

COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE NESTON LOOKING BETTER

Notes from the NLB meeting held on Thursday February 15th 2024 in Neston Town Hall.

Present :- Cllr Janet Griffiths, Cllr Tracey Hardcastle, CWAC Cllr Martin Barker, Liz Luxford.

In Attendance :- Helen Neal (CWAC Officer)

Apologies – Cllr Brenda Marple, Cllr Pat Kynaston and Michelle Johnson.

1. Neston Report – Janet Griffiths

The weeding group is about to start again once the ground has dried out a bit. Most areas are still very wet though the spring plants are flowering very early. The large circular bed on Park St. has been replanted by CWAC continuing the Fairtrade symbol. The daffodils and tulips have now been planted in a number of public beds. The tulips did not arrive until mid November when the very wet weather began so they were not planted until mid January. We hope they still grow.

The Annual Litter Pick of Clayhill and Raby Park Road and cemetery will be organised for March.

The block of flats in Gittins yard off Brook St. are nearly finished and we wait to see how the cars entering the narrow entrance negotiate the traffic.

The McCarthy Stone flats are due to begin building on the plot at the bottom end of Church Lane. This was passed despite many objections and complaints by residents and local groups. Burton Road has already suffered a number of road closures for large vehicles trying to enter the site.

The Christmas market was once again very successful and was followed by an expected quieter phase during the winter months. The Easter Market is planned for Good Friday March 29th.

During the very wet period before Xmas the brook through Stanney Fields Park over flowed its banks and swamped the path and bridge but it has cleared a lot of debris.

2. West Vale Report – Martin Barker and Liz Luxford.

The Space hive bid for the Zip Wire was successful. It is hoped to be installed in June. The remainder of the space hive money and some of Martin Barker's money to be used to upgrade the play equipment.

There are planters planned to be placed in front of the West Vale shops.

The Fun Day is currently being planned for August 6th. Helen has agreed to provide a craft and arts event at the Fun Day.

3. Parkgate Report – Martin Barker and Liz Luxford

Brenda was unable to do a report so Martin and Liz made an impromptu report.

The Viewing area at the old baths has now been completed. The willow owl sculpture was blown over in the gale but has now been restored. Part of the car park suffered some flooding and the drainage needs repairing.

The monthly litter picks have been well attended.

The Coastal Path is well underway along the marshes and is due to be finished at the end of February. It is only for walkers.
More wild flower meadow areas are to be planted by CWAC and the old areas to be refurbished.

4 Ness Report

A joint report was made. The Ness Miners Memorial bid has been successful. Concerns were expressed about the future of the Wheatsheaf pub and Goldstraw farm. There are rumours but no definite knowledge.
Ness Neighbours coffee group in the village hall is very popular. Drinks and homemade cakes at £3 are very enjoyable. They are held on the first Tuesday of each month

5. Library Report – Helen Neal

There is a consultation on line to be filled in by residents 'West Cheshire Museums and Libraries Consultation February -2024'.
The garden area has a number of bulbs coming up and is looking reasonably tidy.
Helen hopes to be able to hold a number of events outside during the summer. This Half Term there are crafts inside. The Earth Festival at NCYC is planned for April.
The Great Big Green Festival to be held June 8 – 16th will take place in the library. There will be the opportunity for book and plant swaps. There will also be opportunities for residents to get citizens advice and warm home advice etc.

6. High Street

The High Street is looking reasonable at the moment. The proliferation of cafes seem to be doing well. There is to be a new sweet shop in the shops on Parkgate road. The Greenland Fisheries has been refurbished and looks much better. Paisley Grey is now open late. Bolete (the old Food Kitchen) is now open as a restaurant.

7. Park St. Flowerbed

This has now been planted up with the Fairtrade logo. There were concerns that it may need to be taken over by the weeding group but CWAC is continuing to plant it.

8. Sytchcroft Park

The pathway to the station is very over grown and supermarket trolleys have been thrown over the fence into the railways land. It was suggested that the town council could be asked to write to the railway company.

9. The Clay Hill Litter pick

Will be arranged for March and a call put out for volunteers.

AOB. It was reported that Marshlands Rd. have created a new Eco Group to manage the improvements of the play area currently very neglected.
The Town Council are hoping that there will be some space available to extend the allotments as there are currently 50 residents on the waiting list.