

## COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT NESTON LOOKING BETTER

Notes from the NLB meeting held on Thursday October 24<sup>th</sup> 2024

Present:- Cllr Janet Griffiths, Cllr Brenda Marple, Cllr Pat Kynaston, Michelle Johnson and Liz Luxford also Rachel Fury (NCYC)

Apologies:- Helen Neal

### 1. Neston Report – Janet Griffiths

The Summer Fair on July 6<sup>th</sup> was successful but the field was rather wet in places. The Summer market (pirate theme) was well attended and we had a record number of children taking part in the trail around the stalls. The Christmas lights switch on is on Saturday November 30<sup>th</sup>. There will also be a Christmas market with games for the children and entertainment.

A working group requested by CWAC Councillor Keith Millar who also took part, has worked up the length of the High St. from Bates to the Liverpool Rd. surgery, removing the weeds from all the shop fronts and parklet.

An Autumn litter pick is planned for the Clayhill on Sunday October 27<sup>th</sup>.

The concrete slab wall on the Chester Rd. end of the planted area is still awaiting repair and is getting worse.

The charity bookstall on the market made £40 for the food bank.

Neston civic Society are planning working groups to clear weeds and litter on the second Saturday of each month, starting with the Market Square on Saturday November 9<sup>th</sup>.

### 2. West Vale Report – Liz Luxford

The Zip wire is up and awaiting seat adjustment. Liz will remove the seat if there is noise trouble in the evenings.

The Fun Day was very successful. Some attractions were unable to come but the inflatable shapes were very popular with the young children. The Ukulele band and Fleur Smith provided musical entertainment.

A bulb planting session is planned.

Money left over from the Spacehive is to be used to upgrade the children's play area.

Foxes tearoom has opened to replace CC.s.

### 3. Parkgate Report – Brenda Marple

**a.** As noted at the last meeting, there had been flooding at the Old Baths area and this happened again and also on the road leading from the Boathouse. This was more severe than last time, resulting in people having to walk along the wall alongside the road. However, work has been carried out on a drain and ditch that had been blocked for a long time. Also work carried out around the drainage area and path around the Backwood Hall bridge staircase. Under the Boathouse Lane bridge, the grit surface of the path has been improved. Work on the stream by the track down to the Old Baths car park had been carried out with more stone added.

**b.** The Community Spirit team are still well supported each month. There has been lots of debris from the high tides.

- c.** Mosquito Monitoring Report produced by Dr. Enevoldson now posted on the Town Council website and Facebook page and other social media sites so that it is available to more people. Dredging should be taking place by the end of October, unless weather conditions make it difficult to access the marsh, in which case it will be postponed.
- d.** Friends of Parks Field have a fundraising Spacehive project to improve user experience, by introducing a flat paved area at the top of the field with more seating and table area for wheelchair use, also improved signage.
- e.** The missing interpretation board from the donkey stand has now been restored to its plinth.
- f.** The boat Hi-C on the middle slip was damaged, but the roof to the cabin has now been repaired.
- g.** There are still plans to re-furbish the seats on the donkey stand, but waiting for materials from CWaC council. Volunteers to be found to carry out the work and possibly help from the person who maintains the boat.
- h.** Still concerns expressed by residents about the deterioration of the Mostyn House Chapel, which is legally the responsibility of the owners of the surrounding properties that were purchased as part of the development for its upkeep.
- i.** Land behind the Elephant Coffee was of concern to some residents as planning permission hadn't been obtained for a permanent extension and paving over, of garden areas belonging to two apartments. The Parkgate society had asked the Planning Department to look into the matter.

#### 4. Ness Report – Michelle Johnson and Pat Kynaston

The pavements are poor and full of weeds. The chicane area looks poor with a number of potholes in the area.

Planning has finally been received for the Miners Memorial. The additional signage now needs producing.

There is no news on the development on the Wheatsheaf. The landlady of the Harp is retiring. We hope it will remain open.

#### 5. Library Garden – Helen Neal

I have had the CW&C Landscape Architect back out to the garden to re-cost the original design and also revise the plan. We're going to make it a Dementia Friendly space and are supported by David Foulds and Sarah Crockett from MHA Communities (who provide the Dementia support hub at Neston Library on Wednesday mornings). Making it DF will guide the layout of the garden, especially the materials used for the pathways etc. and there will be lots of seating available. It will have lots of sensory elements (low beds to brush past and raised beds for traditional gardening). The current sensory garden will have a complete makeover too.

As soon as I have a final plan, I will bring it to discuss with the NLB members. Going forward, I am hoping that the garden will be maintained by our Library Garden volunteers and NLB but, ultimately it becomes a community space/extension of the library, which can be used for workshops, outdoor activities or just be a calm, relaxing space for people to sit in, to improve their wellbeing.

6. Mosaic – Helen N.

Russel Kirk, one of the original artists, came to look at the mosaic at the end of the summer – he can do all the repairs etc, so that is great. The plan is to remove the sections of the mosaic out of the plinth (as this will make it easier to restore) and we will incorporate the refurbished mosaic into the Library garden (with interpretation boards) so that it can be a focal point, draw people into the garden and act as a talking point- especially for reminiscence purposes. The remaining plinth will form a stunning raised bed.

The repairs will not start until the New Year, so will be covered with a hessian material (as advised by CW&C conservation team) to protect it from the elements this winter and prevent further damage.

7. Friends of the Wirral Way – Brenda M.

We had a meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> July – plenty of people tuned up and officers were appointed. A grant of £250 from the Town Council will be used for high viz jackets and other equipment. The signpost will be repainted by a working group and the undergrowth cut back around them. Tim Lloyd (CW&C) is working with the group and will be providing the paint etc.

The area to be covered runs from the Millenium bridge to the boundary with Heswall. Keys to the noticeboards have been received and the 10 year old notices removed. The boards have been cleaned up and there are maps of the length of the Wirral Way now installed.

8. High Street

The weeds have been removed from the shop fronts and the properties opposite the Town Hall. The Town Hall is currently having its leaking roof replaced. The lower elephant/Evoke shop is to become residential. There are no new empty shops.

9. Rachel Fury from NCYC has expressed an interest in joining the group and will liaise with Neston High School as well as reporting on NCYC matters.

10. we have decided to contact other amenity groups to send in reports of their areas and any requests – Friends of Hampstons Well, Lees Lane ponds, Parksfield and Marshlands Road. Brenda has contacts with a number of them.

11. There was a discussion and request for extra litter bins at the bottom of Manorial Rd adjacent to the new coastal path and on the Chester road car park path adjacent to the Sainsbury's entrance. There is no bin anywhere on this busy carpark.

## COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT NESTON LOOKING BETTER

Notes from the NLB meeting held on Thursday February 27<sup>th</sup> 2025.

Present – Cllr Janet Griffiths, Cllr Brenda Marple, Cllr Pat Kynaston, Liz Luxford, Michelle Johnson, Rachael Fury(NCYC)  
Also Helen Neal (CWAC Officer).

## Apologies – Martin Barker

### 1. Neston Report – Janet Griffiths

The Litter Pick in October was successfully completed on the Clayhill. About 14 bags of litter was collected.

The Civic Society working group planned to clear weeds and litter was not a success. There was a lack of volunteers due to the continuous rain and cold.

The Town Council plans to support the Great British clean up at the end of March with two litter picks.

The wall at the end of the grassed end of the lower entrance to the Chester Road car park is still in pieces despite having been reported over a year ago.

The new format of the Christmas lights turn on was well received by the public and the Christmas market held on a Saturday was a success.

Keith Millar provided a sack of daffodil bulbs from CWAC which have been planted around the public flowerbeds.

Volunteers have held a number of second-hand book stalls on the market and the money raised donated to the Neston Food Bank and Community Transport.

### 2. West Vale Report – Liz Luxford

There has been an increase of families using the park. The zip wire has proved very popular.

CWAC has agreed to refurbish the play area and provide football posts.

There are two planters due to be installed outside the row of shops. The shop keepers have agreed to help with the watering.

The hedges overgrowing the fences are being cut back by a Town Councillor. £50 has been quoted by CWAC for the use of a wood chipper to dispose of the clippings.

The snowdrops planted are flowering well but the wild flower area was a failure.

### 3. Parkgate Report – Brenda Marple

Permission for signs from the Wirral Way are taking some time - waiting for a response from CWAC. Notice boards giving information about Parkgate are planned.

A new path now runs from the old baths viewing area to the car park.

The Community Spirit group is still well supported.

A contractor is being consulted about the problems with providing a Christmas tree on the donkey stand. A new idea is needed. The popular suggestion is for an extension of the lights but the expense of doing so is a problem.

Parkgate was featured in a film on Netflicks.

The PG phone box is due to be decommissioned and a request by Martin Barker was put forward that the TC take it on. This will be discussed at the next C&E meeting.

Goose (old Moskitos) has put in for an alcohol licence. The café is now very popular. The Little Tea pot appears to be closed. There has been a change of licensee at the Red Lion. The Boathouse is going ahead with its refurbishment. There have been many complaints about the state of the road on Parkgate front. A request needs to be made to CWAC for repairs.

There are still ongoing problems with benches on the donkey stand. They need repairs before the volunteers can take on the repainting.

#### 4 Ness Report – Pat Kynaston

The memorial plinth for the Miners has finally got permission to go on the Green. The plan is for 6ft tall figures of an adult and two children made in steel powder coated.

Six Information boards will go on various other places.

The regular coffee mornings held in the village hall continue to be very popular.

There is to be a new manager at The Harp.

#### 5 Library Garden – Helen Neal

The Dementia hub has expressed an interest in having a space in the garden.

The plans are ongoing but it is intended to be a Community Garden.

Various groups have volunteered to help when ready.

#### 6 Mosaic – Helen Neal

It is hoped to be incorporated within the garden. The concrete sections will be removed and repaired and interpretation boards made. The brick plinth will become a raised flower bed.

#### 7. Wirral Way Group – Brenda Marple

There is a great group of regulars – ‘men with machines’. The section which it is caring for runs from Station Road Parkgate to the Millenium Bridge Neston. The group is well supported by Tim Lloyd from CWAC who gets funding for any materials required.

The Millenium Bridge is to be repainted by the group.

The signposts have been repainted and the undergrowth around them cleared. They now need varnishing.

#### 8. High St.

Burger Lab continues but is planning to include a cocktail bar ‘Overdraft’.

A travel agent is moving into the old Elephant cafe/Evoke building. The former architects moved to Connections.

The Brown Horse has had a change of manager.

The bike repair shop appears to have closed.

The Nursing Agency/care management also appears to have closed.

The Tower building is up for sale.

Autumn Sweets has closed.

Brook St. Turkish Barbers new lights are a problem for residents opposite.

Greenland fisheries has changed hands again.

#### 9. Litter Picks

Great British Clean up March 21<sup>st</sup> to April 6<sup>th</sup>. Litter picks organised for March 22<sup>nd</sup> Saturday. Meet on the Market Square at 2pm. Sunday April 6<sup>th</sup> meet at 2pm outside Goodens carpets on the Clayhill.

Wirral Way Litter pick on March 25<sup>th</sup> 1pm to clear the debris left by the campers.

Henley Road needs clearing of twigs and small tree branches.

10. Planting and Weeding – weeding group to recommence now the weather has improved and the ground dried out a bit.

11. NCYC report – Rachael Fury

Civic Hall has a reprieve until September. The Raise the Roof fund is still ongoing to raise funds for match funding.

Neston Angels to be relaunched in April. They will be befriending and providing shopping support to be supported by grants and events.

There is an idea to paint Open Reach boxes with Artwork. Groups to be asked to give ideas and work with a local artist.

ECH Community Volunteer evening to be held in the Civic Hall in May.

A group of youngsters are being encouraged by NCYC to take part in public volunteering.

Neston Earth group are having a bit of difficulty at the moment.