

# Parish Council News

## Witton Gilbert Neighbourhood Planning Planning Consultation Event

Approximately 100 people visited the first consultation session at Cooper Hall on the 21st February to show progress so far in producing the plan which will go towards shaping the future of our village. The reaction was generally favourable particularly with regard to the Village Centre suggestion, and 36 people voiced their support and a further 14 left written support.

Housing proved to be a controversial subject with some opposition in general, and to particular sites. There was also support for some selective development. 29 written comments were left with a mix of support and opposition.

In all 65 written comments were given to us and all are much appreciated. Comments received are being recorded and all will be taken into consideration as the plan progresses.

This was the first public consultation event and thank you to everyone who came and participated. Further events will be held to look at subject such as transport, environment and heritage, and everyone is welcome to come and give their views. We



need input from residents to produce a balanced plan which will safeguard our important green spaces, plan to curb speculative development and secure the future of the village.

**Community involvement is the key to success for the Neighbourhood Plan so please get in touch with any views or comments you may have. The Neighbourhood Plan Group members are all residents of Witton Gilbert and we are working hard to ensure everyone has the chance to contribute to the future of our village.**

**Look out for further event notifications.**

Should anyone have any queries, comments or wish to assist the Group please contact Parish Council at [wittongilbertparishcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:wittongilbertparishcouncil@gmail.com) or contact George Thompson on 01913711808.



## '10 Years On And Still Going Strong'

It is now 10 years since the Parish Council first launched the Parish Newsletter. The feed back from residents has been both positive and encouraging particularly from people who are unable to get out and about in the village as much as they used to. Many thanks to all of those groups and individuals who bring forward the news and stories and to Brenda Gilmore for putting it all together.

# Flood Defence Works Under Way

We are pleased to report that the flood defence work behind the White Tun between Brookside and Durham Gardens is well under way.

The scheme which will take 6 months to complete is costing in the region of £600,000. The stream runs under the road and is piped under Burnside and comes out in Witton Dene as it makes its way down to the River Browney.

Before the White Tun was built there was often a pond in the car-park area as it is a natural low point. Hopefully the completed works will solve the problem for good and we will have no repeat of the floods of June 2012.



## Moving a Thing?

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## Sacrison Surgery

**Electronic prescribing** – Order your medication the same as you always do – the difference is, if you nominate a Pharmacy to dispense your medication, we can send your prescription electronically to that pharmacy so cutting out having to print out your prescription. You then call at the pharmacy you have chosen to pick up your medication.

**On Line** – did you know you can order your prescription, book an appointment with a doctor and now see any immunisation or allergies you may have had on line. Please see the receptionist for your password.

**Friends and Family** – we have a red computer in the waiting area, please use it to let us know if you would recommend our practice to your friends and family.

## Witton Gilbert Playgroup

....Your child's start to independence can begin when you enrol he/she with the Playgroup in Cooper Hall where they can Play... Learn...and Grow Together! The group offers a wide range of fun activities and learning opportunities in a happy and safe environment, helping your child to prepare for the next step into Nursery. Sessions run every weekday morning from 9.15am – 11.15am. Playgroup is registered with Durham County Council and staff hold Level 3 Childcare qualifications and First Aid Certification.

The group wish to thank the CHAD charity (Children's Hopes and Dreams) for the kind donation of £500.

To request a place for your 2 year old or register your younger child to our waiting list.....**phone**

**JOANNE** on  
**01913719668** or  
**07825 255 532**



**Do you want to 'get fit' for summer?  
...well come along to Witton Gilbert  
Community Centre!!!**

**MONDAY - Pilates with Liz - 10am – 11am**

**Ladies Indoor Bowls with**

**Margaret – 1pm – 3pm**

**Tai Chi with Sandra - 1.30pm - 2.30pm**

**Martial Arts (kick boxing)**

**with Alan - 6.30 - 7.30pm**

**TUESDAY - Walking Group**

**with Dave...meet at Hall 10am**

**WEDNESDAY - Zumba with Lottie -**

**5.45pm – 6.45pm**

**FRIDAY - Dancing with**

**Karen/Michelle/Kristy from 8.30pm**

**SUNDAY - Zumba with Lottie**

**-10.30 –11.30am and 5 -6pm**

For further information on these or any other activities in the Community Centre ring  
**Arnold Simpson on 01913712161**

## Breathing Space Gets Active

How great is this? Seated exercise and Tai Chi session for only £2. As the new Project Officer for Breathing Space I went along to see how the group were doing...and I got hooked! A couple of years ago I had a car crash followed by a couple of falls and found it difficult to get back into gym resulting in becoming very unfit. I have been attending the sessions for four months now and I have found an improvement in my mobility and stamina, as well as it being good fun too! I really recommend this activity to anyone who wants to get back into gentle physical exercise, at whatever age. Come along and see for yourself.

**GET ACTIVE AGAIN – Wednesdays 2pm – 3.15pm in Witton Gilbert Methodist Chapel - £2.**



Gillie Boggon

### The Big Spring Clean (picture of litter pickers here)

For five years Witton Gilbert has been part of the network of towns and villages in County Durham having a Spring Litter-drive. We are almost unique in having litterpicks on three separate days: in Witton Gilbert we do not have enough volunteers to be able to split into several groups as they do in other places. But we do aim to be thorough! This year the Sacriston Lane litterpick was supervised by Durham County Council staff. To avoid hazards to volunteers, the two members of staff scoured the route in advanced, to remove broken glass and other nasties. In the Dene the challenge is to clear the streambed of debris after the spring flooding. With energetic help from Breathing Space, and residents at The Fells Plawsworth, this was achieved. The third site is Nor Lane – to be done on the day this Newsletter goes to press. Grateful thanks to the loyal volunteers, and to our new councillor Maria Waller, for unstinting support  
Penny Minney



## Witton Gilbert Bowling Club



With the Bowling Season starting at the end of April Witton Gilbert members are relieved to learn that our green has had a reprieve from Durham County Council's cut-backs for a further year. The offer of financial support from Witton Gilbert Parish Council for a further 3 years will still be honoured. The plan then will be to make the green more available for members of the public.

The Bowling Club invites new members, so if you would like to have a go the green will be open mid-April on Mondays and Thursdays at 1pm for practice. IF YOU DON'T POSSESS BOWLS, AND DON'T WANT TO PURCHASE IN CASE THE GAME IS NOT FOR YOU, LEARNERS CAN PRACTISE WITH ON-SITE BOWLS.

**For further information ring Michael Hunt on 0191 3712592 07825255532**

## Meanwhile Down On The Allotments

Another growing season is about to get under-way following what up to now has been a mild winter. Most people start by having a good tidy up and preparing the soil with well-rotted manure/compost.

Onions are usually the first things to go in the ground with early potatoes traditionally being planted out on Good Friday. It is too early for seeds but they can be started of under glass. Here's to a good growing season!!

## Pease Don't Pick The Daffodils'



We are all familiar with the famous poem about Daffodils by Wordsworth and there is nothing more spectacular at this time of the year than a 'host of golden daffodils'.

We have them growing in various locations around the village and most have been planted by community groups and the children from the school. It is very important that once they have flowered they should be allowed to die back naturally or they won't flower again the following year.

Please be aware that the daffodils have been planted for the benefit of the whole public and not for the adornment of somebody's living room. So please don't pick them or as equally annoying don't pull the heads off then we can ALL enjoy them year after year.

*Durham Police warn householders, now that the days will be getting longer and warmer, to remember when vacating their property even for short time, to lock anything of value away in sheds and garages and to leave no windows open to uninvited visitors.*

# Witton Gilbert Nursery

Witton Gilbert Nursery is at present running at full capacity, due to the increasing number of families in the village as well as an Outstanding Ofsted Report. We have just sent out letters to families who have placed their child's name on our waiting list, this is for September 2015 start.

Nursery had a great week celebrating Chinese New Year, sharing lots of delicious food donated by The Yellow Dragon, counting in Chinese and learning about The Year of the Sheep. World Book Week was a Disney theme in Nursery; we shared lots of stories and songs and decided on our favourite Disney story. Frozen was, of course, a hot favourite followed by Cinderella.

We are now looking forward to Spring with lots of planting and, of course, our very exciting summer term filled with fun. A visit to Broom House Farm is booked in as well as our ever popular Play week. Names are at present being taken if your child has or is due to turn 2 years before 31st August 2015. Please contact us on:

**[I.markwell100@durhamlearning.net](mailto:I.markwell100@durhamlearning.net)**

**Witton Gilbert Nursery Staff**



## Parish Notice Board

### A Big Thank You !!

St Michael and All Angels Church and the Breathing Space Trustees wish to thank Witton Gilbert Parish Council for their kind donation of £500 towards the installation of WiFi at the church which will benefit all and enable our Project Co-ordinator to work more efficiently from her office.

### Your Parish Councillors

Arnie Simpson (Chair)	3712161
Paul Guy (Vice Chair)	3710455
Lynne Michelle Cowan	3719461
Fraser Reynolds	3711198
Anthony V. Harries	3710988
Amanda Hillary	3718239
Neil Liddle	3710339
Maria Waller	3718365
Alexander Woodmass	3710732
Geo.Thompson (Clerk)	3711808



Tell us what you think.....

Name:..... Address:.....

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