

Village Diary

Wilsden Parish Council Meetings

Mon. Sept 1st, 7 p.m. Library Room, Village Hall

Mon. Oct. 6th, 7 p.m. Library Room, Village Hall

Mon. Nov. 3rd, 7 p.m. Library Room, Village Hall

Mon. Dec 1st, 7 p.m. Library Room, Village Hall

Wilsden Annual Gardening Show, Wilsden Village Hall

Sunday September 21st 2 p.m.

Neighbourhood Planning Open Evening. Wed. Sept. 24th 7 p.m. Village Hall

Carols in the Park & Xmas lights switch on

Wed Dec 3rd, Wilsden Park

THE WILSDENER

Latest news from around the village,
PLUS Wilsden Parish Council Newsletter

ISSUE 26

AUG 2014

CRIME REDUCTION

West Yorkshire Police are committed to reducing crimes and antisocial behaviour in your area. Both remain at low levels in Wilsden village and surrounding areas but help us to help you enjoy the summer by reducing crime even further. Most crimes are preventable and good simple low cost home security will reduce your chance of being a victim even further. Now the good weather is hopefully with us, we are spending more time outdoors.

A third of all burglaries are through an open door or window so ensure you lock your house door and close your windows behind you. Don't give a burglar the opportunity to sneak in and steal your valuables whilst you're tending to the garden or having a barbeque in the back. Don't leave items such as wallets and car keys on view near doors and windows where it's easy to reach in. Garden sheds and garages are often used to store expensive items such as lawn mowers, cycles and tools. How secure is your shed and garage? Check the general fabric of your shed and garage. Fit good quality locks. Remember if you can get in easily so can a thief. Post-code items that you store in the shed or garage. Use a visible method of marking where possible. We often recover items which we believe to be stolen but can't identify where they've come from - contact your local Crime Reduction Officer for more information.

Remember to lock everything away in your shed or garage. Don't be tempted to leave things out overnight or while you just 'nip to the shops', it only takes a minute for someone to walk off with your belongings. For further information see the West Yorkshire Police website or contact me, your local Police Community Support Officer, Gary Fletcher on 01274 475331. In an emergency where there is a crime in progress or a danger to life always ring 999. For non-emergencies, but to report a crime ring 101. If you're interested in further crime reduction advice and good news stories from the police about what's happening in your area, please join the Email Contact Network and send the reply slip to Bingley Police Station. These letters can be found at the Wilsden Contact Point at the rear of Wilsden Village Hall during opening hours.

Contacting your Parish Council

There are a number of ways you contact the parish council.

All our meetings are open to the public and full council meetings include a 20 min. session where residents can raise any issues they wish. The Contact Point at the Village Hall is not only for raising police issues. If you have anything you wish to raise with the council please call in on either Saturday between 10.30am to 12 or Thursday 1.30 to 4 p.m. where a councillor will be on duty. General contact for the Parish Council should be through the Parish Clerk, Ruth Batterley, on either 07875 635203 or e-mail: clerk@wilsdenparishcouncil.gov.uk

Please also visit the Parish Council website at www.wilsdenparishcouncil.gov.uk

THE PARISH COUNCIL IS 10 YEARS OLD

The first meeting of Wilsden Parish Council took place on June 21st, 2004 and after 10 years we felt it was good to look at what we had achieved since then. While much of what we do is routine, such as reviewing every planning application submitted within our area and making representations to Bradford planners, there have been a number of specific achievements by the Parish Council and we will look back at these later in this newsletter.

Parish Council Grant Scheme

Do you need help with funds for a local community group or organisation that works for the benefit for Wilsden and its residents? The parish council runs a grant scheme to help local groups and causes. Help can also be provided to complete the form. If you would like more information on the scheme, please get in touch with the Parish Clerk, Ruth Batterley. clerk@wilsdenparishcouncil.gov.uk 07875 635203

Planning and the Parish Council

Planning decisions from a new porch to a new estate, are made by the Planning Authority, which is Bradford Metropolitan District Council. The parish council must be consulted on all planning applications in our area and we also have the opportunity to comment upon applications in neighbouring areas that will affect Wilsden.

In addition to looking at individual planning applications we are also looking at the longer term planning and development issues for the village. This has involved both focussing upon how we can improve things within the village but also how we represent Wilsden and its needs within the wider Bradford district. In order to do this the parish council published a Parish Plan in 2010 and presented this to Bradford Council's Shipley Area Committee. The parish council has also been very active in reviewing and making representations about the Bradford Local Plan, which considers, amongst other issues, housing needs until 2030.

The 2011 Localism Act gives considerable powers to local communities to have a say about both where new houses will be built and the types of houses to be built. The Act states that parish councils are one of the best ways for local communities to have a say about development in their area. The process by which communities have their say is through a Neighbourhood Development Plan and if this is approved by a local referendum, the plan is legally binding on Bradford Council's planners. Wilsden has started this process.



Brought to you by Wilsden Village Hall (Reg. Charity No. 511626) & Wilsden Parish Council

~ Covering Wilsden, Harecroft & Hallas Bridge ~



Chairman's Letter

Laurie Lee, the author of "Cider with Rosie", was born just before the outbreak of the First World War. To mark the centenary of his birth in June the BBC re-broadcast an interview with Laurie recorded just before he died in 1997. He recounted that as he sat outside his Cotswold cottage enjoying the sunshine, children studying his books for school projects, would often stop and ask him where Laurie Lee was buried! They thought he must have been long dead as his first book about his younger days seemed to be set so long ago.



In the interview Laurie talked about how much the world and his local community had changed, so much so that teenagers could not imagine the world their grandparents lived in. He felt that the biggest change was that the village in which he was born and went back to in retirement had lost its sense of community.

Wilsden has changed greatly in the 30 years my family have lived here and as it has got larger and lifestyles have changed, involvement in the community has got less. One thing which does however prompt a reaction is development plans for the village. Following on from the local Crack Lane development protests is the much larger long term planning issue of finding new building land within the village.

Communities are being told of the number of new dwellings needed in their area over the next 25 years by central government and new building land has to be identified to meet the needs of our growing country. Currently the available land identified nationally for new homes is running out and new areas for development must be identified. This building programme has to be planned and we have the opportunity to put forward our ideas for the Wilsden area right at the start of the planning process.

The Parish Council has established a Neighbourhood Planning Group, in preparation for creating a Neighbourhood Plan which will involve the whole community and I hope increase the community spirit within our village. The Open Evening on Wednesday 24th September at 7:00 pm in the Village Hall, will I'm certain, prove that the community of Wilsden is still very much alive and thriving. Please come along to find out more and let us have your views about the long term development of your village.

Simon Dickerson

Planning Applications

Bradford Council passes details of planning applications to the parish council and these will normally be considered at our monthly council meetings. When an application is received details are posted on the Parish Council website along with details of how more information can be obtained from the Bradford Council planning website. The Parish Council website indicates the meeting date when the application will be considered and residents can attend this meeting and make representations either for or against the application. Local knowledge, discussion with the applicant and site visits if necessary, help us to form an opinion on the application which we pass back to Bradford who will take this into account but they are not binding on the District Council. The decision on most planning applications is taken by planning officers and thus the review by the parish council is the only time applications are scrutinised by elected representatives. Where we differ from a planning officer on an interpretation of planning policy, we can insist that the decision will be taken by a Bradford Council Committee.

Wilsden Children's Gala 2014

The 2014 Wilsden Gala is only the second gala in four years after a couple of cancellations and we welcome back a village institution.

The Gala, which was held on Sunday 20th July 2014 began in the traditional way with the Gala Procession with four groups participating, led by Huddersfield Brass Band. The procession left from the Village Hall and arrived at the cricket field via Royd Street, Farndale Ave and Badgergate Ave to Haworth Road. This year's Gala Queen Lucy Hutchinson was crowned before officially opening the Gala with help from her attendants Archie Moran and Vienna Welthy.



The theme of the Gala was "The Big "W" (anything from White to Weird via Wombles or Wizards) and there were prizes for Best Fancy "W" dress for both boys and girls, Best "W" decorated walking tableau, Best "W" float and Best "W" decorated bikes, scooters, skateboards, prams or buggies.



The programme consisted of various events which included a Birds of Prey display, dance displays, children's races, martial arts and Taekwondo display. Other attractions also included stalls, games, Beat the Goalie, a bouncy castle, barbecue, beer tent, WI tea tent and face painting.

The Gala raised over £2,000 which was donated to the Village Hall to help in their fund raising efforts. The Village Hall Management Committee was very grateful to the Gala Committee for organising the event and were impressed with the success of the day and a big thank you to the Gala Committee for all their hard work.

The sun shone and villagers turned out in droves. It was great to see the old Wilsden tradition of a Gala returning to the village and long may it continue.

Can you help with a few hours of your time?

The Volunteer Car Scheme offers lifts to people who do not have access to their own transport to places such as the Medical Centre, Hospital Outpatients and the Village Hall. The scheme urgently needs more drivers as the demand from users is growing faster than can be met by the present number of drivers. Even if you can only spare a few hours a month this would be extremely helpful. The users of the scheme refund the expenses of the drivers at 45p per mile.

While some of our volunteer drivers may do a number of trips a week some can only do an occasional trip a month and we can readily accommodate both. If you can help or want to know more about what is involved please call either Margaret Harrison on 272305 or Peter Allison on 273403.

The Wilsden Wall Building Group

The group has been in operation since 2008 and in that time has re-built dozens of meters of the dry stone walls in and around Wilsden. Set up from an idea in the Parish Council by Cllr. Tony Caunt who had identified many dry stone walls as being in very bad condition, a group was formed in August 2008 and work started in earnest in 2009. The group have worked on walling all the way down from Birchlands Avenue to the Garden Centre, walling in Harecroft opposite Old Allen Road, at the corner of Bob Lane, on walling for the Cricket Club bordering the Windy Grove housing and the playing fields next to the cricket ground. The group re-built much of the walling at one side of The Pie Hole and then last year and this year saw it working on the walling at the side of Haworth Road from The Avenue to Shay gate.



The aims of the group are to improve the aspects of the village and make it a better place to live. Regretfully we have an element of unruly youths who take great delight in destroying the walling that has been painstakingly re-built over many hours. They are known to some of us and they can destroy the walls by pushing the top stones off in mindless vandalism in a matter of minutes. Why do they do this and indeed who are they as they have no respect for our village and need to be identified.

If you know who “they” are you can speak to PCSO Garry Fletcher or any Parish Councillor or Tony Caunt on 273709.

MAY 2015

Next May sees the end of office for your Wilsden Parish Councillors. There are nine councillors who serve Wilsden and Harecroft and all posts will be up for election, as part of the May elections. The parish council’s role is to:

Represent the local community. Wilsden Parish Council does this in a number of ways, it makes comments on all planning applications in the parish, lobbies Bradford about environmental matters, such as street cleansing and dog fouling and liaises with the police and other agencies and Bradford Council departments.

Delivering services to meet local needs. The parish council is responsible for maintaining the land at Laurel Park, providing and maintaining the hanging baskets in the summer and keeping the village stones clean and planted. Other areas the parish council is involved in include funding the Community Library and providing the trees, lights and switch on at Christmas.

Improving the quality of life in the local area. The major item that the parish council is working on at the moment to support improvement to the quality of life is the development of a Neighbourhood Plan: local people can now have a direct and active say in helping to shape development in the areas in which they live through ‘neighbourhood planning’. At the time of writing the parish council and its Neighbourhood Planning Working Group are in the early stages but further updates will be made available. So if you have a passion for your village and would like to get involved and make a difference, this is your chance. Please get in touch with the clerk or one of the parish councillors who will be able to give you more information.

Police and Crime Commissioner

In November 2012 the first Police and Crime Commissioner for West Yorkshire was elected and he has submitted this article about his role and what he aims to achieve.

“My name is Mark Burns Williamson and as Police and Crime Commissioner I oversee policing on your behalf and for the whole of West Yorkshire, including Bradford, Wakefield, Leeds, Calderdale and Kirklees.



My main duties are to appoint the Chief Constable, hold the Chief Constable to account for the delivery of policing, setting and updating the Police and Crime Plan, setting the force budget and the police precept in the Council Tax, engaging with the public and operating an independent custody visitors’ scheme. The overall vision being ensuring our communities are safer and feel safer.

I do this by ensuring I engage with you through public perception surveys, including the Listening to You First survey, and also by visiting communities and partners, including councils, charities, community organisations and schools, among many others, to hear what is important to you in your community. That is why in the refreshed annual Police and Crime Plan, released in May, I have put in new priorities, including road safety and cyber-crime.

I am delighted to see that youngsters from Wilsden will be joining in the West Yorkshire Police Summer Camp this August where they will be able to take part in basketball, archery and American football. They will also visit the state of the art Carr Gate training facility where we have a Police helicopter, police horses and a firearms range and a dogs section. It is a fantastic opportunity for youngsters aged between 9 to 15 to learn new skills and more about policing in West Yorkshire.

Making sure your priorities and concerns and what you care about most are reflected in the Plan is crucial to me because the Police and Crime Plan, available at www.westyorkshire-pcc.gov.uk, sets the strategic direction for community safety across our county. I am determined to see crime cut and combat anti-social behaviour, put victims first and protect the most vulnerable. I have protected frontline policing, making sure that despite severe government cuts here in West Yorkshire, (£157million by 2016/17) your neighbourhood police officers and PCSOs have been protected, working closely with your local council.

I have also established a Safer Communities Fund which gives community projects grants towards reducing crime and increasing feelings of safety in their communities. The fund is made up of money recovered from criminals under the Proceeds of Crime Act at www.westyorkshire-pcc.gov.uk. If you are a community group and feel you could meet priorities in the Police and Crime Plan and would like to apply for money from the Fund visit our website above to apply.”



Office of the
**Police & Crime
Commissioner**
West Yorkshire

Wilsden Parish Council

As we say on the front page we wanted to look back at what we have achieved in the last 10 years. One of the first things we looked for as a council were ways we could make improvements to the village environment. Two things were started very early in the life of the council and have continued every year since. Firstly to put hanging baskets on the lamp posts in the centre of Wilsden and secondly putting up Christmas trees and lights around the village. In the early years of the council we also worked with the children from Wilsden School to plant bulbs around the village. In 2010 the parish council became owners of the grassed area at the corner of Lingfield Road and Main Street, when planning permission was granted for adjacent land. We are always looking for other ways we can improve the village.



When the council started we consulted residents about areas they would like to improve and a major area of concern was the play area on Townfield, near the Village Hall. Compared with the facilities in neighbouring areas there was less equipment and much of it was in need of refurbishment. Discussions with Bradford Council established that the only money available was from the payments that developers were required to give when building ten or more houses. The money required was such that we couldn't raise a significant proportion through the precept, the council decided to put aside £1,000 per year over four years with the expectation that we could use this to attract further grants. After extensive consultation with parents, a plan for the refurbished area was developed in 2008, with technical support from Bradford Council. This scheme cost just under £80,000 and just over £50,000 was available from developer contributions so the parish council had to apply for additional grants. In making these applications the £4,000 council commitment was invaluable. We eventually gained a Play-builder grant for the balance and the new area was officially opened in November 2009.

Over the last 10 years a number of community needs have been identified, often as a result of council activities. Most of these are things best addressed through volunteer action with the parish council maybe giving some initial support and often individual councillors being prepared to become directly involved. Examples of this are the Community Library established when Bradford Council decided to withdraw funding from Wilsden. Although the parish council underwrites the rent of the space at the Village Hall the library wouldn't have continued if we hadn't had willing volunteers to staff it. Another example is the Wilsden Walling Group, a group of volunteers who repair dry stone walls around the village. Dry stone walls are an important part of the architectural heritage of this part of Yorkshire but a number of these have been allowed to fall into disrepair. Our Parish Plan survey identified that 77% of respondents believed that the repair of dry stone walls would make a significant improvement to our environment. The Wilsden Walling Group was established in 2008 and more details of their activities are given elsewhere in The Wilsdener. The Volunteer Car Scheme was originally established because an early consultation highlighted the difficulty of residents getting to Wilsden Medical Centre if they didn't have access to a car. The scheme, which is invaluable to so many residents is thriving and has been extended to cover Harden, Cullingworth and Denholme. There are now 16 volunteer drivers doing between 35 and 40 trips most weeks and over 214 people, most of them elderly, have taken advantage of the scheme in the last 2 years. The final volunteer group, the Friends of Wilsden Park, is the newest group that Wilsden Parish Council has helped to set up.

Wilsden Walkers Show The Way

The leaders of the Wilsden Walkers group attended an Awards Ceremony at Forster's Bistro & Deli, Centenary Square, Bradford on Tuesday 3rd June 2014 where they were presented with a trophy. The Awards were run by "Champions Show They Way" which is a branch of the Bradford District NHS Care Trust based in Cottingley. The objective of the branch is to get retired people especially those who have few friends or relatives in the area or who have become isolated through illness to be able to get out and about and involved with the community through various activities such as painting, singing, craft activities, tea dances as well as walking. More information can be found on their website www.bdct.nhs.uk/cstw or by telephoning 01274 321911 or e-mailing champions@bdct.nhs.uk

Wilsden Walkers meet every Monday at the Village Hall. Various paced walks are organised to suit all levels of ability. The charge is £1.00 per week, 50p of which goes to Village Hall improvements (the Walkers gave £600 last year and £1,900 since the collection to the Village Hall started in May 2011). The other 50p pays for use of the Village Hall on Monday mornings and tea, coffee, biscuits etc.



Walking is a great way to keep fit, meet new people and explore your area. There is no need to book just turn up. If you would like more information on the Wilsden Walkers group please call Philip on 01535 275472

New Councillor for Wilsden Ward

May I introduce myself, my name is Trevor Dufton and I am Wilsden & Harecroft's newest Parish Councillor, having been elected in March this year.

Whilst I am a new boy on the block for the parish council, I am certainly not a new boy to Wilsden. My wife and I came to Wilsden in 1973 (41 years ago) from our home town of Leeds and settled quickly. We have brought up three children in the village, all attended our local school and were members of the various youth organisations. All have fond and vivid memories of their childhood growing up in the village. My own background is that I spent my working life split between a long and varied career in Further & Higher Education, and as a Director and latterly Managing Director of a small and well established family building business. In the early and mid 1980's I helped run the Wilsden Scout Group and it is a pleasure to see how so many of those young people have developed and made their way in life. I would like to use whatever skills I may have developed, including plain speaking rather than standing on the sidelines and complaining.



Whilst recognising the limits of what the parish council can achieve, my aspirations are three-fold. First to always remember that the only purpose of the Parish Council is to serve the residents of Wilsden & Harecroft. Secondly to contribute with colleagues and others in shaping the development of the village over the next few challenging years. Thirdly to at all times retain the best aspects of what, along with my family and friends, I have enjoyed about Wilsden over the last 40 years. I hope that I don't let you down.