

## WPC - Annual Report May 2022

Thanks to all the councillors for their hard work this year on many various projects and issues raised, as you will see from this report.

Sadly, we are losing 2 members due to their own family commitments, as this role can at times need much attention and we are only volunteers. A role that can be time consuming but also very rewarding in seeing how it supports your community.

Our first vacancy interviews are 9<sup>th</sup> May. The second vacancy has been advertised. We do hope residents will consider offering their time to support the community in this role.

Many thanks to Mark Williams and Simon Taylor for their hard work, much appreciated. Simon will still be supporting the council in the Traffic working Group, which is open to the public to join.

We very much appreciate Sue Cook, our Clerk, who ensures correct and fair process is carried out. She has helped us in our quest to continue to update our working practices.

Councillors have also attended training and receive regular Updates from NNC, this keeps us informed and supported in fulfilling the role.

WPC has had to move with the times, with changes that have affected us all. We are all quite proficient in Zoom and Teams meetings. During lockdown the public seemed more inclined to attend our full council meetings via zoom. WPC enjoy having the opportunity to interact with the public on these occasions. As we move back to former practices, a conscience decision was made to improve our communication with a growing community.

Website - Has been redesigned and is still a work in progress as our work progresses. We can only manage so much at one time. But every document is posted on the website from meetings to NNC updates.

Facebook – We recently launched our FB page with regular updates and information on activities in our community. We use this as another form of noticeboard for information. The website provides contact details, via our Clerk or attend the FCM. We are always happy to talk to the public

Weldon Wide – the parish magazine has been relaunched, previously Weldon in the Woods. The first issue should have landed on your doormat this week to every Weldon resident. While we have councillors on the communications working group, we do hope public will join us to make this a community magazine.

Youth Worker – Kirstie Lloyd has been our youth worker for 2 years now and provided regular reports of the activities arranged for all the young people in Weldon plus offering Parenting Courses. What is a real shame is that Kirstie is yet to have a place for the young people to come on a regular basis to make their own? WPC is hoping to rectify this situation. For the present she has the Blue Bus that can be parked at CBA school or inside CBA in the canteen and sports hall. But equipment needs to be lugged about each time. All the Youth Group reports again are available on the website.

Traffic – this subject has proved to be a very hot topic. WPC has a working group and public also attend. We appreciate those that have attended on zoom, as this can be held in this manner compared to committee meetings. WPC are constantly offering designs and solutions for a safer community. Sadly, we find communication from NNC Highways to be an uphill struggle and not helped by their lack of responsibility for issues regarding highways. We don't want to wait until someone is killed for action.

WPC is working for a safer crossing on A43, campaigning with 20's Plenty, using street furniture to keep pavements safe and free of parking as well as ensuring correct parking on our roads ( Highway Code) with DYLS.

Planning – the committee review all applications and will comments with Full Council approval. Members have contacted developers in and around Weldon to ensure they are respectful and good neighbours and establishing a working partnership to make sure Weldon is considered.

Parish Maintenance is a busy area. Much is done to keep our wildlife/conservation areas. Introduction of planters have brightened up Weldon and make the pavements safer for pedestrians to use and not cars. Having a Parish Caretaker means jobs are dealt with more promptly rather than waiting for NNC to attend.

Queen's Platinum Jubilee – an opportunity to celebrate with family and friends, plus neighbours by joining in the activities organised for all. Details are on our website and in the Weldon Wide. I would like to thank the people involved in putting this together. We hope that you enjoy the celebrations.

With the varied agenda items, it has given us the opportunity to meet the students of the primary schools, Youth groups and Knit and Natter group. Getting parishioners of all ages involved in varied parish matters such as the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, 20s plenty, biodiversity, Neighbourhood Development Plan and Yarn bombing.

We regard ourselves to be a forward-thinking parish council and adjust were necessary. But we can't know what the public think unless they talk to us.

I'm grateful for my fellow parishioners for putting themselves forward to do this voluntary role to support their community by being a councillor. I hope there are others that will join us with the 2 vacancies on the Full Council or consider joining Planning or Parish committees or the Traffic/Communications working groups.

Thank you

Cllr Angela Page

Chair of Weldon Parish Council May 2022