

Witton Gilbert Parish Council News

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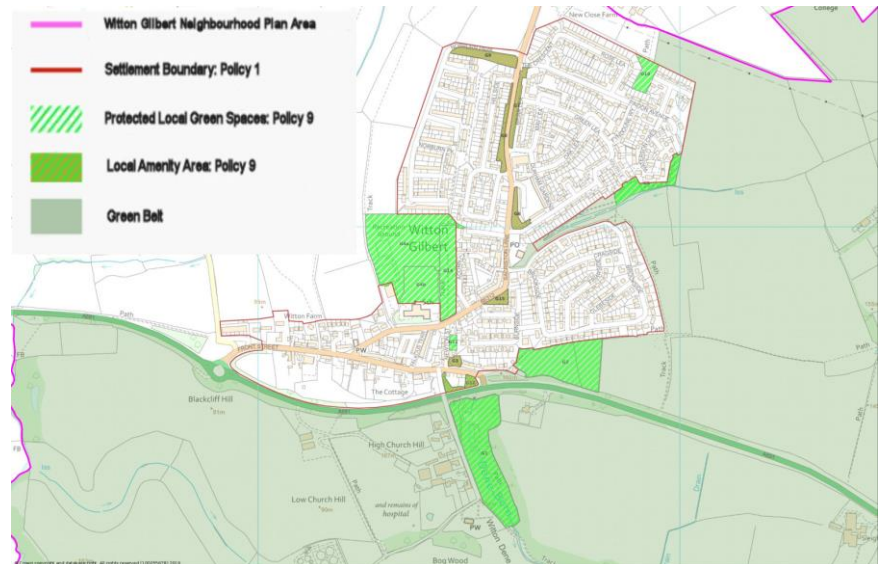
WITTON GILBERT NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN REFERENDUM ON NOVEMBER 7TH

YOUR CHANCE TO TAKE CONTROL

The Parish Council has been consulting on the Witton Gilbert Neighbourhood Plan since 2013 and in November 2018 a pre submission draft was completed and submitted for inspection by an Independent Planning Inspector. The plan has since been recommended to go forward to a referendum after consultations with the County Council.

The Plan has taken countless hours of work and research and has at all times involved residents and it is based on what YOU have told us at many well attended public meetings and feedback sessions. It is YOUR plan and it is now time to make it into a legal document which will become part of the planning process.

A formal referendum organised by the County Council will now be held on the 7th of November and polling cards will be issued to all registered voters in Witton Gilbert Parish. The Neighbourhood Plan is important to the local



Map of Green Spaces for Witton Gilbert Parish
Contains OS data © Crown Copyright and Database Right 2019
Note a full page version of this map is available on page 4

community as it will sit alongside the County Plan and be used to make planning decisions within the Neighbourhood area.

The aim of the plan can be briefly expressed as follows:-

- **Defines a Settlement Boundary to prevent the erosion of the countryside around Witton Gilbert**
- **Controls Housing Development within the settlement Boundary, and makes provision for affordable housing and homes for older people**
- **Defines a Historic Zone and ensures all development or**

alterations within the zone are appropriate

- **Encourages Sustainable design**
- **Protects and promotes Biodiversity within the Parish**
- **Defines and protects Local Green Spaces from development. These are shown on the proposals map and include such areas as the playing fields and the allotments**
- **Protects and supports Community Assets, e.g. The Community Centre, Primary School, the Store and Post Office**
- **Encourages new and existing business,**

farm diversification and home working

- **Encourages Community energy generation projects.**

The plan will also help provide some revenue for Community projects as all Neighbourhood Plan areas get 25% of any Community Infrastructure Levy applied to a development within the Neighbourhood area.

We encourage parishioners to read all of the information related to this plan. The documents can be found on the County Council web site <https://www.durham.gov.uk/article/18184/Neighbourhood-planning-what-s-happening->

DON'T FORGET TO VOTE YES ON NOVEMBER 7th FOR YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

THE SACRISTON LANE ALLOTMENTS

The Parish Council with the full backing of the allotment holders are continuing to look at all options in an effort to save the allotments.

As a reminder from the previous issue the Parish Council has received 12 MONTHS NOTICE TO QUIT from the new owners.

The allotment site was acquired from Lord Lambton in 1909 following the 1908 Allotment Act. For 110 years local people have enjoyed this popular amenity which continues to welcome new members, provide healthy exercise, fresh, local food and

friendship for generations of Witton Gilbert residents. The importance of the allotments is reflected in the designation of the site, as "Protected Green Space" within the Witton Gilbert Neighbourhood Plan.

The 48 allotment plots bring people together from a mixture of ages and backgrounds. Some are new to growing and benefit from the advice of older members of the community; others have lovingly tended their plots for decades. They share an appreciation of fresh produce and the sense of community and wellbeing that the allotments provide.

The Parish Council intend to do everything within their power to preserve this valuable resource for future generations.



Sacriston Lane Allotments © D C Rider

WITTON GILBERT PARISH COUNCIL

Current members of Witton Gilbert Parish Council are as follows:

Fraser Reynolds (Chair)	3711198
Neil Liddle (Vice Chair)	07950440265
Arnold Simpson	3712161
Paul Guy	3710455
Lynne Michelle Cowan	3719461
Geoff Brown	07540500073
Amanda Hillary	3718239
Louise Murphy	3711564
Daniel Lynch	07837278471

Parish Council meetings are held on the second Monday of the month in the Witton Gilbert Community Centre at 6 pm.

Members of the public wishing to attend may do so but must leave during confidential parts of the agenda. Residents attending the meeting may be given an opportunity to speak but this will be restricted to 15 minutes and is at the Chairman's discretion.

Agendas and Minutes are posted on the notice boards at McColls, at the top of Newton Street, at Briar Lea and on the Parish Council website.

The Parish Clerk can be contacted on 01913711808, or by mobile at 07984027243 or by email at wittongilbertparishcouncil@gmail.com

Editor Mr. D. C. Rider
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The closing date for the next edition is Friday February 14th 2020

VILLAGE PRIDE 40 YEARS AGO

Almost exactly 40 years ago on September 4th 1979 Witton Gilbert won the Durham County Tidy Village competition. The trophy was presented to the Parish Council Chairman Fraser Reynolds by Dr Paul Glover, NCB Director – General of Staff (see the photograph below this article).

Local people including the Parish Council met at a later date in the Travellers Rest for the presentation of a certificate from the Keep Britain Tidy Group for winning the award sponsored by the NCB.

It was a great honour for the village and everyone was praised for their hard work, including the many volunteers and the school who had all played their part in making the village clean and attractive.



Presentation of the Durham County Tidy Village award in 1979

Up to the present day the Parish Council continue to fund efforts to keep the village tidy with the employment of a litter picker and a groundsman.

BOWLING CLUBS IN WITTON GILBERT

Outdoor Bowling

Witton Gilbert Bowling Club play their games on the bowling green just behind the Community Centre. They are involved in two leagues, one playing on Saturday afternoon and one playing on Tuesday evenings.

Practice and friendly “roll-ups” are on Monday and Thursday afternoons around 1.15 pm.

The season usually runs from the middle of April to the middle of September.

New members are always welcome, as is anyone who wishes to pop along and just “have a go”.

Flat soled shoes are the only dress requirement and club bowls are available for beginners.

Contact Michael Hunt on 07864918619 for more information.

Indoor Bowling

The indoor bowling group meet each Monday, (barring Bank Holidays) in the large hall at Witton Gilbert Community Centre between 1 and 3 pm.

We currently have 12 members, most of whom attend regularly for bowling, conversation and tea or coffee.

For more information contact Margaret Burt on 07944027606.

WHAT'S ON IN WITTON GILBERT

Remembrance Sunday

A Remembrance Day ceremony will be held on Sunday 10th November at the War Memorial at 11 am (this will be covered in the next edition).

Fireworks Display

A fireworks display will be held on Saturday 2nd November. The Bonfire will be lit at 6.30 pm and there will be a Fireworks display at 7.00 pm. Refreshments will be available. Could anyone who would like to help the organisers contact Kristi on 07758 334238

Halloween Party

Fancy Dress Halloween Party at Witton Gilbert Community Centre on 2nd November 2019 3PM TO 5PM!!! Entertainment from the amazing Captain Raggy Beard. Tickets £4. Contact Helen on 07764897060 for more information.

Christmas Party

There will be a Christmas party at Witton Gilbert Community Centre on December 30th between 12 pm and 4 pm. Telephone 07982862127 for further information.

