



THE WITTON WORD

ISSUE 127, DECEMBER 2025

In this edition

Parish Broadband Update

Parish Paths Strimmed

Regular Bus Campaign

Wittonian Wins National Award

The newsletter of Witton le Wear Parish Council

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NEXT DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS:
Friday 30 January

SCHEDULED DATE FOR DELIVERY:
Wednesday 11 February

*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

Hello and welcome to our last
Witton Word of 2025!

I want to start this edition with a thank you to Mike McLaren, who has been in the role of Parish Clerk just over a year now and has made a real difference with his tenacity and dedication to the job.

Those of you who have been involved in the Parish Council will know it's a complicated business (much like herding cats), and taking on the role after a career in a completely different field is no small order.

It's been a busy year but things are starting to feel more settled.

Thanks also to all the volunteers who have quietly continued to work hard to make Witton le Wear a wonderful place to live.

There's a more detailed update inside about the work on our Parish Plan

(see page 13), but one of the things we decided was that we'd like to put more effort into celebrating people who contribute positively to the life of the village.

Watch this space for more details of that to come.

Many of us are excited for Christmas, but it can be a difficult time of year for some, so please check in on your neighbours.

If you're worried about someone who is vulnerable or at risk, you should contact Social Care Direct/First Contact and the Emergency Duty Team on 03000 267 979.

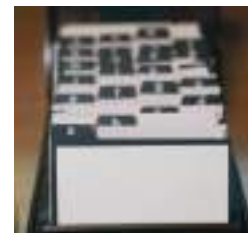
There's also links to all kinds of support and advice on Durham County Council's web page:
<https://www.durham.gov.uk/mentalhealthsupportduringchristmas>

Wishing you all the best for 2026.



Directory

Useful telephone numbers and information



Police, non-emergency 101
 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

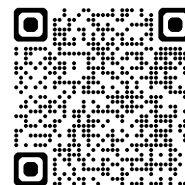
Northern Powergrid. 0800 668 877
 Northumbrian Water
 Leaks 0800 393 084
 Sewerage 0800 328 7648
 National Gas 0800 111999

Mobile Post Office

Parks on High Street outside
 St Phillip and St James Church

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



Scan the QR Code, above, for more information.

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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.



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Parish Broadband Update

Parish's broadband upgrade now completed



Sharing my own experience the installation went very well and I'm pleased with the end result, reports *Mike McLaren*.

The workmen from Go Fibre did a great job leaving the place very much as they had found it.

My installation required 100ft of trench up an existing tarmac drive, but for many others it was simply a short cut across the footpath and then the Go Fibre team trenched across the lawn and put everything back.

Other than a short length of green pipe protruding above the ground it's difficult to see where Go Fibre has been.

End result is the broadband doesn't keep dropping out, it's about ten times the speed of the old copper installation and I'm saving money on the monthly charge.

A downside for everyone is that you will need to re-program the equipment that uses your home broadband, televisions, mobile phones, computers, smart sockets etc., but this is only what you would need to do if you swapped your broadband provider because your deal had expired.

And talking about re-programming stuff, it's usually straightforward, such as selecting your new router on your smart TV and entering the new password (usually also on the back of the router). Sadly, not everything is straightforward and it was good to be able to call on our local IT expert, Richard Rowland, who runs Entwine Solutions. Richard was able to sort out a couple of not straightforward applications so that, as they say, everything is rosy again.



Durham Wildlife Trust
From Tees to Tyne

Join Volunteer Visit

Photo: Paul Norris

Low Barns Nature Reserve is one of our region's most important wildlife sites. This wetland reserve, bordered by the River Wear, also contains mixed woodlands and species-rich grasslands. Flat terrain, large accessible bird hides and a visitor centre that houses a café and gift shop make it an ideal place to visit for everyone



Find out more about Low Barns and Durham Wildlife Trust  www.durhamwt.com

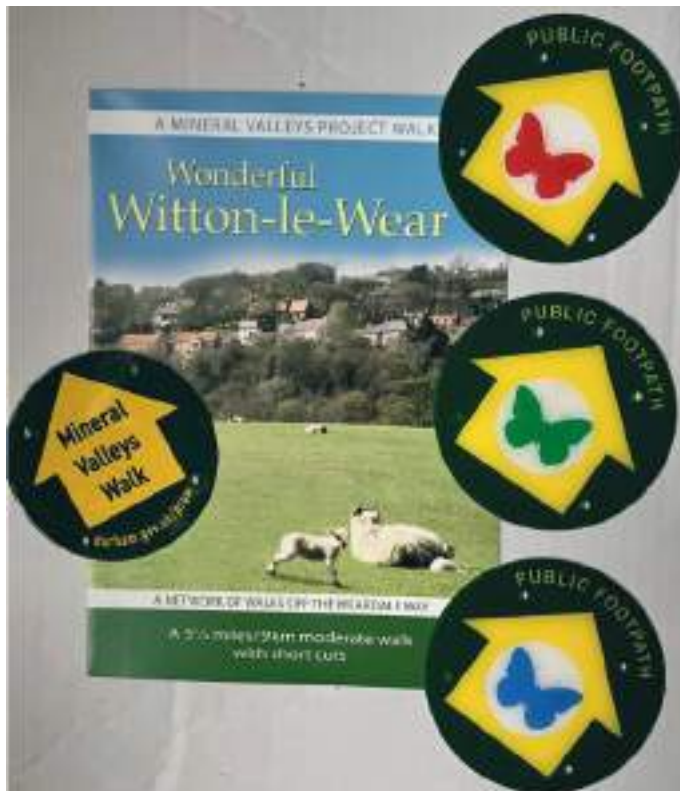
Charity Number: 501038

Parish Paths Strimmed

Witton le Wear's seven nominated parish paths completed for the year



The strimming of the seven nominated parish paths that fall under the jurisdiction of Witton le Wear Parish Council have now been completed for 2025.



We hope to continue this work in 2026 but in the meantime, we can help by walking them. Footfall helps to keep back the vegetation and define the official route for others.

The paths that we can apply for have to be legal public rights of way and have not been closed for safety reasons, which unfortunately is the case for the long river path that heads west from the old bridge around Witton Bottoms.

At present there is no funding for the repair of stiles etc but we are trying to secure some other help for work we are aware of.

Landowners also have a responsibility for public rights of way that go across their land. Some landowners have gone above and beyond in improving access for which we are extremely grateful.

Thank you also to our walkers who may take a pair of secateurs out with them to remove over hanging twigs or clear a fallen branch.

Finally, it is an aspiration to update the circular walks that were printed about 20 years ago (left) and are displayed on the walks board in front of the Community Centre.

Again, securing funding will be our biggest challenge but if you have any ideas, or expertise in digital mapping, please get in touch via the parish clerk.

Season's greetings from NETOA

Aimeric and Anya celebrate competition win

The North East Theatre Organ Association (NETOA) would like to wish all the readers and producers of the *Witton Word* a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

We look forward to our new 2026 season with the very best theatre organists on one of the biggest and best Wurlitzer organs in Europe.

After our 'sold out' Christmas concert we close until March for routine maintenance of the 95-year-old instrument.

We're pleased to report the winners of the competition in the last edition, Aimeric and Anya won tickets to our silent movie presentation *The Phantom of the Opera*, accompanied by Aaron Hawthorne on the Wurlitzer.



Below are their views of the winners experience which they have kindly agreed we can share.

"The organ is really impressive and to experience the movie the way it was in the 20's was a great chance," said Aimeric and Anya.

"The organist was talented, the place looked very nice, and the staff was great. It was a wonderful experience and we hope there will be more like it."



Community Centre

To book, call Cheryl on 07714 583799



The Community Association would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Thank you for the support we have received this year and previous years, lets continue to push forward in 2026.

The Community Association would like to welcome Joanne Stokoe to the board of trustees. We hope Joanne enjoys being a part of the community association.

We are also inviting anyone who would like to join the board of trustees to come forward and help with the running of the centre.

You do not need any skills, just a willingness to keep the centre open and be willing to help out at events.

If this is something that you think you would like to do, please speak to one of the trustees who will be more than happy to answer any questions you may have.

If you would like to volunteer to help out at events or have ideas for different activities at the centre then please also speak with a trustee.

The centre is available for hire for events, parties, clubs etc. To book, please contact Cheryl on 07714 583799.

Activity	Details	Time
Mondays		
Carpet Bowls	Contact Kate Atkins: 01388 488626	6.45pm - 9.45pm
Tuesdays		
Coffee Morning	Every 1 st Tuesday of the month. Christina: 07714 200254	10.15am - 11.45am
Chair Exercise	Gentle exercise with coach, Jack Desmond. Free.	9.30am - 10.30am
Sewing Group	Anne Yuill: 01388 488376	1pm - 4pm
Yoga	Mark Aspinall: 01388 710658	7pm - 8.30pm
Wednesdays		
Badminton	Ursula Jones: 01388 488697 or 07717 707934	1.30pm - 3pm
Youth Club	Derek Bradley: 07808 480029	6.30pm - 8.30pm



Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from The Trustees

Cheryl Barker, John Preston, Lorraine Preston,
Phil Cown and Joanne Stokoe



Women's Institute News

Inspiring the women of Witton le Wear



It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas, writes *Barbara Coia*. Houses round about are starting to decorate inside and out with festive lights, twinkling in the dark nights, which are now well and truly upon us. The weather is colder, and we have seen our first snow of the winter.

For the ladies of Witton le Wear Women's Institute, we hosted the Gaunless Valley Group Meeting, which was a very successful and enjoyable evening. Our Guest Speaker was

Dame Sue Snowdon, Lord Lieutenant of County Durham, and we were entertained by the Whistle Testers – a memorable evening for all.

Our last meeting was our Annual General Meeting, whereby we saw Angela Heaton elected as our new President. We wish her every success in her new role and extend warm thanks to Christina Haworth for being such a valued President as she steps down.

Our final meeting of 2025 will be a Murder Mystery Evening, definitely one to look forward to!

New members are always welcome to come along to our meetings, which are held on the first Thursday of each month at 7pm for 7.30pm.

From all the ladies, may we wish everybody a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy 2026.

Regular Bus Service Campaign

A campaign is being launched for improved bus services to the village

The ladies of Witton le Wear Women's Institute have raised the issue of no regular bus service for our village.

The current system of the link bus does work, but only if you want to go Crook or Bishop Auckland. However, there is limited flexibility. It does not cater for all our residents. We will be working alongside the Parish Council to raise this problem with the local decision makers.

It will not be a quick fix, but we want to act to make our feelings known and get the ball rolling. Howden le Wear has six buses an hour going between Crook and Bishop Auckland. Why cannot one be diverted through Witton le Wear? This sounds a simple solution, but we suspect it is more complicated than that.

Members feel very strongly that *all* residents of our village are being disadvantaged in comparison with other rural villages in County Durham who have regular public transport services.

Residents should be able to access public transport to reach doctor's surgeries, hospitals, other health services, shopping, meet friend, access travel services further afield and to prevent social isolation.

This year, only four children out of a class of 15 from Witton le Wear Primary School were admitted to

Wolsingham Grammar School, the traditional secondary school for our village. Now more children travel to Bishop Auckland or further for their secondary education.

As a direct result, their friendship groups will be further afield and access to a regular bus service will allow young people the opportunity to socialise with friends and develop their independence.

Interestingly, information from the WI archives tells of the women of Witton le Wear WI successfully campaigning to get the first regular bus service for Witton le Wear in 1927. History is repeating itself and we hope with the same outcome.

A working group has just held its first meeting and our next meeting will be Tuesday, 20 January, in the Dun Cow at 7pm. We hope then to finalise our strategy and start contacting relevant people and organisations.

If you wish to be involved – male, female, young or old – please get in touch with any of the working group or join us in the Dun Cow.

Anne: 07717 707934, email: kanda98@sky.com; Linda: 07555 688488, Rosie Biddlecombe, Edith Whalley: email: edithwhalley@live.co.uk; Judy Blair, Mel Campbell.

Pew News

St Philip and St James Parish Church: 01388 768898



Thank You!!!!

A huge thank you for all your Harvest donations for the Woodhouse Close Food Bank.

Last year we collected 400 items and this year we gave an amazing 527 items. The food bank were delighted, and it took three photos of the gifts to be able to post them all on Facebook!

Harvest

The Harvest Supper, with a fiendish quiz by Dave, was a happy night together scratching brains and wondering if the right answer was put down – quite a dilemma if the team disagree!

Other October news

The Crafternoon during the Autumn half term was an amazing afternoon of children and adults making seven crafts to take home.

Many thanks to the leaders who led the different crafts. The theme was *Autumn into Winter (Christmastide)* and everyone enjoyed the time together. The next Crafternoon will be in spring time half term so watch out for details.

Our *Wave of Light* service held as part of Baby Loss Awareness Week, was a gentle and meaningful time those carrying the memory of a precious baby gone too soon.

News from November

November is a time of remembering, and we held our *All Souls* service to remember those we have lost.

The Remembrance Day service was poignant as we remembered three 'modern day' heroes.

Thank you, Anne, for your all your research and the meaningful service. We remember the sacrifices so many people made so that we have the freedom we have today.

On Saturday 15th November, Lynda and Heidi were confirmed at St Clare's Church, Newton Aycliffe by Bishop Frank White. It was a wonderful service!

Advent and Christmas

By the time you read this we will be in Advent! It is such a special time of year when we look forward to Christmas and the amazing gift we are given by God.

If you are looking for some peace and tranquillity in these busy days, why not come along to *Sanctuary@six*, a gentle space with candlelight and music, each Wednesday at 6pm.

Christmas Services

All are welcome to our Christmas week services. We have something for everyone!

- Sunday 21 December 6pm – a traditional carol service followed by mulled wine and mince pies.
- Wednesday 24 December: 3pm – Family Crib service.
- Wednesday 24 December: 11:30pm – Midnight Christmas service.
- Thursday 25 December 10:30 – Christmas Communion service.

The services will also be listed in our Church Christmas card which goes to every house in the village. The Church Family wish you a joyous and peaceful Christmastide.

Church History Event



Thursday 11 December at 2pm
 St Philip and St James Parish Church
 Witton le Wear

Please Join Us - Everyone Welcome

Our Parish Church has a very rich history and we want to share that with residents and friends in our community.

The buildings have been open to the public for over 900 years and many interesting characters have crossed the threshold.

Recently uncovered stories include those of two 17th century vicars and their lives in Witton le Wear.

They will be brought back to life by speakers Dr Meg Gilley and John Stanley and are sure to invoke many emotions and promote much discussion.

Dr Gilley will be talking about her five-times great grandfather, John Stackhouse, while Mr Stanley has researched Stephen Cocken/Cockey.

If you have other interesting tales to tell, please come along and join the discussion.

Tea and cake will be provided.

The event is free but if you would like to leave a donation, this will go to church funds.

Wittonian Wins National Award

Michele Armstrong crowned Volunteer Leader of the Year



The Heritage Volunteering Group, a national organisation that enables the heritage sector to realise the potential of volunteering to transform organisations, lives and communities, has named St James Gardens resident, Michele Armstrong (right) as its Volunteer Leader of the Year 2025.



This is national recognition of Michele's significant contribution to the voluntary sector across the North East over three decades.

Michele has a long and dedicated history of involvement with community groups across our area through organisations like 2D and Jack Drum Arts.

The award specifically recognises Michele's work as Head of Volunteering at The Auckland Project where she champions volunteering and supports hundreds of volunteers.

Michele said: "I am genuinely beyond humbled to receive this award.

"To be recognised by our sector and through a membership vote means a great deal. This award is for everyone at The Auckland Project who believes in the power of volunteering.

"We still have a long journey ahead to harness this gift of time and transform communities – but I know we can do it."

She added: "I'm privileged every day to work with people whose passion and generosity are making a real difference in Bishop Auckland."

Well done Michele!

Friendship Lunch *Don't be a stranger*

The Christmas lunch will be on Friday 12 December and the children from the school will be coming to entertain

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 (07717 707934) or Pippa (01388 488099).

Everyone is welcome

Monthly Coffee Mornings

Last year, the monthly coffee mornings raised £986, which was donated to the Community Centre. All the cakes and refreshments are donated by the organising team which means every penny goes to the centre funds.

Well done to everyone involved.

This can only happen with your support.

Donations can also be left for Woodhouse Close Food Bank in Bishop Auckland.

Please continue to support us by coming along on the first Tuesday of the month from

10.15am – 11.45am

in Witton le Wear Community Centre

Tuesday 6 January, Tuesday 3 February, Tuesday 3 March 2026

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

Please contact

Anne (07717 707934) or Edith (01388 488136)

Witton le Wear Station Garden

Community garden upgraded



Over the last few months, the garden at Witton le Wear station has been upgraded, writes *Anne Yuill*.

The white stones have been removed and repainted. The weed suppressant matting has been restored and supplemented, and the stone edges have been removed and replaced with old railway sleepers.

I hope residents can see the improvement in this, our community garden. The work has taken over 100 hours of voluntary labour from village residents and Weardale Railway volunteers.

Witton le Wear Parish Council awarded £400 in a grant which has been used to pay for the upgrade.

The volunteers involved were John Askwith, Ian Lundy, David Blackett, Norman Swindell, Keith McNally, Norman Clarke, Dave White, Ursula Jones and myself.

I hope the residents of the village can see the fruits of our labour.

The station land belongs to Weardale Railway, but the garden is a community garden and it is good for everyone if it looks good.

If you would like to help keeping it tidy, please feel free to go along and do some weeding, trimming or planting.

Just let me know (07717 707934) you are going along, ensure you stay safe as the road can be busy and we can let others know if they wish to come and join in.

Ian Lundy, a Weardale Railway volunteer has spent

many hours this year pottering in the garden and hopes to continue but having local people helping helps ease the load.

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richard@entwinesolutions.co.uk

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Parish Council News

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



WITTON-LE-WEAR PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 2025

Minutes of the ordinary meeting of Witton le Wear Parish Council held on **Monday 8th September 2025** at Witton le Wear Community Centre commencing at 18-15.

Present: Cllrs Murray-Leslie (Chair), C Cook, M Campbell, L Bentley.

Residents: Mrs A Yuill

25/58/1 Cllr Murray-Leslie welcomed everyone to the meeting.

25/59/2 Apologies received from Cllrs L Langstaff Wood and L Docherty

25/60/3 The agenda being considered by the Cllrs there was no declaration of interest.

25/61/4 The minutes of the regular meeting on Monday 14th July were accepted and signed by Cllr Murray-Leslie. There were no amendments.

25/62/5 The Clerk presented a financial report. There were no issues or irregularities.

25/63/6 There were no electronic decisions

Actions from previous minutes:

25/64/7 Cllr Bentley advised that the actions to complete the path strimming and remove the dangerous tree described in 25/47 are complete. (Resolved)

25/65/7 Cllr Langstaff-Wood has completed the actions described in 25/48 with Facebook comms issues. (Resolved)

25/66/8 Cllr Murray-Leslie emphasised that training was available to the councillors.

25/67/9 The Clerk gave a short update on the GoFibre works around the village. An explanatory article has been produced for inclusion in the next Witton Word. (Resolved)

Representation by Residents

25/68/10 Mrs Anne Yuill on behalf of the Weardale Railway thanked the parish council for the generous grant of £400 that will be used to offset some of costs incurred for the 200 years celebrations. Mrs Yuill briefly explained some of the works, lifting old sleepers, renewing ballast, station garden maintenance, lifting stones and giving credit to the tireless enthusiasm shown by the volunteers. Cllr Murray-Leslie thanked Mrs Yuill for sharing. (no action)

Working Groups - New Actions

25/69/11 Cllrs Cook and Bentley have agreed to get prices from 3 x local companies to carry out further strimming works around the Green. Cllr Bentley to determine areas that need further work and identify them initially with the 3 Word App. (Ongoing)

25/70/11 The lack of public transport was discussed. Although DCC have responded the bus service to the village only runs through term time. Issues around appointments to see doctors and hospital appointments were considered and it was agreed the existing system was not fit for purpose.

Parish Council News

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



WITTON-LE-WEAR PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 2025

The long term hire of an ‘eco’ car was discussed but no action / agreement.

The lack of suitable transport is to be brought up again with DCC by the Clerk.
(Ongoing)

- 25/71/11** The clerk advised that there were issues with Wordpress used for the WLW Parish website. Training is required, method to back the system up is required and action to improve site security. (Clerk – Ongoing)

- 25/72/11** A68 – nothing to report (Ongoing)

- 25/73/11** Microgrant forms are not easily accessible to all. Cllr Murray-Leslie to review and arrange training as required. (Action Cllr Murray-Leslie)

- 25/74/11** Cllr Cook advised she had received prices for the 2 x new notice boards to replace the failed boards at St James Gardens and Enginemans Tce. (Resolved)

- 25/75/12** There were no microgrant applications (Resolved)

- 25/76/13** The Parish Plan is still being developed by P Parsons. Cllr Murray-Leslie to arrange a meeting to determine way forward. (Action Cllr Murray-Leslie)

- 25/77/14** Cllrs reported receiving favourable comments about the quality of the new format Witton Word. It was agreed there had been a delay in the delivery of the paper. It was agreed the Clerk would liaise directly with South West Durham News and be the focal point for distribution to the delivery team. (Resolved)

- 25/78/15** Cllr Bentley advised all agreed strimming works were now complete. (Resolved)

- 25/79/16** Cllr Bentley confirmed the dangerous trees had been removed. (Resolved)

- 25/80/17** There were no planning matters (no action)

- 25/81/18** There were no member reports (no action)

- 25/82/19** Cllr Cook agreed to purchase the Remembrance wreath for £25 and to inform Cllr L Langstaff Wood. (Resolved)

Meeting closed at 19-15

Next ordinary meeting of the Parish Council – 10th November 2025, 18-15, at WLW Community Centre

Signed by the ChairH.Murray-Leslie..... Date.....10/11/2025.....

Parish Council News

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



Witton le Wear Parish Council Receipts and Payments for the Period 01/09/25 thru 31/10/25

Receipts

	£
Bank Balance as of 1st September 2025 B/Fwd	£11,451.21
Village Voices - Return of Microgrant	£500.00
Path Strimming - Makepeace Motors	£480.00
VAT Refund	
Durham County council Environmental	

Payments

Insurance	
Clerk Salary (incl tax paid to HMRC)	£475.46
Path Clearing / Strimming - Makepeace Motors	£2,640.00
Extraordinary Meeting - Expenses	£10.22
Electricity	£37.64
Witton Word - Printers	£302.00
ICO	
Sundry Expenses (Batteries, fixings, paint etc all covered by receipts)	£29.49
WLW Community Centre	
Bank Charges	£12.00

Balance Sheet

Incoming	£12,431.21
Outgoing	£3,506.81
Balance from this sheet	£8,924.40
Balance at 31/10/25 at Bank	£8,924.40

Balance Sheet Prepared by Michael McLaren PC Clerk
Approved by Chair Hannah Murray-Leslie

07/11/2025
10/11/2025

Your Parish Councillors & Officers

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



Michael McLaren
Parish Clerk

t. 07976 400604



Hannah Murray-Leslie
Chair

t. 07920 557324



Caroline Cook
Councillor

t. 07760 193417



Mel Campbell
Councillor

t. via Parish Clerk



Lynn Docherty
Councillor

t. 07765 807589



Laura Langstaff-Wood
Councillor

t. 07765 142350



Lynda Bentley
Councillor

t. via Parish Clerk

Shaping our Parish Plan

A huge thank you to everyone who joined us at the community centre on 16 October for a lively, hour-and-a-half discussion about the village, writes *Paul Parsons*. The meeting was the next step in creating our new Parish Plan.

Having a Parish Plan is really important. It sets out what we as a community feel is important. Since the Parish Council runs on a tiny budget and willing volunteers, the plan will help us make sure we apply our resources to make a difference where it matters most.

The meeting was the second stage in the process of developing the plan. The group discussed issues raised in earlier resident interviews and added new themes.

The topics we discussed

A lot of focus was on the community centre and how the community can work with the Community Association to improve its use, like making it a possible co-working space. We discussed how to secure its long-term future as it currently runs at a loss. We also recognised the importance of our pubs, the school, the church, the allotments, and the great work of the youth club.

We talked about the challenges of running all the community clubs and activities and how they all rely on volunteers, and we discussed how to encourage more of us to get involved. A key point here was how we communicate with each other and a possible over-reliance on Facebook.

We considered the need for young people and older residents to get to appointments outside the village and how that's hindered because there isn't a regular bus service in the village. We also touched on parking issues and the need for electric vehicle charging points.

We talked about protecting our lovely parish paths and the Weardale Way, and the need to get our walking routes digitised.

What happens next?

The points raised at this meeting will be used to create a village-wide resident survey. This will give everyone a chance to share their views on these topics and tell us which issues matter most to them.

Keep an eye out for the survey, which will be available online and as paper copies. We need your input to make sure the Parish Plan reflects the whole community.



Cricket Club Awards Night

Witton le Wear Cricket Club

The Cricket Club held its annual awards on Saturday 15 November at The Victoria Inn. The club was delighted to maintain its 'A' Division status and the lads have battled hard all season in a very competitive league.

The highlight of the day was the special thanks given to Mick and Gail Penfold for their 30 years' service at the club, particularly on the ground, which many walkers to the river will know.

They were presented with a voucher for a sporting event of their choice and made Life Vice Presidents of the club.

In addition, the Players' Player award will from now

on be called *The Mick Penfold Bowl*.

Awards were presented as follows;

Batting: Tim Smalley

Bowling: George Hall

Catches: Andy Corcoran

Most Ducks: Simon Raine

Most Spectacular Fails in Pursuit of Excellence in the Critical Action Zones (aka Most Dropped Catches): Simon Raine

Players' Player: Tim Smalley

Everyone at the club thanks the village for all of your support.



Mick and Gail Penfold



Mick presents the Mick Penfold Bowl to Tim Smalley for Players' Player of the Year.



Tim Smalley – Batting Award



Andy Corcoran – Most Catches



George Hall receiving the Bowling Award from his sister, Jess



Simon Raine – Most Ducks and Drops