

COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE NESTON LOOKING BETTER

Notes from NLB meeting No. 8 2023

Meeting held in Neston Town Hall on Thursday June 22nd at 11am.

Present :- Cllr. Janet Griffiths, Cllr Brenda Marple, Cllr Pat Kynaston
CWAC Cllr Martin Barker, Liz Luxford.

In Attendance :- Cwac Officer Helen Neal

Apologies :- Michelle Johnson

1. Neston Report – Janet Griffiths

The weather has been so hot and the ground so hard that there has been no weeding of the public flower beds. CWAC has planted the Fairtrade symbol in the large round Park St. bed but it does not fill the bed and the weeds are taking over in the outer parts of the bed. The bulbs that were planted after being donated out of season, did not come up but they may next year. The roses in the market square have been dead headed. They are wonderful this year.

The mobile Post Office in the community office in the top car park has been a great success.

The flats on Gittins warehouse plot alongside the market square are well under way. The scaffolding supporting the building was put up overnight on the market square and necessitated the repositioning of some market stalls and the flower bed along the wall cannot be maintained. Martin Barker is to contact the developer for compensation.

The Easter market and Artisan market in the Town Hall was very successful. The Big Lunch planned on the Market Square for the Coronation weekend did not take place because of staffing problems. But the Town Council gave out Coronation Memorial bags and financial support to the various groups who were holding Coronation parties.

The bookstall held in April raised £50 for Maggie's (cancer charity) and £50 for Neston Community Transport. The Bookstall held at the beginning of June raised £100 for the Food Bank. We plan another bookstall on June 30th to raise more funds for the Food Bank which is currently supporting some Somali refugees.

The Neston Civic Society hope to put a new memorial bench for Celia Garvey on the Green on Park Street opposite her house to celebrate the many years service she gave to the society.

The Ladies Day was blessed with a lovely hot day. There was a Stilt Walker and Balloon Sculptor for the entertainment of the crowd waiting to see the Parade. They were well received by the crowd and the Parade was very successful.

2. West Vale Report :- Martin Barker

The wild flower meadow areas planted in the park by CWAC have been a great success but there have been some problems with a few children playing in the flowers and flattening them. There has been an offer of a memorial bench for pets. The ground under the play equipment has been replaced.

The arrangements for the Fun Day on August 6th are well underway. The park has received a Community Volunteer Award from NISA.

A suggestion was made that the concrete planters currently on the High Street might be removed and placed along the pavement outside the shops on West Vale and planted up with flowers and the shop keepers encouraged to care for them.

3. Ness - Pat Kynaston

A Coronation tea was held in the village hall and the TC memorial bags were given out. The Jubilee Tree in the park alongside was unveiled and many photos taken. There was a large screen in the hall with old photos of previous coronation celebrations. Funding continues to be collected for the Memorial Miners information boards and Trail with QR codes.

4. Parkgate Report – Brenda Marple

The Community Spirit group continues to thrive with 12 regular volunteers. The work on the Viewing Platform is due to begin in October. The Rowan trees have been planted. The Finger Post project is looking for Space Hive funding for signs and for paths. There is a Space Hive Funding session to be held in the Library on July 7th.

The Parkgate Nurseries planning application is still ongoing. Funding is being sought to varnish the benches on the Parade and it is hoped volunteers will help.

No. 1 Parkgate on Mostyn Square has been reopened 4 days a week but Moskitos has now closed and there is a current planning application to demolish it and build 2 small Holiday Lets in its place.

The Coronation Party held on Mostyn Square went well and enjoyed by many. Again TC memorial bags were given away.

5. Library Garden – Helen Neal

The newly refurbished bench looks good. A memorial bench for Sandra Evans (library manager) is to be placed in the garden. The New Pergola is now up and planted but the benches need painting. Raised veg plots are planned and funding will be needed to fill them with compost. Various funding suggestions were made and Helen will follow them up. Helen has lots of plans for various groups to make use of the garden.

Helen hopes to get the Mosaic removed from its current unsightly plinth and moved into the garden area alongside the wall in the sensory garden area. Advice from a stonemason will be sought.

6. Little Neston – It is felt that a representative covering the central area around the Green and shopping area is needed. Pat K will cover it for now but we need another volunteer.

7 Empty Shops

Elephant Bank has now closed but they have taken over the old shoe shop and hope to reopen in August. The Lower Elephant coffee on the High St. is also due to close but a client is already to take over and use the building. The Skipton Building Society is closing on September 11th. A number of Societies use this facility for their accounts and it will be greatly missed. The

nearest branches are Chester and West Kirby. Hair Attitude on the High St. is now closed. House of Fabulous on Parkgate Rd. is closing in July.. Evoke is moving into the lower Elephant Coffee.

8. Jubilee trees

The 3 memorial trees planted in the High School Grounds have really struggled in this hot long dry spell despite efforts to water them. The Civic Society may need to replace at least 2 of them.

9. Public Flowerbeds

Because of the hot dry spell no weeding was undertaken because the ground was too hard. The Ladies Walk bed was done early in the season and now that there has been a little rain the weeding group has made an effort on the Market Square planters.

A new flowerbed has been planted by volunteers from money given by Cllr Martin Barker in Flint Drive and looks lovely.

The CWAC initiative of planting Wild Flower Meadows in various sites around the borough have been much admired and commented on.

10. Plastic Free Town

Audrey has worked wonders contacting all the relevant societies in the town who have now signed up to reducing single use plastic. So we are well underway to becoming a Plastic Free Town.

11. Cemetery Litter Pick

A complaint was received about the state of the cemetery and a litter pick was about to be organised. Keith Millar CWAC Cllr reported it to CWAC and they sent out the grass cutting team and the cemetery now looks lovely and there is no litter.

12. Problem weeds in the Town

There are many places with unsightly weeds at the bases of walls all round the town. This should be a CWAC responsibility. At the last Police Surgery in the library a number of Churchill Court residents complained that undergrowth is blocking a number of pathways. Complaints to For Housing have not been answered so a working party with residents, Cllr Keith Millar and Cllr Janet Griffiths are going to have a working party to tackle the problem. This may become a monthly session.

13. Wirral Way 50th Anniversary

There is to be a meeting on July 4th in the town hall to discuss the event. A number of groups and societies in the area have been invited.