

Willoughby Parish Plan Action Plan – where are we now?

In 2012 Willoughby Parish Council issued a survey to all villagers to complete. The results were collated and analysed and resulted in the production of the Willoughby Parish Plan.

Using the results of the survey an Action Plan was produced and the Parish Council has been working to resolve the issues highlighted in the plan.

You said:

Speeding in and through the village was a major concern for many of you.

What have we done?

The Parish Council has consulted with Warwickshire County Council and Warwickshire Police Speed Awareness team. Speed awareness electronic signs were used and the speed of traffic has been monitored on several occasions.

The Parish Council will continue to monitor speeding issues and will engage with these agencies on a regular basis.

You said:

Dog fouling in and around the village was of concern.

What have we done?

The Parish Council has encouraged villagers and Parish Councilors to report incidents of dog fouling to the Chairman and these reports have been passed to the Rugby Dog Warden. Several people have been visited by the Dog Warden and warnings issued. The Parish Council continues to monitor this issue and to post reminders in the Willoughby Monthly.

You said:

Litter was a nuisance in and around the village.

What have we done?

The Parish Council has asked for volunteers from the village to help with litter-picking. Unfortunately, as no volunteers came forward, the Parish Councilors have carried out litter-picking on their own. We hope to encourage people to participate in the future and a notice will be posted on the Notice board and in the Willoughby Monthly.

You said:

You would like information on the recycling of larger items.

What have we done?

We have discussed the possibility of arranging a regular collection of larger items with Sean Lawson from Rugby Borough Council. We have not moved forward with this yet although, for a small charge, you can access this service by contacting Rugby Borough Council directly.

You said:

You would like information on energy saving initiatives.

What have we done?

This was a low priority in the survey and the Parish Council have not started work on the subject yet.

You said:

A Welcome pack containing a range of information about the village organisations and local services would be very useful to new residents.

What have we done?

The Parish Council have produced a leaflet that, along with the History of Willoughby Booklet, is now delivered to all new residents. The information will also be available on-line when the new Willoughby Parish Council Website is launched later this year.

You said:

You were interested in more information about Willoughby Parish Council and Rugby Borough Council activities.

What have we done?

We post information regarding the Parish Council activities and meetings on the notice board and in the Willoughby Monthly. We will soon include Rugby Borough Council and Warwickshire County Council information too. We will also have direct links to their web-sites when the Willoughby Parish Council's own web-site goes live later this year.

You said:

You would like to see increased activities for villagers.

What have we done?

The Parish Council would be willing to enter into discussions with any residents who have ideas for additional activities.

You said:

You would like information about existing clubs and activities in the village.

What have we done?

Information about current activities and existing clubs can be found in the Willoughby Monthly, on notice boards in the village and can often be found on lamp posts around the village..

You said:

You would like a service point in the village.

What have we done?

The Parish Council worked with the Village Hall Committee and with the Willoughby Society and identified that financial assistance was needed to bring broadband to the Village Hall. The Parish Council now pays towards the cost of providing Wi-Fi to villagers using the Village Hall.

You said:

You would like allotments in the village.

What have we done?

Willoughby Parish Council identified and purchased a plot of land suitable for allotments. The Parish Council also funded fencing and a water supply and set up the Allotment Society. The allotments are now in full production.

You said:

You would like a Community Shop.

What have we done?

This is still something to move forward although the Parish Council cannot set this up. However the Parish Council is willing to enter into discussions with any interested villagers.

You said:

You would like a Parent & Toddler group in the village.

What have we done?

The Parish Council would be willing to make some funding available to residents who would like to set up a group in the village.

You said:

You were very concerned with crime and disorder in the village

What have we done?

Willoughby Parish Council worked with Warwickshire Police and Willoughby residents to set up a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme. There is now an e-mail alert scheme to keep members informed about criminal activity in the area. This has proved to be very popular and membership is growing.

You said:

You would like to see a Youth Club and activities for children established in the village.

What have we done?

Willoughby Parish Council is currently investigating the availability of grants to assist with setting up activities for young people in the village. The Parish Council would also welcome discussion with any interested parties.

You said:

You would like more information about childcare facilities in the area.

What we have done?

Rugby Borough Council have details of Childcare facilities on their web-site. If you feel the Parish Council can help individuals with any further queries please contact us.

You said:

You were concerned about transport links to and from the village.

What have we done?

At present no transport operators are willing to come through the village, although this has been discussed with several bus operators. They will continue to pick up passengers from the bus stops on the A45.

You said:

You were concerned about the lack of Social and affordable housing in the village.

What have we done?

Rugby Borough Council, with the support and co-operation of Willoughby Parish Council, engaged Midland Rural Housing to undertake a survey of housing needs in the village. The response to the survey was very good, but the low requirement for

affordable housing indicated in the survey responses means this will not progress any further unless the situation changes. In line with their current policy, Rugby Borough Council will commission a further survey in 5 years time.

You said:

You wanted to protect the village and the countryside surrounding Willoughby

What have we done?

The Parish Council conducted a village survey to gather views of villagers regarding their community. The results of this survey along with the Housing Needs Survey results gathered by Midland Rural Housing will be used to produce a Willoughby Village Design Statement. Once this has been approved by Rugby Borough Council the Village Design Statement will be officially adopted by the Council.

The Village Design Statement is a work in progress but should be completed by September 2015.

The Parish Council has also considered developing a Neighbourhood Plan but, following advice from Rugby Borough Council, decided against it as it is a very expensive process and unnecessary for a village the size of Willoughby. A Neighbourhood Plan only provides help if a large development is planned for the area so that the community can be involved in helping to plan and develop the local infrastructure.

Willoughby Parish Council has also compiled an Action Plan and is working towards the following list of items:

- Achieving accreditation under the Local Council Award Scheme.
- Setting up a befriending / buddy scheme
- Working towards a Playing Field extension
- Working with the Village Hall Committee to provide land for a Village Hall car park
- Developing an up-dated Emergency Plan
- To get Haywards Lodge registered as a Nature Reserve
- Supporting the Flood Action Group

- Working on improving Broadband and Mobile cover in the village
- Setting up a Crisis and Emergency Response Team
- Reducing traffic speed through the village
- Working towards providing a Defibrillator in the village
- Organising a litter-picking week-end with volunteers from the village
- The introduction of a Be Healthy Club in the village
- The possibility of a Dial-a-Bus service for Willoughby residents

Willoughby Parish Council would welcome volunteers to assist in moving some of these actions forward. Please contact a Parish Councilor if you would like to help.