

THE WITTON WORD

ISSUE 125, AUGUST 2025

In this edition

Telephone box revamp

Jim on the wing

A68 update



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NEXT DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS:
26 September 2025

SCHEDULED DATE FOR DELIVERY:
6 October 2025

*If you would like to receive the Word Witton electronically,
please let the Clerk have your email address.*

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Welcome to the latest issue of The Witton Word

Hannah Murray-Leslie
Parish Council Chair

We've had some lovely feedback from residents about the new design, and hopefully we've worked through most of the teething problems.

We're always looking for local businesses who might like to advertise with us, please email Mike clerk.wittonlewearpc@gmail.com with suggestions and of course please continue to share your news about things happening in the village.

We know there have been concerns about how the village is looking since Durham County Council reduced glyphosate spraying. We took the decision to join their scheme to support greater biodiversity because residents were unhappy with the patches of bare earth, and many were also concerned about the wider toxic effects of chemical spraying. It was launched as a pilot because we knew we'd need to test it out and learn from the experience.

Councillors and residents have voluntarily carried out various maintenance tasks around the village and we definitely encourage this, but we recognise it's not a perfect solution.

Funding for public services continues to fall in real terms - Local Authority funding is estimated to be 10% lower than in 2010/11 whilst costs continue to climb so it's clear that things will not be returning to the way they were, but we're now in a position to look into using some of the Parish Council precept to pay for some regular strimming around the Green which I'm sure will help.

I'm always impressed by the strong community spirit in Witton le Wear. The phone box defib / library has been revamped by volunteers - it is looking beautiful.

Weardale Railway volunteers applied for Parish Council grant funding to cover the cost of materials to tidy up the station area, and they will put all the hard graft in themselves for free.

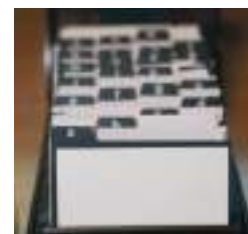
Finally, I think there are some new faces around the village so on behalf of the Parish Council I'd like to welcome any new residents.

Feel free to come down for the start of one of our meetings and say hello sometime, we're very friendly!



Directory

Useful telephone numbers and information



Police, non-emergency101
 NHS, non-emergency. 111

HOSPITALS

Bishop Auckland 01388 455 000
 North Durham. 0191 333 2333
 Darlington Memorial 01325 380 100

SURGERIES

North House, Crook. 01388 762 945
 Repeat Prescriptions 01388 762 718
 Auckland Medical, Toft Hill 01388 433 060
 Auckland Medical, St Helen Auck . . . 01388 604 163
 Auckland Medical, Bishop Auck . . . 01388 602 728

SCHOOL

Witton le Wear Primary. 01388 488 350

UTILITIES EMERGENCIES

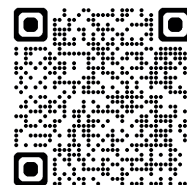
Northern Powergrid. 0800 668 877
 Northumbrian Water
 Leaks 0800 393 084
 Sewerage 0800 328 7648
 National Gas 0800 111999

Mobile Post Office

Parks on High Street outside
 St Phillip and St James Church

Every Tuesday 11.45 – 12.15

- Cash Withdrawals
- Cash Deposits
- Cheque Deposits
- Parcel Force Express Service
- Vehicle Tax



Scan the QR Code, above, for more information.

Mobile Library

Parks on High Street outside
 St Phillip and St James Church

Tue 17 Jun: 14.55–15.10
 Tue 08 Jul: 14.55–15.10



Scan the QR Code for more.



“

*A wonderful service,
 with the utmost
 care and compassion
 at a very emotional
 time for our family.*

”



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Around the village

News from around and about



Telephone kiosk library and defibrillator

Witton le Wear has an old red telephone box located across the road from the Vic Pub.

The primary function of the kiosk is to house the emergency defibrillator. The kiosk is also used to hold a library of books, free for those in the village to take and drop off as they please.

The kiosk has become overloaded and some of the books have become damaged due to water ingress.

Mr and Mrs Elliott, who live local to the kiosk, have kindly offered to take over both librarian and gardening duties to help restore what is a valuable asset to the village. Looking at the before and after it is obvious several bags of 'dead' books have found their way into recycling.

The Parish Council have issued enquiries to get the kiosk repainted.

Defibrillator

The telephone kiosk houses one of the two defibrillators available for use in the village. The defibrillator is registered on the Circuit, a national

database held and accessed by the Emergency Services.

If the defib has already been called out for use or has not been checked in after use it will be registered unavailable and you will be directed elsewhere.

So how do you get to one?

After you have called 999, the NHS might ask you to collect the defib. It might not necessarily be the defib nearest to you. The call handler will give you the code you need to open the defib security kiosk to access and collect the defib.

You must follow the instructions the NHS Call Handler gives you.

On instruction, when you open the defib case, press the green button and the defib, by talking, will issue instructions of how and when to use it. In the defib case you will find a pack that may be necessary to cut through clothing, general cleaning wipes together with the pads you will need to stick onto the patient's chest.



Before: The kiosk had been become overloaded with some books damaged due to water ingress.



After: The kiosk has been 'thinned out', the floor cleared and shelves labelled to indicate genre.



Around the village

News from around and about

June Arts and Crafts exhibition in parish church

On the weekend of 21 and 22 June, there was a wonderful exhibition held in the parish church in Witton le Wear, writes *Anne Yuill*.

What a spectacular display of local talent was on display!

The idea was to showcase resident's hobbies and crafts and it was a wonderful success. Eighteen different displays were created and there was a real buzz in the building.

Paintings, charcoal drawings, quilting, WI crafts, local historic photographs, wood turning and loom weaving, pottery, fused glass, cards, cross stitch pictures, and model trains and model ships were all included and made a fantastic sight.

We did not charge entry but asked for donations for the Alzheimer's Society and for Parkinson's UK.

A wide range of cakes and refreshments were served and we asked for donations for the church as they did not charge us for the use of the atmospheric building.

Mary also ran a raffle which was very popular. The outcome was that almost £900 was raised which was split between the two charities and the church.

Both charities have sent thank you messages to us saying how grateful they are for the donations.

Thank you to everyone involved in this amazing community event.

North East Theatre Organ Trust (NETOA) are offering a chance to win two free tickets to either of the concerts advertised in this edition of *Witton Word* (see below). To enter this exclusive quiz, answer the following question:
On what date is the Mighty Wurlitzer Heritage Open Day held at the New Victoria Centre, Howden le Wear this year?
 Answers to david.wright@netoa.org.uk. One winner will be drawn from correct answers received before closing date 31/08/2025. Winner notified 1/09/2025 via email.

North East Theatre Organ Association
 Registered Charity No. 118965

The Master of Musical Arrangement!
SIMON GLEDHILL
 plays the Mighty Wurlitzer Theatre Pipe Organ

Sunday, 7th September 2025
 at 2.30 p.m.

New Victoria Centre
 High Street
 Howden le Wear
 Crook
 Co. Durham
 DL15 8EZ

Tickets: £12.00
 Buy Online at: www.netoa.org.uk
 or Phone: 0333 666 3366
(Banking For Applied)

North East Theatre Organ Association
 Registered Charity No. 118965

In association with RCO Play the Organ Year
 a 'First Encounter Concert' with
DAVID LOWE
 at the Mighty Wurlitzer Theatre Pipe Organ

Sunday, 5th October 2025
 at 2.30 p.m.

PLAY THE ORGAN YEAR 2025
 A concert with a difference as David explains how he uses the organ to interpret a wide variety of different styles of music.

New Victoria Centre
 High Street
 Howden le Wear
 Crook
 Co. Durham
 DL15 8EZ

Tickets: £12.00
 Buy Online at: www.netoa.org.uk
 or Phone: 0333 666 3366
(Banking For Applied)

Around the village

News from around and about

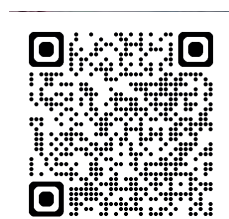


Daredevil Jim takes to the skies for charity

On 27 June, the eve of his 80th birthday, Jim Crombie braved a Wing Walk for UNIQUE, a charity that supports people and families affected by chromosome and gene abnormalities. He set out with the ambition of raising £250 for the charity. So far he has raised £1,520. A large proportion of this is down to the generosity of the people of Witton-Le-Wear and specifically through the Vic.

He would like to thank everyone for their support and encouragement. He had a wonderful experience and thoroughly enjoyed himself.

If anyone else would like to donate, Jim's Just Giving page remains open at: www.justgiving.com/page/jim-crombie-1 or the QR Code, below.



Jim on the wing: Jim's spectacular charity fundraiser was facilitated by AeroSuperBatics.



Jim with Heidi from the village after his daredevil flight to raise funds for Unique.

Community Centre

Call Lorraine Preston on 07805 517938 or email: trustees@wittonlewear.com



<u>Activity</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Time</u>
Mondays Carpet Bowls	Contact Kate Atkins: 01388 488626	6.45pm - 9.45pm
Tuesdays Chair Exercise Sewing Group Yoga	Gentle exercise with coach, Jack Desmond. Free. Anne Yuill: 01388 488376 Mark Aspinall: 01388 710658	9.30am - 10.30am 1pm - 4pm 7pm - 8.30pm
Wednesdays Badminton Youth Club	Ursula Jones: 01388 488697 or 07717 707934 Derek Bradley: 07808 480029	1.30pm - 3pm 6.30pm - 8.30pm
Thursdays Coffee Morning Clubbercise	Every 1 st Tuesday of the month. Christina: 07714 200254 No session 1 st Thursday of the month: Vikki Mitchell (see below).	10am - 12pm 7pm - 8pm

Women's Institute News

Inspiring the women of Witton le Wear



Welcome to the latest edition of Witton le Wear WI News Bulletin, writes secretary, *Barbara Coia*.

We are now well into the summer months, with the weather at the time of writing being a mixed bag, with welcome rain for the gardens!

We have once again had some enjoyable guest speakers at our meetings since the last bulletin, none more so than Valerie Moody from The Show People.

Among the highlights of her life, she became instrumental in the development of regular education for showmen's children and recently stepped down from the role of National Educational Liaison Officer for the Showmen's Guild.

She is known affectionately as "Aunty Valerie" to

the hundreds of children whose parents earn their living working on funfairs around the country.

A hard act to follow, but definitely the highlight of our WI calendar, is our Annual Auction which took place at our July Meeting.

We had a fabulous night, with our very own Linda and Sandra at the helm. Lots of laughs, and money spent. Well done ladies for an excellent evening.

As August is always our holiday month, our next Meeting takes place on 4th September, when our guest speaker will be Stephanie Yearnshire on Mary Ann Cotton.

New members are always welcome to come along to our meetings. Meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month from 7pm for a 7.30pm start.

Monthly Coffee Mornings

Please come along and join us for cakes, coffee or tea, juice for children and a chance to catch up with friends and neighbours.

Any donations made will be given to support Community Centre funds.

Donations for the food bank will be accepted.

The coffee mornings will be held from
10.15am – 11.45am

**in the Community Centre on
Tuesday 2nd Sept and Tuesday 7th Oct**

If transport is a problem, we can arrange for a car to come and collect you and take you home again.

Please contact

Anne (01388 488376) or Edith (01388 488136)



Friendship Lunch *Don't be a stranger*

The Autumn lunch will be on Friday 3rd October

The lunches are organised for anyone in our community who wants some companionship and who would enjoy meeting friends, neighbours or strangers who will soon become friends for a light lunch.

**We offer a choice of
three soups and three puddings.**

We ask for a donation of £5 towards costs of the day. There may be a glass or two of wine.

It starts at 12 midday in the Community Centre, and usually finishes around 1.30pm.

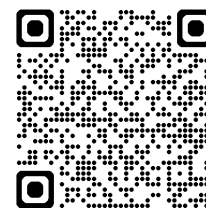
Transport can be arranged and if you have attended before, we will automatically send you information.

If you have not been before or would like to come along, please make contact with Anne (01388 488376) or Pippa (01388 488099).

Everyone is welcome

Pew News

St Philip and St James Parish Church: 01388 768898



August is a time when everything has a holiday, but the church goes on with its pattern of worship which we hope encompasses everyone's taste!

Craft Fair

We must say a big thank you to Anne Yuill and her team for organising the Art and Craft Event in mid-July using the church premises to house 20+ exhibits and is probably the tip of an iceberg as there are many Art and Crafters in the locality.

One comment was that 'we know the church has weekly services and other events like weddings, baptisms and funerals, not to speak of social events, but it was lovely to see it hosting a community event'.

Early Birds

The Early Birds All Age Worship group had an away morning up at Curlew Cafe's animal park. The animals at the beginning of the route got loads of food whilst the ones on the other side had none... luckily it was a fine morning, and we all enjoyed ourselves. We may repeat it at Low Barns another time.

This month in Early Birds, we looked at Holidays, using the Godly Play items to look at Creation. The seventh day God rested and this and Holy days are the fore runners of Holidays when people were given a day off to celebrate the big church festivals but saints' days too – hence Holy Days.

Handrail and church path

In August, please be aware the Blacksmith is coming to install a replacement handrail for the one broken

when the large Sycamore tree fell on it. During these works the steps leading to the church will be closed.

The replacement works necessitate the intermittent use of electric arc welding and although the work will be protected by a specialised tent there is a slight chance of arc flash to unprotected eyes.

Extra care will be required when the blacksmith is working at the bottom and top of the church steps where they intersect with the public footpath and church paths. Please ask your children to keep away whilst the works are in process.

Diamond celebration

In September, on Friday 19th, Tim will celebrate his Diamond Jubilee of Ordination with Holy Communion and a 'bun fight' afterwards. Everyone who would like to come are very welcome but please let us know for catering.

While Tim remains a priest, his health does not allow him to take services which is a bit poignant.

Autumn half-term

We had hoped to have a Crafternoon in the Summer Holidays, but settling on a date for both families and leaders was hard to co-ordinate. There will be one in the Autumn half term, so look out for details.

Sanctuary@six

Sanctuary@six returns in August, using the psalms and poetry of the Bible, a gentle half-hour of peaceful music and meditation, a little summer quiet and rest from busy days and frantic news. Everyone is welcome, on Wednesdays at 6pm in church.



Our last song was words to *The Conga* with everyone using the instruments to create a godly noise.



We decorated 'sun glasses' with bling and colour. Adults joined in and an Elton John array was superb.

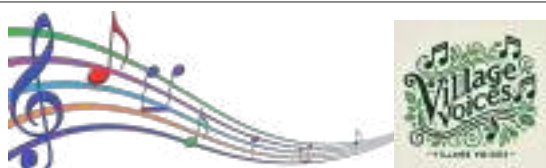
Village Voices

Singing for health and happiness



Hello all from Village Voices, hope you are enjoying the summer holidays. The choir has been working hard and the result was a very successful and enjoyable concert on Friday 18 July. We were joined by several talented local performers to whom we are indebted. Paul once again sang some beautiful songs accompanied by David and also supported the choir. Matthew gave a magical performance on the violin accompanied by Damian, who stepped in at the last minute. Maddy and Alastair once again gave us several wonderful pieces on the flute and piano. Liz, Paul and Damian joined together to make a lovely trio. The alto section of the choir was augmented by Jessica and Anne-Marie; Anne Yuill also returned to give her support to the altos.

We are very grateful to all three of them for giving up their time for rehearsals and the performance. Rosie, our chair, thanked everyone who took part and gave special thanks to Damian, our accompanist, who has been such a support to the choir. She also gave our thanks and very best wishes to Liz and Andy as they move out of the village on the next chapter of their lives. We had a very appreciative audience who gave generously to Durham Wildlife Trust through donations of £155 at the door. We also raised £106 from the raffle for choir funds. We thank everyone for supporting us. After the concert refreshments of prosecco, strawberry tarts and nibbles were enjoyed by all. Village Voices are now enjoying their summer break.



Do you enjoy singing?
Come and give us a try, just drop in.

Village Voices

“Singing for Health & Happiness”

We are a Community Choir which meets in
St Philip and St James Parish Church,
Witton le Wear
on a Tuesday evening from 7.30pm – 9pm.

We sing a variety of music and enjoy ourselves.
It doesn't matter how well you can sing because
together we make great music.

If you are interested contact
Liz: 01388 488195, Mike: 01388 488136
Denise: 01388 488661

Witton-le-wear Community centre, School Street, Bishop Auckland, DL14 0AS

Thursday 7-8pm (*Note classes will not run on the 1st Thursday of each month)

Come and join us, Clubbercise is a night out without the hangover! It consists of easy to follow routines in a darkened room with disco lights!

Call Vikki on 07503191919 Or message me on Facebook 'club with Vikki' See you soon!

Parish Council News

Delivering quality services and information to Witton le Wear and surrounding areas



Speed limit on A68 – Update

The Parish Council has been in discussion with local agencies about road safety in the village; particularly the safety of children crossing the A68 to get to school and access the village.

At a site visit with Durham County Council (DCC) in May, we also raised concerns about delivery drivers parking on the A68 and walkers using the Weardale Way, which crosses the road.

Inevitably, this all brings into focus the concerns regarding the speed limit on our stretch of the road and as such, formal letters outlining our concerns were submitted to our MP, the Police and Crime Commissioner and DCC.

There were delays in receiving a response due to the election and resulting change in the administration of the council. However, we have now received a reply and we have been advised by DCC that recent accidents on the road were not categorised by the Police as speed related.

Other suggestions such as gates and signs requesting caution on the A68 at either end of the village have also been rejected by DCC for now.

Whilst the council accepts our safety concerns for children, walkers and delivery drivers, no action is proposed because there have been 'no incidents'.

We are keen to encourage the council to take preventative action to ensure everyone can cross and use the road safely. This is where we need you!

We would like to build a dossier of any incidents, near misses, or similar that you encounter when using the stretch of A68 passing through the village.

As such, we would be grateful for any experiences to be shared with us, with details of what happened, where and when. Please do send any through to clerk.wittonlewearpc@gmail.com even if you feel it might have already been submitted.

We will continue to engage with DCC pointing to precedents elsewhere as well as lobbying our MP, county councillors and the police to encourage preventative forms of action.

20 mph limit

DCC have suggested it may be possible to introduce a 20mph limit around the school area.

This is an initial suggestion and there are no details about what constitutes the school area, the roads included, nor the times involved for the limit.

Please send your thoughts and ideas about introducing this speed limit to the email above. We would love to hear from you.

Project Gigabit

For some time, we've seen work going on around the village installing fibre optic cables, digging holes, erecting telegraph poles.

Project Gigabit is the government's programme to enable hard-to-reach communities to access lightning-fast gigabit-capable broadband. It targets homes and businesses that are not included in broadband suppliers' plans, reaching parts of the UK that might otherwise miss out on getting the digital connectivity they need. The government is committed to achieving nationwide gigabit coverage and expects 99% of premises to have access to a gigabit-capable connection by 2032.

The drop-in session has taken place and quite a few residents turned up, our opportunity to ask Go Fibre or Durham County Council any questions.

A representative from Go Fibre has taken questions away from the meeting and has offered to reply to these by email.

In the next release of Witton Word it's hoped we can share this information with you together with some feedback from other local villages where the works have been completed.

Keeping our footpaths clear

The Parish Council annually applies for funding from Durham County Council to trim some of the public footpaths within the parish boundary.

The two cuts (around late May and late August) help keep the paths clear for walkers to enjoy. We can also apply for 50% funding for the repair of stiles, gates etc.

If you are aware of any public footpaths that need some TLC please get in touch via the Parish Clerk, supplying a description, a grid reference or What3Words so we can identify the location.

The DCC Definitive Map may also be useful to indicate the path number and reveal the network of public footpaths to explore around our beautiful village. See www.durham.gov.uk/definitivemap

Parish Council AGAR

The Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) has to be completed by all Council and Parish Councils.

The AGAR is a 6-page document and can be viewed in full on the Parish Council Website at www.wittonlewear.org.uk/

Parish Council News

Delivering quality services and information to Witton le Wear and surrounding areas



WITTON – LE – WEAR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Witton le Wear Parish Council held on **Monday 12th May, 2025** in the Community Centre, Witton le Wear commencing at **6.15pm**

Present: Councillors H. Murray-Leslie, L Docherty, M Campbell, L Langstaff-Wood

Also Present: M McLaren (Parish Council Clerk) L Bentley, C Hall

AGM 25/01 & 02 Election of Chair

Councillor H Murray-Leslie was re-elected unopposed as chair of Witton le Wear Parish council by the members for the year 2025/26. Proposed by Councillor M Campbell, seconded by Councillor L Docherty.

AGM 25/03 Apologies for absence

P Parsons, C Cook, S Morehead, A Yuill

AGM 25/04 Election of Vice Chair

Councillor Caroline Cook elected as Vice Chair. Proposed by Councillor H Murray-Leslie, seconded by Councillor L Docherty.

AGM 25/05 Appointment of Responsible Financial Officer (RFO)

Members agreed to appoint the Parish Clerk (M McLaren) as the RFO.

AGM 25/06 Bank Signatories

The present bank signatories are Councillors H Murray Leslie, P Parsons with Councillor C Cook setting up BACS payments in her present role as RFO.

It was agreed that the Parish Clerk, M McLaren, will raise all future payments with Councillors H Murray-Leslie and C Cook approving via the banking app.

AGM 25/07 Standing Orders

Councillors agreed to retain the model pro-forma for standing orders, remains unchanged from 2024

AGM 25/08 Financial Regulations

Councillors agreed to continue to retain the CDALC finance regulations, unchanged from 2024.

AGM 25/09 Register of Assets

Full detailed list of assets on WLW Website.

Notice Boards x 3, Telephone Box and Defibrillator, Dog Waste Bag Dispenser, Village sign for trains, Benches x 3, Basket trees x 2, Hanging baskets x 6, Map and frame x 1, Planter troughs x 3. Acceptance Proposed Councillor H Murray-Leslie, seconded by Councillor L Langstaff-Wood.

AGM 25/10 Risk Assessment Statement (Annual Review)

Risk assessment has been refreshed. Available to view on WLW Website.

Acceptance Proposed Councillor H Murray-Leslie, seconded by Councillor L Langstaff-Wood.

AGM 25/11 Unaudited accounts for the year ended 31st March, 2025

Accounts from 04/24 thru 03/25 presented and accepted. Available to view on WLW Website. (Acceptance Proposed HML, Seconded LD)

AGM 25/12 Donations / Microgrants made during 2024/25

Witton le Wear Village Voices £500

AGM 25/13 Dates and times for future meetings

2nd Monday in July, September, November, January, March and May (AGM)

Signed by the Chairman..... H Murray-Leslie Date..... 14/7/25

Parish Council News

www.wittonlewear.org.uk | clerk.wittonlewearpc@gmail.com



WITTON-LE-WEAR PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES – MAY 2025

Minutes of the ordinary meeting of Witton le Wear Parish Council held on **Monday 12th March 2025** at Witton le Wear Community Centre commencing at 18-40.

Present: Councillors Murray-Leslie (Chair), L Docherty, M Campbell, L Langstaff-Wood

Also present: M McLaren (Parish Council Clerk) L Bentley and C Hall.

25/22 Cllr Murray-Leslie welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked the Councillors who have continued in their roles and for their support electing her back as chair. Cllr Murray-Leslie also thanked Olive Wilson, Sarah Morehead and Paul Parsons who after extended periods working as Parish Councillors have decided to stand down.

25/23 Apologies received from Cllrs: C Cook, P Parsons, O Wilson, S Morehead
Residents: A Yuill.

25/24 ✓ Declarations of interest. None declared. Councillors advised that Notification of Pecuniary and Other Interest forms have been emailed to them and need to be returned to the Clerk asap.

25/25 Minutes of the regular meeting held on Monday 10th March were accepted and signed by Cllr Murray-Leslie.

25/26 Electronic decisions:

- £500 microgrant to Witton le Wear Village Voices agreed.
- Up to £250 funding approved for costs to supply compost and plants as required to furnish village green hanging baskets, troughs and gardening.

25/27 Representation by Residents - None

25/28 Actions from previous minutes – Working Groups

A68 traffic working group.

Cllr Campbell reported back that a report had been compiled and sent to Mr John Hewitt Chief Executive at DCC, Cllr Anita Savory and John Shuttleworth, Rt Hon Sam Rushworth MP, Joy Allen County Durham PCC a month ago, to date there have been no replies.

Traffic Engineer Ellis Dunn from DCC has been to site and met several of the councillors to better understand the concerns. Two main issues were raised with examples given to support them. The first one being the numerous serious accidents, collisions and near misses on the A68 along as it runs adjacent Witton le Wear. The speed limit along this section of the road has not been reviewed since 2011. It was noted the information held by DCC and the Police regarding this section of road appears flawed / at odds and did not represent the true situation.

The second issue concerns the existing road infrastructure through the village and the existing 30 mph speed limit. Due to the width and construction of the roads and the size /type of vehicles using it, the need for residents to park curb side that the speed limit and signage needs to be urgently reviewed. Situation ongoing.

Parish Council News

Delivering quality services and information to Witton le Wear and surrounding areas



WITTON-LE-WEAR PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES – MAY 2025

Cllr Campbell asked that through the local media available to us we ask the residents of Witton le Wear to report any traffic incidents, near misses, accidents etc so that we can ensure DCC and Police are better informed.

Witton Word

Cllr Morehead has been working closely with South West Durham News who are able to achieve a much higher standard of printing, in colour, at a cost similar to that paid now to Eli Press. Examples were shown of the proposed layout of the paper and the Cllrs voted in favour of the change. The Clerk has been tasked with contacting the various groups who would like to feature in the paper.

Parish Plan

This is ongoing work with Paul Parsons.

25/29 Correspondence Report

Village Transport

An email received from a resident regarding the lack of public traffic serving the village was discussed. The Parish Council have brought this up with DCC and have had a reply from Jonathan Mitchell the Network Planning supervisor. Historically, up until October 2012, Witton-Le-Wear was served by a DRT service 88 operating up to 4 trips during a Monday to Saturday daytime.

Upon a service review at that time, the service 88 was reduced in scale operation due to low demand. Currently, this provides 2 trips per day during a Monday to Friday to maintain Student access to Bishop Auckland College.

The Durham County Council Link2 service and Access Bus as part of Integrated Passenger Transport also provides a service during Monday to Friday daytime. More information is available on Durham County Councils website [Link2 Dial-a-Ride bus service - Durham County Council](#)

Litter Picking

We were advised that some litter picking equipment was available f.o.c. to Witton le Wear Parish Council from Durham Wildlife Trust. The equipment has since been received and the Cllrs wished to convey their thanks to Durham Wildlife Trust but more importantly to the residents who work tirelessly keeping our village tidy from litter.

25/30 Strimming and Clearing Paths

An order has been placed to have paths 30, 119, 129, 132, 133, 134 and 156 strimmed and tidied.

Lynda Bentley advised on the state of some of the paths and the type of works required.

Details of the paths can be found on www.durham.gov.uk/definitivemaps.

Trimming the trees adjacent the junction adjacent the Dun Cow was discussed but does not fall into the Parish Council remit.

25/31 – The AGM was accepted

25/32 – The financial report was considered in the AGM

Parish Council News

www.wittonlewear.org.uk | clerk.wittonlewearpc@gmail.com



WITTON-LE-WEAR PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES – MAY 2025

25/33 – Planning – No plans affecting Witton le Wear have been submitted to DCC

25/34 – Facebook – All present in discussion felt Facebook could be put to better use to advertise Parish Council activities and general activities in the village. Cllr L Langstaff-Wood is taking the lead on this work.

25/35 – Members Reports
There were no additional reports

25/36 – Parish Councillor Co Opted.

Laura Langstaff-Wood (proposed HML seconded LD) and Lynda Bentley (proposed HML seconded MC) were both co-opted and are now Parish Councillors.

Meeting closed at 19-45

Next ordinary meeting of the Parish Council – 14th July 2025, 18-15, at WLW Community Centre

Signed by the Chair H Murray-Leslie Date..... 14/7/25

Your Parish Councillors and Officers



Michael McLaren
Parish Clerk

t. 07976 400604



Hannah Murray-Leslie
Chair

t. 07920 557324



Lynn Docherty
Councillor

t. 07765 807589



Caroline Cook
Councillor

t. 07760 193417



Laura Langstaff-Wood
Councillor

t. 07765 142350



Mel Campbell
Councillor

t. via Parish Clerk



Lynda Bentley
Councillor

t. via Parish Clerk

Cricket Report

Witton le Wear Cricket Club



Hello sports fans! I write to you as the country is gripped by the England vs India test series, which has brought back memories of the 2005 Ashes, with tightly contested games and results going to the wire, writes *Richard Hanlon*.

The cricket has been fantastic. Sadly, during the same period, Witton's form has been marginally less gripping or tightly contested. Our form has replicated an England tour to Australia. It has not been pretty.

We have had nine fixtures during the period of this review (8 June – 1 August), and it pains me to tell the readers that the highlights, results wise have been Catterick Village's concession to Witton in the cup and our two rained off fixtures against Middleton St George and Shildon Railway. Played 9, won none, lost five. So not a very prosperous couple of months.

All is not as bad as it sounds though. We have been competitive and probably should have won at least two of the games played. But the cricketing gods have been against us.

Steve Miller just missed out on a second century of the season making 90 against Cliffe before a massive collapse left us short.

Had we have batted something like in the Barton away fixture we would have been in with a shout of a win as well. Unfortunately, we batted something like a bunch of fellas who didn't know how to bat! Despite this our 56 all out very nearly proved to be too much for Barton, who limped over the winning line 6 wickets down.

Unsurprisingly there aren't too many individual performances to highlight, but it has been great to see young Joe Ingman starting to get in on the wicket-taking act with his left arm spin. The return of Peter Brown Jnr with his belligerent batting and rapid bowling has also ruffled a number of opposition feathers.

Leading Run scorers to date have been Tim Smaller (379), Steve Miller (248) and Man of Kent, Andy Corcoran 224 runs

Leading wicket takers are George Hall (21) and Steve Miller (15).

For information on fixtures, practice, in depth match reports and events, have a look at our Facebook page (scan the QR Code, below).

Any residents interested in sponsoring a match ball or the club in any way, please see George in the Vic.



The cricketers get back in the nets as they look to turn competitive play into wins.