and determination to see projects through we would love you to join us in our mission.



The community orchard garden



Halloween on the community garden

## Community Garden

*A poem by Keith Parker. Resident of Oakenshaw.*

In this place of coming together we can enter into the conversation of the seasons. Spring, summer, autumn, winter. The diary of the changing year, with its community of plants, insects, birds and humans. Each speaking to their kind with a purpose. As a community should.



# ALLOTMENT AWARDS

The winning gardens were;

## Oakenshaw

1st Prize Mrs D Hales – Plots 47 & 48

Highly Commended Mr & Mrs Kitching – Plots 5-6

Highly Commended Mr & Mrs Marshall – Plots 38-39

Best New Plot Mr D Gall – Plot 36

## Park Top

1st Prize Mr J Beard – Plots 2-3

Highly Commended Ms G Jones – Plot 7

## Springfield

1st Prize Mr D Hagar – Plot 22

Highly Commended Mr S Barker – Plot 12

Highly Commended Mr B Cooper – Plot 19

Best New Plot Mr Darren Little – Plot 3

Congratulations to all who took part and achieved an excellent standard.

## WILLINGTON LIBRARY

We are gradually re-introducing some of group activities. Willington Library will be re-launching its book club in the New Year.

**Why not go along and see if it's for you?**

Meetings will be held in the library on the 2nd Monday of the month between 2pm and 3pm.

The first meeting will be Monday 10th January 2022.

Call in to register your interest and pick up January's read.

**Willington Library's temporary opening hours are :-**

<b>Monday</b>	<b>1.30pm – 4.30pm</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>9.30am – 12.30pm and 1.30pm – 5.30pm</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>9.30am – 12.30pm</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>9.30am – 12.30pm</b>

## CITIZENS ADVICE

Citizens Advice provides information on any topic including Benefits, Debt, Housing, Family, Consumer and Health issues.

For residents of Willington, Tow Law and Crook.

Outreach sessions are temporarily suspended.

Work with C.A.B has proved very successful with a high footfall.

G.W.T.C intend to provide this service from the Town Council office, once again in the New Year.

For help and support in the meantime please contact.

**C.A.B General Enquiries**  
**0191 3726721**

**Telephone Adviceline**  
**03444 111444**

**Monday to Friday 10am – 4pm**

**Debt Adviceline**  
**0300 3232000**

**Universal Credit**  
**0800 144844**

## St Stephens School Wellbeing Matters

St Stephens School said; "On Wednesday 20th October, our children had a wonderful collapsed curriculum morning in which they explored the 5 ways to wellbeing from the NHS. The children wore non-uniform and explored the 5 steps to wellbeing: they connected with friends whilst sharing a harvest tea; they stayed active by going on a wellbeing walk; they 'took notice' and gave thanks for God's blessings; they learnt about the tradition of the harvest festival; and they gave generously by 'bringing a tin' to support our local food bank. We hope the focus on Mental Health and Well-being will provide our pupils with the valuable tools they need to encounter all of life's challenges. We are grateful to all parents and pupils for their amazing generosity: we received almost 250 donations of tins for our local food bank. A fabulous effort by our fabulous school community!"



## ALL IN BLOOM

We are delighted to welcome a new florist to Willington High Street. Anya Liddle started her All in Bloom business from home in April 2021 and has now secured her first shop.

This exciting new florist is a local family run business who are making a name for themselves for the price and quality of their bespoke flower arrangements.

On entering the shop you are surrounded by the beautiful scent of flowers. Small gifts and jewellery are also available.

To order your freshly picked blooms contact Anya on 07376945435 or [willingtonflowers@gmail.com](mailto:willingtonflowers@gmail.com)

## THE BAIT ROOM

This business caters for all sections of the community and offers a pensioners special on a Wednesday.

## WELCOME

We would like to extend a warm welcome to the new owners of Willington Go Local formerly Sheldons Newsagents.

The new landlords at The Commercial Inn and the new manager at The Black Horse Inn.

We wish you all every success.

## SHUTTERBLIGHT

D.C.C and G.W.T.C have been talking to local businesses and asking them to join in the Shutterblight project which aims to tidy up the High Street.

The scheme covers the costs of shop front graphic vinyls applied to the shutters.

New shutter curtains will also be supplied should the condition of the old ones be too poor to apply a vinyl.

There is no charge to the business for this service. The Bait Shop and Burnhams Grocers in Willington, shows you what can be done.

The Shutter Media team would be pleased to design you something similar that represents your business and/or the town.

Contact [Mitchell.Kent@durham.gov.uk](mailto:Mitchell.Kent@durham.gov.uk) to register your interest or call into the Town Council office.



## ONE NETWORK

The Highway Network Management Section have introduced a new system called One Network that makes this information available to residents, businesses and motorists via the web on your mobile phone, tablet and computer as well as through your vehicles Sat Nav system.

The One Network system can be accessed at <https://www.durham.gov.uk/roadworks>.

As well as using the searchable list, the One Network mapping system can be used to check live information regarding road works in your area. To do this you simply type the address in the search bar (highlighted green) and select the period of time you are interested in (Today, 2 weeks, 3 months, 12 months).

Another useful feature is the 'Alerts' feature which allows you to receive email alerts within in defined area every time new road or street works are recorded. You can set the system to tell you only if the works are high, medium or low impact and choose to receive email notifications daily, weekly or monthly. Simply register with One Network and select the buttons highlighted in green and select your preferences.

### Useful Contacts

**Fire and Rescue**  
Firestoppers 0800 169 558 or visit [www.firestoppersreport.co.uk](http://www.firestoppersreport.co.uk)

**Durham Constabulary**  
Non-emergency call 101  
[www.durham.police.uk/Contact-us](http://www.durham.police.uk/Contact-us)

In an emergency dial 999

**Keep In the Know**  
[www.durham.police.uk/Advices-Centre/Crime-prevention/Keep-In-The-Know.aspx](http://www.durham.police.uk/Advices-Centre/Crime-prevention/Keep-In-The-Know.aspx)

**Contact Durham County Council**  
on 03000 260000

For  
**Refuse and Recycling**  
**Flytipping**  
**Pest Control (Domestic)**  
**Anti Social Behaviour**

# Proposed Boundary Changes

The 2023 Review of Parliamentary constituencies was formally launched in January by the Boundary Commission for England. The commission, which is an independent and impartial non-departmental public body, is required to ensure that the number of electors in each constituency across the UK is more equal; in doing so, the number of constituencies in England will increase from 533 to 543.

The commission is now undertaking an independent review of all constituency boundaries in England and will present final recommendations to Parliament by July 2023.

The rules that the commission work to are such that wide scale change is inevitable. Under the proposals announced, just under 10 per cent of the existing 533 English constituencies remain unchanged.

Local knowledge is needed to help reshape the map of constituencies, so as part of a consultation, members of the public are encouraged to visit [www.bcreviews.org.uk](http://www.bcreviews.org.uk) to view maps showing the proposed new boundaries and also provide feedback. Any changes will not affect local council services, with the

boundary changes relating only to Parliamentary constituencies, which is the area an MP is elected to represent in Parliament.

People can comment on aspects of the proposals such as where the proposed new boundary lines are and also suggest alternative solutions. There will be a further two rounds of consultation in 2022 based upon representations received as part of this consultation. Following the conclusion of all three consultation periods, the commission will look at all the evidence received and form its final recommendations.

# COVID - 19 RESILIENCE TEAM

We would like to introduce ourselves as a new service within County Durham, the 'COVID-19 Resilience Team'.

The team will work across the County to deliver a range of holistic support within communities impacted by COVID-19.

This support includes holistic wellbeing, psychosocial and psychological first aid interventions, including a referral pathway to a dedicated specialist clinical team.

Support plans will be developed adopting a person-centred approach, with the option of 12 weeks of personalised support for each client engaged on the programme. Appointments will focus on individual needs, as COVID-19 recovery is anticipated to present a range of considerations and support needs.

The service is a multi-agency partnership of the Voluntary Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) sector, Tees Esk and Wear Valley (TEWV) these organisations are working together to ensure the service is accessible and delivered to meet the needs of individuals impacted by this disease.

If you would like to know more, speak to our team, interested in us coming along to meet your staff or you would like to refer someone in need, please reach out to [covidresilience@pcp.uk.net](mailto:covidresilience@pcp.uk.net) or give us a call on the details below.

- Administrator: Laura Cruddace for referral and administration information on 07568 429 771
- Coordinators:  
Donna Sheavills on 07395 790 759  
OR Donna Kelly on 07890 642 692

Covid vaccine information sources are:

- For FAQs – Information at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/>
- For public messages – Please use the below link for some regional social media communications about the booster. The messages around the public Health campaigns are at <https://coronavirusresources.phe.gov.uk/covid-19-vaccine/resources/> feel free to share.

Flu vaccine information sources are:

- For FAQs – Information at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/flu-influenza-vaccine/>
- For public messages – Regional toolkit at <https://www.doyourbit-nenc.co.uk/flu-toolkit-2021> National communications are at <https://campaignresources.phe.gov.uk/resources/campaigns/34-winter-vaccinations-public-facing-campaign/> resources feel free to share.

For an overview of why both 'winter' vaccinations are essential this year:

- New film launched urging public to get flu and COVID-19 vaccines. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-film-launched-urging-public-to-get-flu-and-covid-19-vaccines>

# Business Directory

## Barton and Townley

Burnington Drive  
Hunwick Lane  
DL15 0HY  
01388 746666  
Car dealer

## Fosters Opticians

92 High Street  
DL15 0PE  
01388 746800  
Ophthalmic services and eye examinations

## Barlow Barbers

91 High Street  
DL15 0PE  
07801 459001  
Barbers

## D & G Meats

88 High Street  
DL15 0PE  
01388 745374  
Butchers  
Meat packs, pies, frozen section,  
groceries. Sandwiches.

## Charity Shop 4 U

86 High Street  
DL15 0PE  
[Charityshop4u@gmail.com](mailto:Charityshop4u@gmail.com)  
Volunteer community enterprise for donated goods

## Willington Post Office

Londis  
84 High Street  
DL15 0PE  
01388 746233  
Sub Post Office

## Turton Books

83 High Street  
DL15 0PE  
01388 745770  
Antique Book Seller

## Caitlins Sweet Treats and Cakes

82 High Street  
DL15 0PE  
Sweet Treats & Cakes  
Celebration Cakes

## Durham Vacuums

80a High Street  
DL15 0PE  
01388 748155  
Vacuum repairs  
Hardware store

## Hong Ying

80 High Street  
DL15 0PE  
01388 745694  
Chinese Takeaway

## Blue Star Treats

79 High Street  
DL15 0PE  
01388 249834  
Speciality Sweet Shop  
Candy store

## The Best Chippy

78 High Street  
DL15 0PE  
01388 213260  
Fish & Chip Takeaway

## All in Bloom

75/76 High Street  
DL15 0PF  
07376945435  
Florist

## Annes

73 High Street  
DL15 0PE  
07429464386  
Furniture store

## Gold N Tan

72 High Street  
DL15 0PF  
01388 747474  
Tanning Salon

## Heavenly Bliss Beauty Salon

70 High Street  
DL15 0PF  
01388 748306  
Beauty Treatments

## Get Smart Hair Salon

69 High Street  
DL15 0PF  
01388 746436  
Hair Salon

## Greater Willington Town Council

67 High Street  
DL15 0PF  
01388 417725  
Parish Council

## Willington Dental Centre

60 High Street  
DL15 0PF  
01388 745499  
Dental Clinic

## New Shanghai

56 High Street  
DL15 0PF  
01388 748777  
Chinese Takeaway

## The Bait Room

54 High Street  
DL15 0PF  
07379467524  
Café and Takeaway

## Burnhams Greengrocers

53 High Street  
DL15 0PF  
01388 747920  
Fruit & Veg  
Household & Pet Supplies

## Queens Head

52 High Street  
DL15 0PF  
01388 745360  
Public House

## Pizza Time

50-51 High Street  
DL15 0PF  
01388 747666  
Take Away

## Willington Cards

48 High Street  
DL15 0PF  
01388 748512  
Card Shop

## William Hill

47 High Street  
DL15 0PF  
087051817715  
Betting Shop

## Britton and Robson Chemist

46 High Street  
DL15 0PG  
01388 746269  
Chemist

## Willington Library

46a High Street  
DL15 0PG  
03000 269532  
Library Services and Computer access

## Nursery Time

115 Commercial Street  
DL15 0AA  
01388 747043  
Day Nursery

## Hardys Funeral Services

116 Commercial Street  
DL15 0AA  
01388 747747  
Funeral Services

## Little China

8 Bridge End  
DL15 0PN  
01388 746318  
Chinese Takeaway

## The Commercial

115 Commercial Street  
DL15 0AA  
Public House

## Pizza Narenos

113 Commercial Street  
DL15 0AA  
01388 746746  
Takeaway

## Great North Eats

110 Commercial Street  
DL15 0AA  
Takeaway

## My Dentist

109 Commercial Street  
DL15 0AA  
01388 746146  
Dental Services

## Top Wock

107 Commercial Street  
DL15 0AA  
01388 748943  
Chinese Takeaway

## Premier

105-106 Commercial Street  
DL15 0AA  
01388 745460  
General Dealer

## Nailed it by Neelie

103/104 Commercial Street  
DL15 0AA  
Nail Salon

## Rose of India

97 Commercial Street  
Willington  
DL15 0AA  
01388748003  
Tandoori & Balti Take  
Away Halal

## Willington Working Mens Club

1A Hall Lane Estate  
DL15 0QG  
01388 746757  
Members Club

## Maan Brothers

89 Commercial Street  
DL15 0AA  
01388 746 437  
Off Licence

## The Black Horse

42 Low Willington  
DL15 0BD  
01388 746340  
Public House

## Go Local

Willington Stores  
Community Convenience  
23 Commercial Street  
DL15 0AD  
01388 7463920  
Newspapers, Magazines,  
Retail

## Cottles

30 Commercial Street  
DL15 0AD  
07812632960  
Public House

## Vanity Hair & Make Up

27 Commercial Street  
DL15 0AD  
01388 748153  
Hairdressing and Make up services

## Golden Fish Inn

6 Commercial Street  
DL15 0AD  
01388 745666  
Fish & Chip Shop

## William Waltons Butchers

5 Commercial Street  
DL15 0AD  
01388 746214  
Traditional Butcher  
Freshly made sandwiches  
Cakes, pies, jams and pickles.

## The Kebab House

4 Commercial Street  
DL15 0AD  
01388 746777  
Italian, Pizza, Halal

## Newfitt Brewery Services

3 Commercial Street  
DL15 0AD  
01388 745598  
Brewery Equipment  
Installation, Temporary  
Mobile Bars.

## The Cooperative Store

1 Commercial Street  
DL15 0AD  
01388 747859  
Supermarket Chain

## The Cutting Company

16 Albion Place  
DL15 0EH  
01388 746816  
Hair Salon  
Ladies and Gents

## Hair 2000

13 Albion Place  
DL15 0EH  
01388 746387  
Hair Salon

## Aesthetica Skin

11 Albion Place  
DL15 0EH  
07944371289  
Beauty, Cosmetic &  
PersonalCare

## Adams Pizzeria

10 Albion Place  
DL15 0EZ  
01388 747766  
Pizza Takeaway

## North East Kitchen Solutions

45 High Street  
Willington  
DL15 0PF  
01388 65500  
Kitchen Installation

## QVS Window Systems Ltd

45 High Street  
DL15 0PF  
01388 747722  
Double Glazing  
Windows & Conservatories

## Bags-O-Craft

17 High Street  
DL15 0PD  
07542 705754  
Balloons & Party Supplies,  
Event Decoration Services,  
Bespoke Sashes, Chair  
Covers, Tee Shirt Printing,  
Cards & Gifts

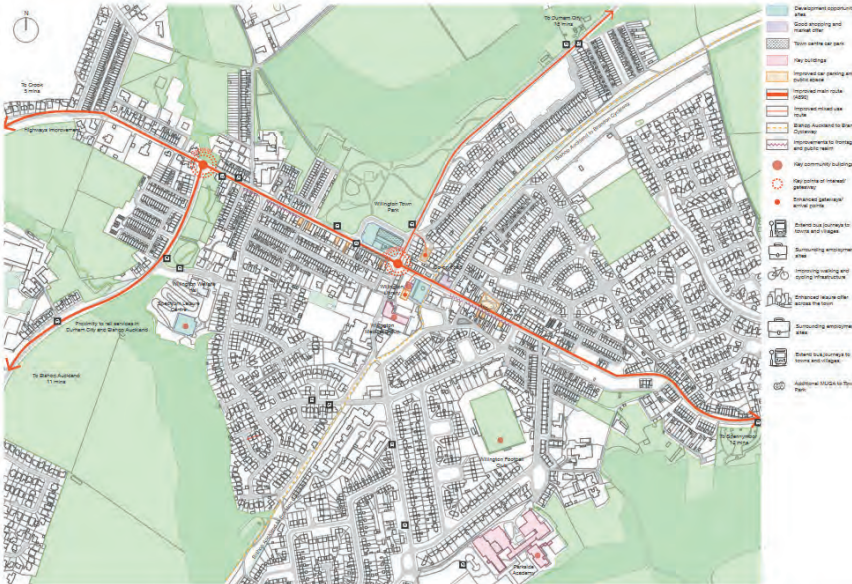
## The Burn Pub & Kitchen

West End Terrace  
DL15 0HW  
01388 327368  
Public House with food

## Land Use Centre of Willington



## Opportunities Willington

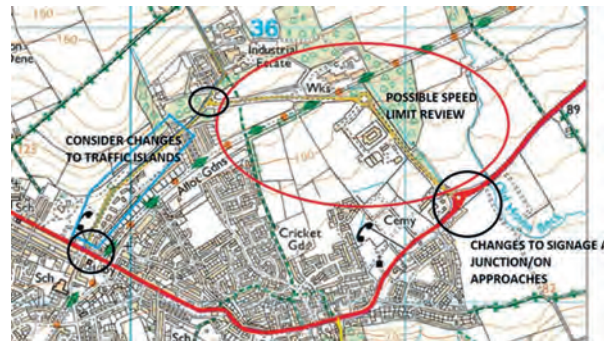


# WILLINGTON MASTERPLAN UPDATE

Back in April we promised that we would work with the community to help prepare a Masterplan to shape the regeneration of Willington, with a major focus on the Main Street, which we all know needs significant investment.

Over the past few months Durham County Council Officers have been undertaking surveys and are working up a number of options for the town which we are delighted will go out for public consultation before Christmas. There will be a major public consultation event at the Open Door Church in Willington where residents will be able to engage and give their views to help shape the Masterplan. We want to hear from everyone who cares about their town. More details will follow on this so keep an eye on local press, noticeboards and our social media - [www.facebook.com/olwynandfraser](http://www.facebook.com/olwynandfraser)

Having a plan is one thing, but making it happen is another. To make sure this happens we are working hard on a £20m government Levelling Up Fund bid which will cover Willington, Crook and Tow Law but will have a particular focus on regeneration in Willington and we are seeking at least £10m for our town. This is enough to make a real difference where we need it so much.



## WILLINGTON & OAKENSHAW – A Real Northern Heartland



Everybody remembers when Man Engine came to town in 2018. It was a fabulous day made possible working closely with Northern Heartlands 'Great Place Scheme.'

We are delighted that over the next three years we will be again working with Northern Heartland to deliver a major arts and culture project in the Willington area across the whole community. This could not have happened at a better time as we

want the regeneration of Willington to be about more than just bricks and mortar which be the focus of the Masterplan. These two projects complement each other perfectly. We want the project to look to the future as well as the past and there will be a major focus on our schools and young people as part of this. More details will follow so keep an eye on local press, noticeboards and our social media - [www.facebook.com/olwynandfraser](http://www.facebook.com/olwynandfraser)

## CONTACTING OLWYN AND FRASER

The best way to contact us is email or telephone and we will try to get back to you as soon as possible.

We deal with a huge range of issues for residents and help solve their problems and try to improve our area for everybody.

We cannot respond to every comment or message on social media. Please understand this and call or email us in the first instance.

