

THE WITTON WORD

ISSUE 128, APRIL 2026

In this edition

Shaping our Parish Plan

Theresa and Stan celebrate

Bus Campaign Update

A Model Station

The newsletter of Witton le Wear Parish Council

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NEXT DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS:
Friday 29 May

SCHEDULED DATE FOR DELIVERY:
Friday 5 June

*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

Welcome to the Easter edition of the *Witton Word*.

Plenty has happened in the village since our last publication, so I hope you enjoy the updates and please respond to our **Parish Plan survey**, details on page 5.

Our next Parish Council meeting will also be the AGM and we would love to fill our two vacant Councillor positions.

Being a Parish Councillor is a great way to work with others and contribute to village life.

The key responsibilities are attending six meetings per year to help make sure that our core business is carried out properly and being prepared to volunteer for tasks and projects as they arise.

For example, maybe you have ideas for improvements and

can help make them happen? Perhaps you're great at organising things and would like to bring more local groups together for village events, or are passionate about a particular issue you'd like to sort out?

If you'd like to find out more, you can ask any of our existing Councillors or contact the Clerk.

It'd be great to hear from male residents, you are under-represented at the moment!

On the theme of contributing, we are always looking for new content to keep the *Witton Word* fresh and engaging, so please get in touch if you have ideas to put forward, or a story to tell.

Big or small, it's all part of village life.

I hope you all have a good Easter weekend.



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

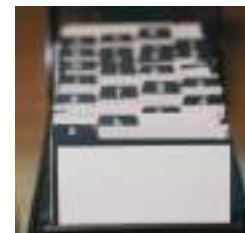
North House, Crook 01388 762 945
 Repeat Prescriptions 01388 762 718
 Auckland Medical, Toft Hill 01388 433 060
 Auckland Medical, St Helen Auck . . . 01388 604 163
 Auckland Medical, Bishop Auck . . . 01388 602 728

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

Every Wednesday 14.15 – 14.45

- 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.

Installation of new Parish Council Noticeboards

A decision was made at the end of last year to replace the two existing Parish Council noticeboards which were in a poor state of repair, writes *Cllr Caroline Cook*.

The new powder coated aluminium noticeboards were installed last month and I'm sure residents will agree they are a significant improvement. Thank you to Mick and the team (MP Property Services) for the removal of the old boards and installation of the new.

Anyone wishing to advertise village events can display their A4 poster in the noticeboard by contacting a Parish Council key holder:

St James Gardens: Mike McLaren (07976 400604) or Caroline Cook (07760 193417)

Wear Valley Junction: Mike McLaren or Laura Wood (07765 142350)

As a small Parish Council we're always looking for ways to make minor improvements so if you have any ideas, come to a meeting or contact the clerk on clerk.wittonlewearpc@gmail.com.



Your Parish Councillors & Officers

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



Michael McLaren
Parish Clerk

t. 07976 400604
clerk.wittonlewearpc@gmail.com



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

Your village, Your voice

Take ten minutes to shape the next ten years

Witton le Wear is a special place to live, for it to stay that way, we need to plan. We've heard your initial thoughts on traffic, the Community Centre, and our green spaces—now we need to make it official.

The Parish Council is building a new Parish Plan. This is our roadmap for where we spend our budget and what we fight for.

This is your invitation to complete the Parish Plan Survey

What do you need to do?

Scan the QR code to open the survey on your phone.



Or use your browser to visit <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/YourVillageOurFuture/>

Answer the questions to have your say. It really is that simple.

We're a small village and every single response makes a huge difference. Make sure yours is heard! Don't let others decide the future of our village for you.

If you would prefer a paper copy of the survey, please contact the Parish Clerk on clerk.wittonlewearpc@gmail.com or 07976 400604.

NETOA

North East Theatre Organ Association

At the time of writing the North East Theatre Organ Association is waiting for an article to be aired on BBC Look North (planned for Wednesday 25th March) regarding 40 years of concerts at the New Victoria Centre Howden le Wear. Check on iPlayer if you missed it.

Our celebration concert on Sunday 22nd March was sold out and a marvellous event it was. Our next two concerts are Sunday April 12th 2:30pm featuring Dr Kevin Morgan at the console and

Sunday May 17th 2:30pm with the one and only Phil Kelsall (resident organist at Blackpool Tower). Our last three concerts have been sold out so booking early is recommended! To win two free tickets for either show, answer the following question:

In what year did the NETOA start concerts at the New Victoria Centre?

Entries via email by Noon Saturday April 11th to david.wright@netoa.org.uk. A winner will be drawn from all correct entries and notified via email.



North East Theatre Organ Association
 Registered Charity No. 1169463

New Victoria Centre 40th Anniversary Season
 We present

Dr KEVIN MORGAN FRCC

Playing well known popular and classical favourites in concert at the mighty **WURLITZER** theatre pipe organ



Sunday 12th April at 2.30

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

Tickets: £13.00
 Buy From 0333 666 3366
 Order online at: www.netoa.org.uk
 (Booking Fee Applies)

North East Theatre Organ Association
 Registered Charity No. 1169463

New Victoria Centre 40th Anniversary Season
 From the Tower Ballroom Blackpool we present

PHIL KELSALL MBE

at the **WURLITZER** theatre pipe organ



Sunday 17th May at 2.30
 Pro-Booking Essential

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

Tickets: £15.00
 Buy From 0333 666 3366
 Order online at: www.netoa.org.uk
 (Booking fee applies)

NORTH EAST THEATRE ORGAN ASSOCIATION
 Registered Charity Number 1169463
 President Nigel Ogden

Preserving the sounds of the Mighty Wurlitzer theatre pipe organ in North East England






Witton Le Wear
**Community
Centre**

Community Centre

At the Heart of the Village: Witton Le Wear Community Centre

Nestled in the scenic surroundings of Witton Le Wear, the Witton Le Wear Community Centre stands as a vital hub for local life – bringing together residents of all ages through activities, events, and shared experiences.

A Space for Everyone

More than just a building, the community centre represents the spirit of the village. Whether it's a coffee morning group, youth activities, or events, the centre offers a welcoming space where people can connect and feel part of something.

From fitness classes and hobby groups to local meetings and celebrations, the centre caters to a wide range of interests.

It's a place where friendships are formed, ideas are shared, and the community comes alive. Which is why it was imperative that the centre was equipped with WIFI.

Supporting Local Life

In rural villages like Witton Le Wear, community spaces play a crucial role. The centre provides a venue for essential services and social interaction, helping to reduce isolation and strengthen community bonds. The centre needs everyone's support to keep this going.

Local volunteers are at the heart of its success. Their dedication ensures the centre remains active, organised, and responsive to the needs of residents. From planning events to maintaining the facilities, their efforts to keep the doors open and spirit thriving. If you would like to be involved, please speak with one of the trustees.

Activities and Events

Throughout the year, the community centre hosts a variety of events that bring the village together:

- Exercise and wellbeing classes
- Youth clubs and activities
- Seasonal fairs and celebrations
- Private events such as birthdays and gatherings

These events not only entertain but also help raise funds to support the centre's ongoing development.

Looking Ahead

As the needs of the community evolve, so too does the vision for the centre. There are ongoing efforts to expand activities, improve facilities, and attract more groups to use the space. The goal is simple: to ensure the centre continues to serve as a vibrant, inclusive hub for generations to come.

A True Community Anchor

In a fast-paced world, places like Witton Le Wear Community Centre remind us of the importance of local connection. It's where neighbours become friends, where ideas turn into action, and where the heart of the village truly beats.

For residents of Witton Le Wear, the community centre isn't just a venue – it's a cornerstone of everyday life.

To book, call 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.	9.30am - 10.15am
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

Women's Institute News

Inspiring the women of Witton le Wear



Another couple of months have flown by and what a memorable time it has been for the ladies of Witton le Wear Women's Institute, writes secretary, *Barbara Coia*

Our guest speaker for February was Reuben Hill, a fine young man, a pupil at Wolsingham Comprehensive School and who is about to embark on the experience of a lifetime with a trip, along with school companions, to Nepal.

His presentation was so interesting and you could tell he is eagerly awaiting what the trip brings. We even ended up

learning how to play the spoons!! Well done Reuben – you must let us all know how your trip goes!

As previously stated in the last WI News Bulletin, 2026 is the 110th Birthday Year of Witton le Wear Women's Institute and we officially marked the occasion on 5th March with a celebration Evening Dinner at The Manor House Hotel, West Auckland.

It was an evening we will all remember – the food was excellent, camaraderie shone through and The Whistle Testers, our entertainment for the evening, were outstanding. May we have many more happy years ahead.

Our Guest Speaker for our April meeting is Lucy Ridley and she will once again be given a warm welcome from members as another exciting evening awaits.

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

Theresa and Stan celebrate landmark dates



Theresa and Stan Fisher moved into Witton le Wear 24 years ago and this March, they celebrated their 70th (Platinum) Wedding Anniversary.

Platinum is a rare metal representing strength, rarity, endurance and purity. Their four children, grandchildren and great grandchildren helped them celebrate in style.

It was not their only celebration in March, as both Stan and Theresa celebrated their respective 90th birthdays.

Theresa (left, with WI president, Angela Heaton) is well known in the village as she is often found at village fairs selling her handmade pottery. She is also a faithful member of Witton le Wear WI.

Stan is a model railway fanatic and is often found over in Sunderland at the Roker Park miniature railway.

Stan and Theresa offer thanks to everyone who has sent cards, gifts and good wishes.

Regular Bus Service Campaign

Update on the campaign for a regular bus service in Witton le Wear



It is timely to give residents an update on our village campaign, writes *Anne Yuill*.

The strategy document has been completed and we have shared it with Cathy Knight, the acting Head of Transport Services at Durham County Council. She is supportive of the idea but, as you can imagine, funding is the major issue. The current DCC budget for transport is overspent, which is not surprising.

The local MP Dr Sam Rushworth is also very supportive of our campaign and has offered his support in writing.

We also have support letters from Weardale Bus Company, Fir Tree WI and Fir Tree Resident's Group.

The North East Combined Authority (NECA) headed by the North East Mayor, Kim McGuinness, gets a regional budget from the government for transport.

Currently, an allocated amount is sent to the County Councils to pay for bus services (a revenue service).

NECA have funds for capital infrastructure projects which they spend as they see fit. This can be major transport initiatives down to actual bus stops.

DCC receive their transport budget and from this, they commission bus services for County Durham. The working group totally understand that rural bus services very rarely are profitable so we would be relying on subsidies.

What next?

Following discussion, it seems realistic to try to get funding for a trial of a local bus service for at least one year to cover all seasons, ideally 18 months which gives some publicity time for the service.

We have a proposed timetable for a bus to run between Crook, Howden le Wear, Fir Tree, Witton le Wear, Low Barns Nature Reserve, Bishop Auckland Bus

Station, Bishop Auckland General Hospital, Henknowle Estate, and Tindale Shopping Centre; Monday to Saturday five buses a day in each direction between 08.50 and 17.23hrs (Witton le Wear).

The running cost of this service for 1 year would be approximately £125,000.

- We will be putting an application into the newly formed Crook Pride of Place Board which will be established in April 2026. Suggestions for this project need to come from the community and then there will be some form of prioritisation. It is clear this this funding for deprived areas in Crook and Tow Law will be concentrating on projects that do not receive funding from other sources.
- DCC have also recommended that we approach the National Lottery Community Fund. We will be exploring this opportunity to see if we can get match funding in tandem with Pride of Place or the full amount for the trial.
- Explore other funding streams, including NECA.
- DCC have confirmed that the transport team would be able to assist in the procurement and contract management of any bus service, once the funding had been secured.

We hope we have your support. If anyone in the area has any ideas to help, please get in touch. If you are meeting any relevant people within DCC or funding organisations, please support our cause by raising our campaign.

Contacts

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

Pew News

St Philip and St James Parish Church: 01388 768898



For information – Rev. Mel is on a training placement for the next few months to learn about ministry in another parish group.

Witton le Wear as a community was much saddened to hear of the death of the Reverend Tim Atkins on the 17th March in James Cook University Hospital.

Tim and Kate have given almost 20 years of their lives to our Parish Church and there is no doubt it is a much more lively, stronger church because of Tim's leadership.

We will work hard to ensure Tim's legacy will continue to grow within our church community. Our blessings and prayers are given to Kate and her family over this very difficult time.

A full eulogy will be included in the June edition of *Witton Word* after the funeral service.

Our Vicar Claire, is currently on sick leave and church services will still be held within our joint Parishes of Hamsterley, Etherley, Escomb and Witton le Wear.

Church services will be advertised on the church's noticeboards.

Our church here in Witton le Wear is a welcoming place. If you wish to spend time in our church, please make contact and the doors will be opened.

Eastertide is a special time within the Christian church and this poem feels appropriate at this time.

’Twas the night before Easter

by Jennifer Walker

’Twas the night before Easter, and all through the land
There was mourning and grieving for Jesus, the man.
Forsaken by God, abandoned by friends,
Jesus was punished for all of our sins.

“Crucify Him!”, the angry crowds cheered
“Save Yourself!”, the bitter ones jeered.
His followers’ hopes were dashed in His death
As they watched their Leader take his last breath.

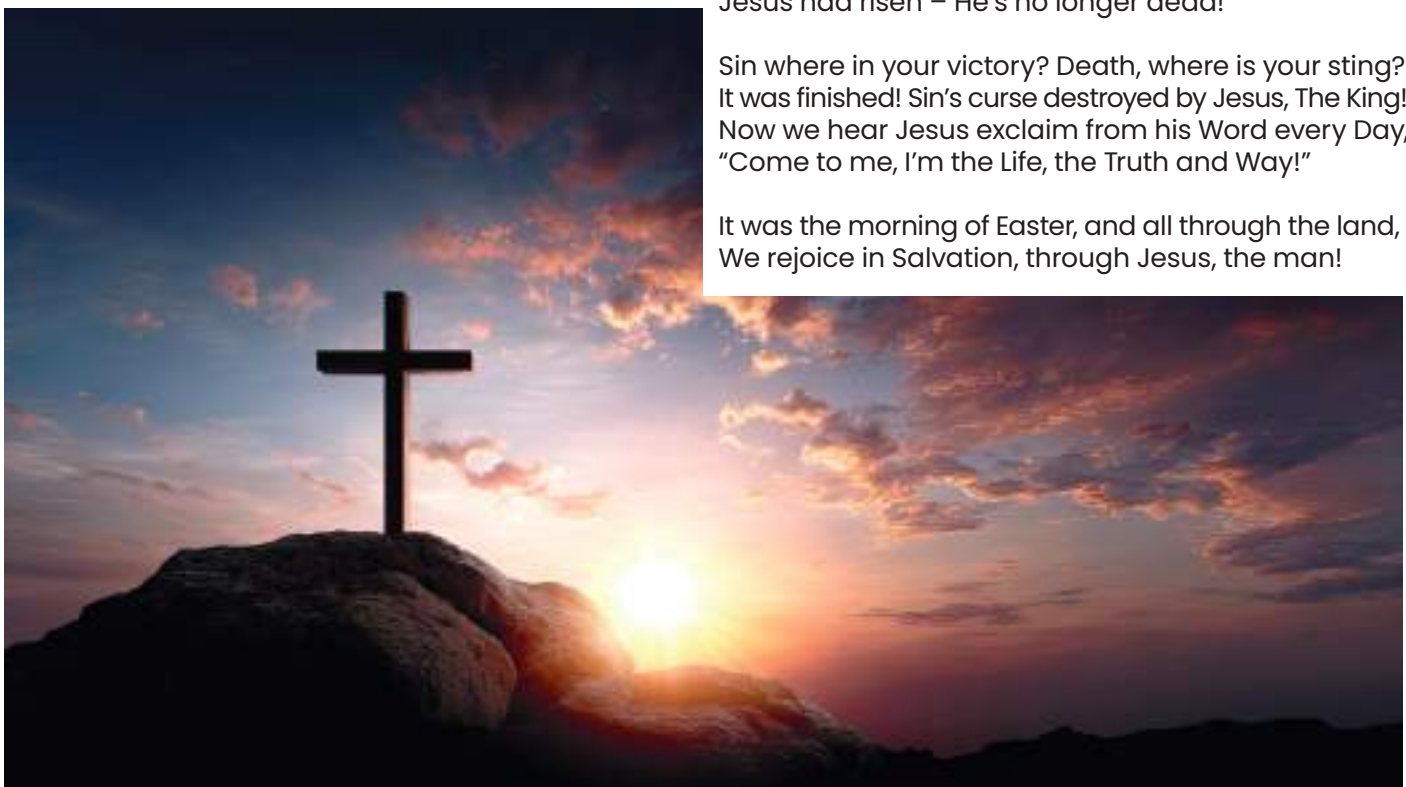
They didn't remember or couldn't understand
All Jesus said about God's ultimate plan.
What they thought in this silence seemed to end.
They'd lost a Master, a Teacher, a Friend.

But Praise be to God – things aren't as they seem!
A battle was raging behind death's last scene.
Sin could not win, death could not hold
Messiah, Our Saviour, as prophets foretold.

When on the third day, women were a-chatter,
Disciples ran to the tomb to see what was the matter.
The tomb – was empty, just like they said
Jesus had risen – He's no longer dead!

Sin where in your victory? Death, where is your sting?
It was finished! Sin's curse destroyed by Jesus, The King!
Now we hear Jesus exclaim from his Word every Day,
“Come to me, I'm the Life, the Truth and Way!”

It was the morning of Easter, and all through the land,
We rejoice in Salvation, through Jesus, the man!



Witton le Wear – A model station

The story of an N Gauge model of the railway passing through Witton le Wear



Around this time last year I was asked if I'd like to show my hobby of railway modelling at St Peter and St James Church for their hobby weekend, writes *David White*.

My chosen size was N Gauge, which is 1/147, or one inch = 147 inches (yes it's very small!). The size is 150cm x 40cm.

I had two weeks to quickly cobble together something that resembled the railway line that passes through Witton Le Wear.

After the event, The N Gauge Society, (Northeast branch) asked if I'd like to make it into a detailed exhibition piece to be displayed at their Model Railway exhibition in Gateshead as there had never been an N gauge version.

Although I regularly help out at exhibitions, I had not built my own piece before so I rose to the challenge.

Fortunately, during November, I was walking 60 miles for Prostate Cancer Research, and I walked two miles every day along the railway path so I took photographs to help with my model.

My model is based on late February early March when the first signs of spring are arriving, daffodils are my favourite flower, and the trees are thinking of waking up for summer.

I quickly began to realise certain types of houses and fences, pavements, kerb stones and street lighting were not available to buy, so I printed them with my 3D printer. Most are files from 3D search engines that I reshaped and resized.

I've tried to make it interesting to view: people are out walking with dogs; there's me on my daily walk; the wheely bins are out for collection and the refuse lorry can be seen approaching.

Painters are busy painting. A fly fisherman is trying his luck in the river. A photographer stands on the platform waiting for the Bubble Car to pass by. Bob Dingle is operating the crossing gates and the warning lights are flashing red. The beehives are behind Station Cottage. Pigs are doing what pigs do in the field.

I have not updated the stone Witton Le Wear, in reality it has been improved with railway sleepers framing the words. It is a snapshot in time.



Parish Council News

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



WITTON-LE-WEAR PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES – JANUARY 2026

Minutes of the ordinary meeting of Witton le Wear Parish Council held on **Monday 12th January 2026** at Witton le Wear Community Centre commencing at 18-15.

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

Residents: Mr T Cole

26/01/1 Cllr Murray-Leslie welcomed everyone to the meeting.

26/02/1 Apologies received from Cllrs L Langstaff-Wood and M Campbell

26/03/1 The agenda being considered by the Cllrs there was no declaration of interest.

25/04/1 The minutes of the regular meeting on Monday 8th September were accepted and signed by Cllr Murray-Leslie. There were no amendments.

26/05/1 The Clerk presented a financial report. There were no issues or irregularities. Signed by Cllr Murray-Leslie (Resolved)

26/06/1 The Clerk presented a budget proposal for 2026 to align with the precept. The budget was agreed in principle but subject to further development. (Resolved)

26/07/1 The Clerk presented a copy of the current electronic decisions.

Minute 25/102/14 recorded that it was agreed to increase the precept value by the rate of inflation. The increase of 2.99% was submitted post PC meeting and presented to the Councillors by email. Decision WLW25ED07 – it was precept rise should be 2.99% (Resolved)

26/08 Communications. The Clerk has received communications from:

Communications submitted 2026-Jan

07/12/2025	Nic Waites	private	to hire community centre hall
18/12/2025		DCC	open space consultation
19/12/2025		Kim McGuinness	Merry Xmas
19/12/2025		Sharon West Auckland	dot gov provider and website etc
01/01/2026		The Circuit	Defib pads expire soon
06/01/2026		Zurich Insurance	Confirmation of cover
07/01/2026		Sevenside Defibs	First Aid Training or Defib Training
08/01/2026		Scribe Accounts	Assertion 10
09/01/2026	Lee Denny	Intermedical	Defib pads expire soon
09/01/2026		CDALC	Clerks Training
weekly		DCC	planning

26/09 Actions from Previous minutes

26/09/01 Cllr Bentley to contact Makepeace Motors re additional strimming and to expedite a credit note. (credit already received) (Ongoing)

26/09/02 Cllr Cook advised new notice boards are expected end of Jan 26. Quote received from Michael Parker to remove old boards and erect new. 2 x more needed. (Ongoing)

26/09/03 Cllrs Cook and Bentley investigating issues with stiles. (ongoing)

Parish Council News

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



WITTON-LE-WEAR PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES – JANUARY 2026

26/10/01	No representations from residents	(no actions)
26/11	Projects	
26/11/01	No active microgrants	(no actions)
26/12/01	Witton Word. Continuing good feedback	(no actions)
26/13/01	Notice boards for St James Gardens and Enginemans Tce have been procured. ETA end of Jan 2026.	(Resolved)
26/14	Parish Plan	
26/14/01	The 2025-10-16 first release of the Parish Plan Meeting notes were distributed to the Councillors for discussion. (Document added to Parish Council Website) The Church had not been included and it was acknowledged this was a shortfall and would be included in the final document.	(Ongoing)
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Introduction, Parish Plan and Process 2. Facilities and Services 3. Life in the Community 4. Environment and Heritage 5. Travel and Transport 6. Planning and Development. 	
26/14/02	The Clerk distributed a copy of the 'resident survey' to the Cllrs which had been prepared by Mr P Parsons. The Cllrs considered and agreed with content of the survey. Clerk and Mr Parsons to determine most efficient way to distribute survey to residents and return the results. Suggestions included inclusion in Witton Word, Collection points around the Village and a QR Code leading to an electronic survey.	
26/14/03	The Cllrs agreed that good progress was being made on the Parish Plan and Cllr H Murray-Leslie expressed her thanks to Mr P Parsons for his ongoing work.	
26/15	Parish Council IT.	
26/15/01	The Clerk distributed a document titled 'Assertion 10'. Assertion 10 is a new requirement introduced in 2025 that relates to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Email management • Website compliance • Personal data handling • IT Policies 	
26/15/02	Cllr Murray introduced Mr T Cole, a local IT Consultant, who has kindly offered to help the Parish Council with Assertion 10. A Parish Council IT Overview Document had been prepared by Mr Cole and Cllr H Murray-Leslie. The Document was presented and explained to the Cllrs. Mr Cole has volunteered to help set up the council domain name and link a cloud-based website and workspace to it. (Development action by Cllr H Murray Leslie, Mr T Cole and the Clerk)	
26/15/03	Cloud based options by Google and Microsoft are to be evaluated.	(Action – all Cllrs)

Parish Council News

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



WITTON-LE-WEAR PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES – JANUARY 2026

- 26/15/04 It was agreed training is likely to be required to manage the new workspace. (ongoing)
- 26/15/05 It was acknowledged a laptop/PC and software may be required for use by the Clerk.
(ongoing – Clerk to work with Mr Cole to determine optimal solution)
- 26/15/06 New IT policies are required to manage the workspace, email accounts and consider virus protection. (ongoing)
- 26/16/01 Precept. The Clerk has completed the precept. This has been signed by Cllr H Murray-Leslie and the document has been returned to DCC for payment.
- 26/17/01 There has been no cyber update from the police
- 26/18/01 There are no planning matters reported by DCC.
- 26/19 **Members Reports**
- 26/19/1 Cllr Bentley gave an update of the Ranger Group who keep a check on the condition of the paths and stiles. Although the Parish Council can pay towards the upkeep of the stiles permission must be granted by the land owner.
- 26/19/2 Cllr Bentley advised us work to digitise the local map had begun.
- 26/19/3 It was suggested the St John of God Hospitaller Services, a national charitable organisation that helps disadvantage people to lead fulfilling lives, might be able to help with some of the gardening services around the village green. (action Cllrs H Murray-Leslie & L Bentley)

Meeting closed at 19-45.

Next ordinary meeting of the Parish Council – 9th March 2026, 18-15 at WLW Community Centre.

Signed by the Chair H Murray-Leslie

Date 13-03-26

Cricket Report

Witton le Wear Cricket Club practise



Daylight hours are slowly but surely extending, the daffodils are out, and the Chairman has started tinkering with his old roller! This can only mean one thing, the cricket season will be upon us in no time!! Your village team will once again be competing in the Darlington & District A Division, having retained its spot in the league's top division last season.

Upcoming fixtures

Saturday 18th April	Away vs Barningham
Saturday 25th April	Home vs Cliffe
Saturday 2nd May	Away vs Spennymoor
Saturday 9th May	Home vs Cockerton

So, what's been happening since stumps were drawn at the end of last season?

The Club held its annual Race Night at the Victoria on Saturday 14 March. This is the biggest fundraising venture of the year for the club, so a big thank you to all who attended and supported us by sponsoring horses, buying raffle tickets and

donating raffle prizes. It really is appreciated.

Our Premier League Last Man Standing continues, and at the time of writing we are in a rollover situation, so there's a big money prize awaiting some lucky predictor!

We have also been doing some actual cricket in preparation for the new season, but Tim has moved us away from traditional nets in favour of indoor cricket. The idea being it should prepare us better for the coming season.

I will say there has been some excellent batting and bowling... but there has been some horrendous running between the wicket (Tim and Mr Humberstone aside).

As always we are more than happy to welcome any new players, sponsors, members or volunteers. If you are interested in getting involved please have a word with George at the Vic, or check out our Facebook page.

Monthly Coffee Mornings

At the monthly coffee mornings, we have a tin where donations can be made for Woodhouse Close Foodbank. At the February event we emptied the tin and £100 was collected. This

was passed to be added to the donations made by St Philip and St James Parish church.

Thank you for your generosity.

Everyone is welcome to come along to the monthly coffee mornings on the first Tuesday of the month. The cakes and refreshments are donated by the organising team which means every penny goes to the community centre funds. Well done to everyone involved.

This can only happen with your support.

Please continue to support us by coming along on the first Tuesday of the month. 10.15-11.45 in Witton le Wear Community Centre.

Tuesdays 5 May, 2 June, 5 July

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)

Friendship Lunch *Don't be a stranger*

The summer lunch will be held on Friday 19 June

On Friday 20th March, 24 guests enjoyed a lovely social lunch with a choice of three home-made soups, three delicious desserts, tea or coffee, an Easter cake and a glass of wine or soft drink. Bob Dingle led a minute's reflection for our friend Tim Atkins.

Our summer lunch will probably be Friday 19th June but notification will be given if this changes. This depends on the availability of our lovely helpers, Helen, Pippa, Edith, Linda, Anne and Jean. Occasionally we have some others who help as well.

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

It is what it says:

A lunch where friendships are made.

Everyone is welcome

Youth Football to kick-off in Witton le Wear

Something new is coming!

In our quiet village of Witton Le Wear, something special is taking shape. On a modest pitch lined with cones and portable goals, Witton Le Wear Youth Football Club is forming – starting 1st June 2026.

Witton Le Wear Youth Football Club is being founded by a small group of locals – an ex-professional footballer and local parents. Witton Le Wear Youth Football Club’s ethos is give every child a chance to play, build confidence, develop skills and love the game, in a safe space.

A Club Built on Opportunity

Grassroots football has long been considered the backbone of the sport, providing the foundation for both elite talent and community development. The Football Association has emphasised the importance of improving youth football and increasing player involvement, with new initiatives aimed at giving young players more time on the ball and more opportunities to develop their skills.

Witton Le Wear Youth Football Club will embrace this philosophy from day one.

Instead of focusing solely on results, the club prioritises development, enjoyment, and inclusivity. Training sessions are designed to maximise touches, encourage creativity, and build confidence – values aligned with modern grassroots principles such as “players come first” and equal access for all.

Research consistently shows that grassroots football helps young people build confidence, friendships and life skills, such as discipline and resilience.

Witton Le Wear Youth Football Club are hoping to become a hub and a belonging to families.

Starting June, we hope you find Witton Le Wear’s young players laughing, learning and chasing a ball across the grass. There will be no scouts in the stands, no trophies on the line – just pure football and in many ways, that’s exactly where the game began.

We will be hosting events to raise funds for the club and doing regular fundraising cards. Please keep a look out for more details.

For more information, please contact Cheryl: 07714 583799.

WITTON-LE-WEAR YOUTH FOOTBALL CLUB

A NEW UP AND COMING FOOTBALL CLUB

Join Us to Improve Your Skills!

STARTING 1ST JUNE 2026

TRAINING DAYS
Tuesdays and Thursdays

OPEN TO ALL AGES AND SKILL LEVELS!

- Ex Professional Footballer as a Coach
- Build confidence
- Improve skills

CONTACT US FOR MORE INFORMATION:
Cheryl: 07714583789 WL.WYF@outlook.com

Come and join us and become part of a brand new club

HORSE RACE FUNDRAISING NIGHT

4TH JULY 2026 7PM

WITTON-LE-WEAR YOUTH FOOTBALL CLUB

ARE HOLDING A HORSE RACE FUNDRAISING NIGHT TO HELP RAISE FUNDS FOR THE CLUB

@ THE VICTORIA, WITTON-LE-WEAR

A SPORT OF PRECISION, STRATEGY, PRESSURE AND NERVE

DISCOVER BOWLING

AT WOLSINGHAM BOWLING GREEN

OPEN EVERY AFTERNOON 2-4PM DURING THE SEASON

From 18th April to mid-September
Interested?

find out more at wolsinghambc.co.uk
or contact Dave Phelps on 07827 855674