

# Community Newsletter

Issue 16



## 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. Ken has a ceremonial role at Civic functions. He is an avid supporter of CCTV cameras and supported the introduction of the town's defibrillators.

### Councillor Angela Smith, Deputy Town Mayor

Councillor Smith lives in Willington. She is driven to champion community solutions to community problems. Angela chairs the Town Council meetings.

She is a School Governor and a now retired Teaching Assistant. She spends her some of her time working with young people who want to achieve Outward Bound Awards.

### 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 activities that help tackle crime. She also organises the Dovedale Bingo Group.

### Councillor Emma Jordan

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

### Councillor Fraser Tinsley

Councillor Tinsley has previously been Town Mayor for eight years. His background is in town planning. As a Durham County Councillor, he aims to attract investment into the parish and ward.

### Councillor Pauline Savage

Councillor Savage has lived in Willington all her life. She is retired after working in social housing for forty years and now enjoys looking after her grandson William.

She chairs the Environmental Group and is committed to improving the natural environment. Pauline is keen to continue the bulb and tree planting around the town with members of our community this year.

Pauline has an allotment with her father and enjoys spending time outdoors. She is an avid gardener with experience from judging the In Bloom competitions.

She is also part of the Willington litter picking group - you may see her walking around the town with her dog Oscar, litter picking as they go.

### Councillor Dorothy Hales

Councillor Hales has lived in Willington for 30 years. Councillor Hales has responsibility for management issues.

She is a retired Primary School Head teacher who has spent almost 40 years working in schools in and around County Durham. Dot is passionate about giving young people a voice and involving them in decision making with matters relevant to them.

In her spare time she is involved with Girlguiding. She is a Rainbow and Brownie Guide leader as well as being a Division Commissioner with responsibility for 17 units.

Dot also volunteers at St Cuthberts Hospice and enjoys spending time on the allotment which she shares with her husband.

### Councillor Stephen Jackson

Councillor Jackson is a lifelong resident of Willington who attended Willington Primary School and Parkside Comprehensive. He is a self employed Painter and Decorator.

Sammy has undertaken many community roles.

He was Church of England Primary School Governor for 4 years and led the weekly after school cross country running programme.

He coached football at Willington Spectrum Leisure Centre each week as a volunteer

for nine years. He has been involved with Willington Youth Football for 22 years, during this time he coached both boys and girls football and was also Chairman.

Stephen coached Junior cricket at Willington Cricket Club and was also Chairman.

His aim as a Town Councillor is to improve the town and be approachable to residents with concerns they may have.

### Councillor Ursula McArdle

Councillor McArdle arrived in the North East with her young family 44 years ago. Her youngest son was born here.

As a qualified teacher she was a stay-at-home Mum, developing home making skills with enthusiasm.

She became a teacher in 1986 and as a lifelong learner studied hard to be ready for different assignments. This led from Diplomas in languages via IT, Psychology and Mathematics to Diplomas in 'Adult Numeracy' and ESOL. She has also benefitted from past FE provision in the region.

Having settled in Sunnybrow over eleven years ago Ursula feels that becoming a Town Councillor last year was a great honour.

She tries to keep people updated about local events. She joined Neighbourhood Watch to better serve the community and attends Pact meetings when possible. She is a Labour Party member.

## MESSAGE FROM THE TOWN COUNCIL

Hello and Happy New Year to you all. I hope you had a peaceful and enjoyable Christmas.

As we enter 2023 with new resolutions and enthusiasm it is only natural to look back at how far we have come both as a Country and a Community.

The Covid Pandemic brought out the worst in few people and the best in the majority. I am proud of how Greater Willington pulled together to support the most vulnerable in our parish and the increased sense of neighbourliness as neighbours looked out for each other. So thank you for your contribution, no matter how small.

It is this community cohesion that produces change and creates strong communities. It is only by standing side by side and supporting each other without self interest that we can achieve.

During this time of uncertainty and financial instability. This newsletter intends to highlight the level of activity and successes we have enjoyed together as we plan for many more.

We are always looking for new ideas and volunteers to work with us. If this is something you would like to do, call in for a chat and we will try and match you with something that meets your skills and interests.

Best Regards  
Helen Cogdon  
Town Clerk



67 High Street, Willington, Co Durham. DL15 0PF  
t: 01388 417725 e: helen@gwtc.co.uk w: www.gwtc.co.uk

The Joint Benefice of Hunwick and Willington  
St Stephen's Parish Church, Willington

A SPECIAL COMMEMORATION SERVICE  
MARKING THE DEATH OF HER LATE MAJESTY  
QUEEN ELIZABETH II

SUNDAY 18<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2022  
(The evening before the State Funeral)  
At 6.00pm

Conducted by

Fr David Spokes  
Vicar

and

Fr Graham Copley  
Assistant Curate

with

Mr Stephen Gardiner  
Organist

## Commemorative Church Service Sunday 18th September 2022

The Mayor, Councillor Ken Henfrey attended the Special Community Commemorative Service marking the death of her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II at St. Stephen's Parish Church in Willington on Sunday 18th of September 2022, the evening before the State Funeral. He was accompanied by fellow Councillors Dorothy Hales and Charles Hales.

The service was conducted by Fr David Spokes Vicar of Hunwick and Willington and Fr Graham Copley Assistant Curate. Jesus said, I am the resurrection and the life: he who believeth in me, though he die yet shall he live and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die. (John 11.25,26)

The service was a profound celebration of the life and service of the Queen which concluded with the commendation: Into your hands we commend your servant, our late Sovereign Lady Queen Elizabeth. Enlighten her with your holy grace and suffer her never to be separated from you. O, Lord in Trinity, God everlasting.

The Church was very well attended and the congregation sang: The Lord's my shepherd. Abide with me and God our help in ages past, in conclusion, the National Anthem; God save our gracious King.

The Mayor remained along with Fr David Spokes and Fr Graham Copley to thank the congregation.

Dorothy and Charles Hales on behalf of the Mayor Councillor Ken Henfrey and GWTC wish to thank St. Stephen's Church congregation for their hospitality in welcoming us.



# Grow your family through adoption

**There are over 2,000 children in need of a loving, permanent home through adoption in England. Adopt Coast to Coast, the Regional Adoption Agency for Durham County Council, Cumbria County Council and Together for Children (Sunderland) is calling for more people to consider adoption as a way to start or grow their families.**

As well as finding homes for babies and children from across the North-East and North-West of England, in its latest campaign Adopt Coast to Coast is looking for adopters for children who tend to wait longer for their forever home. This includes children over 4 years old, groups of brothers and sisters, children with learning difficulties, health complications or disabilities, and children from an ethnic minority.

Adopt Coast to Coast is encouraging would-be adopters to be open to the needs of the children they could be potentially matched with and to consider the many benefits of adopting a child with additional support needs.

Paula Gibbons, Head of Service for Adopt Coast to Coast said: "Adoption has changed significantly in recent years, and we are keen to reassure people that we are very open to applicants from all backgrounds. Even if you're in the early stages of thinking about adoption we would encourage you come and talk with us to find out more. People starting the application now could be matched with a child or children within just 6-12 months."

Adopt Coast to Coast encourages applications from all walks of life, including single people and couples, applicants from the LGBTQ+ community, those with biological children. The team also offers support and guidance throughout the application process as well as on an ongoing basis for both parents and children once a new family is formed; meaning help is always available should you need it.

Adopters Debbie and Allan adopted a little girl when she was four years old, they said: "Our daughter has now been with us for over 6 years. She is an absolutely wonderful grown-up girl now. She is courageous, resilient, beautiful and has the biggest and kindest heart you could ever hope for. She has been through a lot in her life but with consistent love, structure, and support, she is thriving. Without doubt, it has been the hardest thing we have done but the rewards outstrip that 10 times over. So much so, we did it all again a few years later! Our advice is to be open to older children, they are full of love, potential and hope. You just need to unlock it."

Families come in many different forms and Adopt Coast to Coast is keen to reassure the public that there is not a set tick-list of qualities they are looking for – in fact the only rules are that prospective adopters must be over 21 and have lived in the UK for a year. There is no upper age limit, or stipulations relating to employment, income, house ownership or sexual orientation. However, some criminal convictions such as violence against children would make applicants exempt.

### Find out more

Adopt Coast to Coast hosts two online information events every month – to book a space or to find out more about adoption go to [www.adoptcoasttocoast.org.uk](http://www.adoptcoasttocoast.org.uk) or call 03000 268 268.



**adopt**  
Coast to Coast

# Allotment surplus produce: for family, friends and local food banks during autumn and winter



**Whilst most surplus food is produced in the summer. It is important to consider growing, the harvesting and continual provision of fresh food throughout autumn and winter.**

Just choose the right plants to grow which are hardy and will be largely free of seasonal pests and the need for watering. The allotment remains productive rather than put to bed for the winter.

Allotment gardening should be a continual opportunity to grow

crops which feed the family and community. Even if there are no greenhouses winter crops include many of the brassica family: Savoy, pointed, red cabbage, sprouts (green and red) early broccoli and the many kale variants. Many are specially bred for growing through the winter months. Similarly; celery, celeriac, leeks and root crops such as parsnips, swedes (sorry Turnips) and Jerusalem artichokes will all over winter and provide a rich source of vitamins well into Spring. The National Allotment Association offers good supporting advice.

## “No Dig” approach

**Late Winter Early Spring are the months to begin the no dig approach.**

Establish beds which are not dug in the traditional way but are built up in layers of home-produced compost into which seeds and plants are sown and planted, sustainable and economical, requiring no artificial fertilizers. Raised beds are an excellent means to approach a no dig regime, just an inch or two annually of home-produced compost or organic matter to enrich the soil and provide the nutrients

needed whilst avoiding the back braking need to single and double dig.

You can produce extra food which community food banks will appreciate at a time of the year when fresh food is not as plentiful. No dig is an excellent way to encourage younger children to become involved in growing produce. There are no dig web sites which help to inform and encourage round the year gardening and adopting the no dig approach as a viable alternative.



## Avian Influenza Prevention Zone

**Following a change in the risk levels and an increase in the number of detections of avian influenza (bird flu) in kept and wild birds, the Chief Veterinary Officers from England, Scotland and Wales have declared an Avian Influenza Prevention Zone (AIPZ) across Great Britain to mitigate the risk of the disease spreading amongst poultry and captive birds.**

This means that from midday on Monday 17 October 2022, it will be a legal requirement for all bird keepers in Great Britain to follow strict biosecurity measures to help protect their flocks from the threat of avian flu.

Allotment tenants must take every precaution to avoid direct or indirect transfer of the virus and contamination of the Allotment Site.

**Please ensure effective cleaning and disinfecting of clothing, equipment, footwear and vehicles.**

## Citizens Advice

For residents of Willington, Tow Law and Crook.

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

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

G.W.T.C provide this service from the Town Council office on Tuesday between 10am – 1 pm

## Awards

- Leek Club Show Sponsorship £369.00
- W AFC Fireworks Sponsorship £300.00
- Community Fund – GWEIG £500.00
- North East Brass Band Championship – Civic Fund £50.00
- Durham Hospital Radio – Civic Fund £50.00



## Allotmenteer Awards

Following another successful growing season. This years Allotment Winners were.

### OAKENSHAW

**First Prize** – Mr & Mrs D Berry

**Highly Commended** - Mr & Mrs R Kitching, Mr M Ajdary & Mr J Zand, Mrs J Montgomerie & Mr S Allwright

**Best New Plot** – Mr S Wilks

### PARK TOP

**First Prize** – Mr J Beard

**Highly Commended** – Mr J Fleming

### SPRINGFIELD

**First Prize** – Mr B Cooper & Mr L Cooper

**Highly Commended** – Mr B Smith & Mr A Smith, Mr D Hagar

**Best New Plot** – Mrs J Inglis

Allotmentees were presented with their awards by Councillor Henfrey, Hales and Berry.

**Many Congratulations to everyone for a tremendous effort. Much appreciated.**

# Photo Journal

- 1 Advertising for two new Co opted Town Councillors. January 2022.
2. Northumberland Country Zoo Away Day. April 2022.
3. Glass Making workshops to recognise the Queens reign. May 2022.
4. Flag Raising Ceremony. Queen Platinum Jubilee. June 2022
5. Jubilee Picnic In The Park and Family Funday. June 2022.
6. Jubilee Beacon Lighting. June 2022.
7. The Mini Brass Bash. July 2022.
8. Stockeld Park Away Day. July 2022.
9. Ceremonial Mayor attends Willington Care Village and judges dog competition. August 2022.
10. Scarborough Away Day. August 2022.
11. Ceremonial Mayor, County Councillor Gunn and Councillor Smith attend to open the new Willington Spa with Dominic Hall and Fiona Drummond from James Hall and Co Ltd.
12. Flags lowered in commemoration of Queen Elizabeth 11. September 2022.
13. Northumbria In Bloom Awards. September 2022
14. Fun and Food Pumkin Carving and activities. October 2022
15. Halloween Magic Show & Disco with Willington WMC. October 2022.
16. George Burdon McKean V.C Commemoration. October 2022
17. Remembrance Day Service. November 2022.
18. Cinderella Pantomime and Santas Grotto. November 2022
19. Civic Carol Service and Christmas Lights Illuminations December 2022.
20. Warm Spaces Award. January 2023.



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# Snowdrop and Bluebell Path

Pupils from Sunnybrow Primary School joined the Town Council to plant a Snowdrop and Bluebell Drift Path.

The location chosen was along the Railway Line between Moorland Close and The South Dene. As well as making this well used area a more attractive place to walk, run and cycle, the aim of the scheme was also to deter fly tipping down the steep and dangerous bankside. The Town Council has now fenced the worst of this area.

The children are looking forward to seeing their bulb display this spring. Please encourage your family to look after the planting as it establishes.



## HOME & AWAY



**This project was 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 included;

- **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.
- **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 have created a unity as people started socialising again.
- **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.

Four Away Days were organised to the following venues;  
Northumberland Country Zoo  
Stockeld Park  
Scarborough  
Metro Centre

- **Holding a Pantomime.** This allowed 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 included a visit to Santa in his newly made grotto where children received a Christmas gift.
- **Erecting a Fence.** Improved Heritage Woodland which is used as family recreation space. We hope this deters fly tipping and improves public safety over a severe drop on the bankside.
- **Providing Hanging Baskets to local businesses.** This part will start in the Spring / Summer 2023. It will 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.



# Greater Willington wins a Northumbria In Bloom "Its Your Neighbourhood Award"

Following a successful application for a tree grant Greater Willington was entered into the Its Your Neighbourhood Competition.

The Northumbria In Bloom Judge came out to look at the improvements that had been made around the Town Green and talk about future plans.

The award was given based on planting of more Silver Birch and Wildflower areas, the Covid Crocus Rainbow, creation of two new Lavender and Herb beds and a Winter flame bed.

Wider work across the parish was also considered including the village planters, bulb planting, work with schools and volunteers.

Based on this work the Town Council has been asked if they would like to enter the main Northumbria in Bloom Competition this year. Which is quite a privilege.

So if you would like to help maintain the look of the area. We are always looking for people to water and feed planters and baskets. Get involved in new planting and woodland schemes and look for new areas that are viable to improve. We would love to meet you.



## Our Lady and St Thomas School Council

**The School Council contacted the Town Council to ask if they could visit. We agreed to have an afternoon together.**

The two School Councillors per year group met with Councillor Smith, Councillors Dot and Charles Hales, Councillor Savage and Helen Cogdon, Town Clerk. They are a lively and enthusiastic group who asked lots of questions.

We learnt how they as a Council look after and help other pupils and suggest ideas and activities that can be introduced at School.

The Meeting was held at the big table in the Town Council Office and followed by a bulb planting mission at the front of the small Town Green. As you can see their bulb planting was amazing.

Thank you to Mrs Hauxwell for bring the children we thoroughly enjoyed the time we spent together.



## Willington Winter Nights

**Durham Constabulary Officers have joined forces with the local neighbourhood watch to spread the work about winter crime.**

Houses, outhouses, businesses and vehicles can often be more vulnerable to crime and interference during the darker months. To help see a downward trend in this type of crime Crook Neighbourhood Policing Team have enlisted the help of neighbourhood watch volunteers to deliver crime prevention leaflets around the Willington area.

The leaflets act as a reminder for residents to keep their doors, windows, vehicles and outhouses secure whilst also outlining some useful and reasonably priced equipment to take security even further. These include TV simulators, padlocks, property markings and LED security lights.

They're also full of simple but effective tips to ensure your property is difficult for thieves to target including leaving the radio on when the house is empty, moving bins and garden furniture so they can't be used as climbing aids, never leaving spare keys in obvious places and even signing up to messaging system 'Keep in the Know' or following your local Neighbourhood Policing Team on Facebook to keep up to date with what's happening in your area.

# Halloween Magic Show and Fancy Dress

Once again the Town Council joined forces with Willington WMC to provide the annual Halloween Magic Show with Flash and his fun and spooky games.

Young and oldies joined in with creepy costumes and a terrifying night was had by all.

Thank you to everyone who helped make the event special.



## Fun and Food

A tasty Halloween Pumpkin Carving and Activity session was held in the Town Council Office.

Children were very creative making their pumpkin lanterns and the adults enjoyed it as well.

Everyone could have their face painted to scare us all.

A lunch pack was provided.

Families were given fruit and instructions to take home and make frightening fruit figures and all children left with a gift bag.

We look forward to running more activity sessions.







# Warm space

## Warm Spaces Charter

Our Warm Spaces offer everyone a warm welcome.

### Everyone is treated equally

Everyone has the right to be warm. Everyone in a Warm Space will be treated with dignity and respect.

### We are free to use

No one will pay to enter our Warm Space. There will be no charge for any activities or refreshments provided as part of the Warm Spaces offer.

### Helping to keep people safe

Safeguarding policies will always be followed. Where refreshments are offered, food hygiene rules are followed too. Each venue will follow the latest public health guidance around Covid 19, flu and other illnesses. Venues will follow their own age restrictions as appropriate and clearly display them on Locate and within the venue.

### Maintaining confidentiality

If people want to share why they need a Warm Space, they will be listened to and signposted to where they can go for help where possible. Staff and volunteers won't tell anyone else unless they are given permission or it is because of safeguarding.

### We are here to help

Someone will be present throughout a visit to a Warm Space should they be needed. If people need additional help or support with the cost of living, staff and volunteers will put them in touch with organisations that might be able to help.

## Meet Every Tuesday 10am - 2pm

### at Greater Willington Town Council Office

67 High Street, Willington, Crook, Co. Durham, DL15 0PF

### We are now a Warm Space where we will have a drop in facility.

Every Tuesday, we will offer the following free;

- A warm, calm space
- A Friendly welcome
- Tea, Coffee and refreshments
- Activities such as crafts, crosswords, Sudoku, jigsaws and more
- Conversation, general advice and signposting if necessary
- Television to watch, books to read but feel free to bring a book of your own





## Little Stars Early Years is a small, friendly and welcoming nursery based within Willington Family Centre.

We offer places to children aged 2-4 years from 9am to 3pm during term time. We offer a wide range of activities within our purpose built environment and secure outdoor area.

Children play and learn alongside a small team of adults who are all fully qualified and with a vast amount of experience.



We aim to offer a safe, warm and happy environment where children are happy and able to thrive. We put learning at the heart of everything we do, creating positive first steps and attitudes towards learning and support children in becoming independent learners. We understand that all children are unique and learn in different ways and treat every child with the respect and care that they need.

In working to achieve all of these things we embrace the child as a whole incorporating their lives outside of nursery as much as we can including and supporting families at every opportunity but most of all we have lots of fun!

We were delighted to gain a grading of Good in our last OFSTED inspection.

*"Children enter the setting with smiles on their faces. They are clearly happy and enjoy their time at the nursery. Children have fun playing together and with staff, and feel safe and secure."*

*"Staff use their knowledge of children's interests and development to shape a curriculum that is exciting and extends their learning. Activities are linked closely to children's development."*

(OFSTED February 2022)

We have spaces available for January and our waiting list is open for later in the year for paid and funded places. To find out more please either pop in and see us or contact us.

Telephone: 07582981770 Email: [hello@littlestarsearlyyear.co.uk](mailto:hello@littlestarsearlyyear.co.uk)

[www.littlestarsearlyyears.co.uk](http://www.littlestarsearlyyears.co.uk) or find us on Facebook @littlestarsearlyyears

## WALKING ENGLAND

### Time to get Walking again!

With Spring on its way we start to think about getting out to walk in the beautiful English Countryside again, but where to find new and interesting walks?

Walking Durham has loads of walks to download and print, free, it also has books of walks, details of all waling groups in the county and more. Whether you want to walk on your own or with a group all the information is there in one place.

John Harris (who maintains the website) said, "There is so much walking information on the web but it is difficult to find. Walking in Durham (part of the Walking in England website) has brought it together in one place so whether you are walking from home, or away on holiday, you will be able to find a walk suitable for you."

With walks from half a mile to twelve miles plus long, and anote of suitability for pushchairs and wheelchairs, everyone can find a walk to enjoy.

**So home or away, check out the websites and get walking!**

**John Harris**

[www.walkingengland.co.uk](http://www.walkingengland.co.uk) [john@walkingengland.co.uk](mailto:john@walkingengland.co.uk)



## Eatwise

Are you ready to make positive changes to your lifestyle, making healthier choices while enjoying a balanced diet?



Come and join our group - delivered by trained Wellbeing Practitioners - for 8 weeks of FREE advice and support, to find out how making small changes can improve your health and wellbeing.

Venue: Willington Health Centre

Date: Begins Tuesday 24rd January for 8 weeks

Time: 10:00am-11:30am

BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL



book contact: Bethany 0777 572 3234 or [bethany.welsh1@nhs.net](mailto:bethany.welsh1@nhs.net)

**NEED HELP  
GETTING TO  
WORK OR  
EDUCATION?**



Wheels2Work can get you there



[www.w2wcd.org.uk](http://www.w2wcd.org.uk)



## 24/7 response at the press of a button

We provide a monitoring and response service to people's homes 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, 7 days a week with a 24-hour Control Centre and simple personal alarms.

### What can our personal alarms do for you?

- Help on hand out of hours
- Maintains freedom and independence
- 24/7 support and reassurance
- Peace of mind for all



For further information:

- [www.durham.gov.uk/careconnect](http://www.durham.gov.uk/careconnect)
- 03000 262 195
- [care.connect@durham.gov.uk](mailto:care.connect@durham.gov.uk)



You can also find us on [facebook.com/CareConnectDCC](https://facebook.com/CareConnectDCC)



## Willington

Advice available here  
Tuesday 10am-1pm:

Drop in, no appointment necessary

Adviseline: 0800 278 7821 Monday - Friday 10am until 4pm  
Debt advice: 0300 323 2000 Monday - Friday 9am until 1pm

Self-help advice and finding us: [www.citizensadvice.org.uk](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk)

Other Citizens Advice venues nearby:

- Bishop Auckland, Four Clocks Centre, 154a Newgate St - Tuesday and Thursday 9.30am-11.30am
- Spennymoor, 71 High St - Wednesday and Thursday 10am - 1pm

citizens advice County Durham

**WALKING CRICKET**  
CONTINUE PLAYING  
**IN WILLINGTON**  
WEEKLY INDOOR SESSION: FREE

SPECTRUM LEISURE CENTRE  
WILLINGTON, DL15 6JA

EVERY FRIDAY, 1.00pm - 3.00pm

**SIGN UP**  
To sign up scan the QR code, email Jack Warren on [jack.warren@durhamcricket.co.uk](mailto:jack.warren@durhamcricket.co.uk) or call 0191 387 2868.

**ACTION AND ADVENTURE  
JOIN THE ARMY CADETS**

**Willington (Chavasse) Detachment**

Are you aged between 12 & 17?  
Are you looking for a new Challenge?  
Make new friends!  
Develop new skills!  
Willington Detachments are recruiting NOW!  
Come and give us a hand.

The Squad HQ:  
Horsington Rise  
Willington, Co. Durham  
Tel: 0191 389 2192  
Email: [ne-dur-ao@rfca.org.uk](mailto:ne-dur-ao@rfca.org.uk)

## WILLINGTON & HUNWICK Sunnybrow, Oakenshaw & Brancepeth



Your Local Team Delivering in Our Community

## WILLINGTON MASTERPLAN UPDATE



Before the local last election 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. We delivered and Durham County Council Officers worked residents who engaged and give their views to help shape the Masterplan which was adopted in the summer. Thank you to everybody who got involved.

Having a Masterplan is one thing, but making it happen is another. We worked with Durham County Council to lodge a £12m government Levelling Up Fund bid which will cover Willington, Crook and Tow Law and will have a particular focus on regeneration in Willington. We are due to hear if this bid has been successful in November. Fingers crossed. If it is good news, we are looking forward to working together with the community to drive the regeneration Willington needs.

### FORMER MINERS WELFARE

The fire back in April was a sad end to the Miners Welfare. Many of us have fond memories of our time there over the years.

Following the fire, over the summer the Council worked with the site owners WSS Ltd who took ownership from Spectrum some time ago. First this was about securing the site then finding a way forward. Demolition was the only option and the delay starting work was due to the owner's insurers needing to get involved.

The site is now cleared. At time of writing there are no proposals to develop the site. We will update residents if this changes.

### NEW SPAR STORE LOW WILLINGTON

Having been involved at the beginning of the process to bring the Spar shop and petrol station to Willington we are delighted to see it established as a positive amenity for residents.

Our approaches to Spar Willington have also resulted in the shop becoming a centre for Willington Foodbank contributions along with their own contributions of food and support.

As we had been looking for some time to increase the number of defibrillators in the Town and particularly in Low Willington we also approached Spar about having a defibrillator at their store.

Not only did they agree but they also offered to fund it and they are currently working with GWTC to purchase and site the box.



Thank you Spar. We are also hoping to gain permission for a further site so that we can use our Neighbourhood Budgets to provide another defibrillator in Willington.



### 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.