

A photograph of a sun-dappled forest floor covered in green foliage and numerous small bluebells. Tall, thin tree trunks are visible in the background, creating a sense of depth and tranquility.

WILLITON WINDOW

Your Church and Community Magazine

Volume 20, Number 10

APRIL 2020

250th EDITION

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DEADLINE DATES FOR THE MAY ISSUE

ADVERTISING: TUESDAY 14 APRIL

EDITORIAL: FRIDAY 17 APRIL

Please send articles, news, diary dates and advertisements to:

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CUT OUT AND KEEP - USEFUL CONTACT NUMBERS

Church of England (St Peter's)

Vicar	Rev Clive Gilbert	631005
Associate Vicar	Rev Kathryn Flenley	633568
Readers:	Mrs Bev Machin	568201
	Mrs Donna Marsden	633707
	Mrs Julie Pelling	07973 961083
Churchwardens:	Mr G Fenech	633577
	Mrs S Withycombe	632596

Methodist Church

Team Ministry:	Rev Nick Lakin	01643 705175
Stewards:	Mr P Gliddon	632327
	Mrs R Troman	633199
	Mrs J Sefton	656652

Roman Catholic Deacon

	Rev Vincent Woods	634681
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Baptist Church

	Rev Mike Sherburn	633755
	Mrs M Collinson	632537
	Mr J Bowcock	248169

Salvation Army Corps Leader	Miss Sam Searle	07979 575453
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Hall address and telephone:	1 Brendon Road, Watchet	633133
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DISCLAIMER

We do our best to ensure that all advertisements and articles appear correctly in the Williton Window. Advertisements and articles appearing in this publication are accepted in good faith by the publishers, St Peter's Parochial Church Council, who can, however, not accept any responsibility for their accuracy, nor does their inclusion imply any recommendation.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: PRIVACY POLICY. We do not share or sell names, addresses, phone numbers or email addresses under any circumstances.

View this magazine online at 8 www.willitonwindow.org.uk

**All information in this magazine is correct at the time of
going to print on Monday 23 March 2020**

WILLITON CORONAVIRUS COMMUNITY HELP GROUP

A new Williton Coronavirus Community Help Group has been set up, in consultation with the Parish Council. Contact details are:

EMAIL: willitonhelp@yahoo.com

TELEPHONE: 01984 573673

FACEBOOK - www.facebook.com/willitonhelp

Do contact us if you are isolated and need help with grocery shopping, medication, dog walking, errands or need a friendly chat. We can put you in touch with someone who can help you.

KEEP YOURSELF SAFE

IT IS VITAL THAT YOU DO NOT GIVE MONEY OR OTHER FORMS OF PAYMENT TO A STRANGER

Once you have made contact with the help group they will allocate somebody to help you and will give you their details so that you can verify their identity. Payment can currently be by card direct with the supplier of the goods or cash on delivery.

Your goods will be delivered to your doorstep, after your helper has either knocked or rung your bell. Your cash payment should be in an envelope to pass to your helper outside. Your helper can advise more about this once they have been allocated to you. If you need to talk to them - where possible speak from an open window or at a distance of 10 paces.

PLEASE FOLLOW THE GOVERNMENT'S ADVICE TO PROTECT YOURSELF FROM CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

The government is advising those who are at increased risk of severe illness from coronavirus to be particularly stringent in following social distancing measures. This group includes those who are:

- Aged 70 or older (regardless of medical conditions)
- Under 70 with an underlying health condition.

These groups should stay at home and limit contact with people outside the home.

- If you are in need of medical help, call the numbers 111 or 999 in an emergency.
- REMEMBER TO WASH YOUR HANDS FREQUENTLY WITH SOAP AND WATER.
- Watch or listen to the BBC or ITV news for updates.

What is social distancing?

We should **ALL** (this means people in ALL age groups) be doing our best to adopt the social distancing guidelines. These are:

- Keep 2 metres apart from other people if you have to leave your home and go out in public.

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(Continued from page 9)

- Avoid contact with someone who is displaying possible symptoms of coronavirus, such as a cough.
- Avoid non-essential use of public transport.
- Work from home, where possible. Your employer should support you to do this.
- Avoid all groups of people, including gatherings with friends and family. Keep in touch using remote technology such as phone, internet, and social media.
- Use telephone or online services to contact your GP or other essential services.

Doing the above will help to slow down the spread of the infection. It is believed that Coronavirus is already in the village, so it so it is vital to everyone to follow the guidelines to help keep Williton safe.

SERVICES BEING OFFERED BY WILLITON TRADERS
Co-Op Supermarket Monday to Saturday - Open at 7am and special shopping hour from 8am-9am for elderly, vulnerable and keyworkers and services. Normal shopping resumes 9am-8pm. Sunday Open at 10am for special shopping hour for elderly, vulnerable, keyworkers and services. Normal shopping resumes 11am to 4pm
Spar Supermarket Opening hours as normal and business as usual
The Somerset Farmhouse Butchery, fresh fish and delicatessen Opening hours as normal. Taking advance telephone orders for next day free local delivery following morning. Tel: 01984 632450
Post Office Business as usual to collect pension and benefits and do meter top ups as well as other services.
Glenmore Bakery Phone 01984 633477 or email orders@glenmorebakery.co.uk Opening hours as normal. Order by 2pm for free delivery/collection next day for Williton, Watchet and Minehead areas
Williton Filling station Open as normal - Limited groceries and Paypoint available
Masons Arms Phone in advance to place an order on 01984 639200. Take away and free delivery service to Williton area – Monday to Sunday Lunchtime 12pm-2.30pm, and Monday to Saturday evening 6pm-9pm.
The White House Hotel Phone in advance to order - 01984 632306. Take Away and free delivery for Williton area every evening 6pm - 8.30pm
Bengal Spice Telephone on 01984 632169 during new opening hours. Open daily 5pm – 10pm for takeaway and delivery service. Free delivery in 3 mile radius.
John's Chippy Business as usual
Wyndham Arms 01984 632381 Take away Sunday Lunch - Please order on the Friday before

WILLITON PARISH COUNCIL

All events and meetings at the Parish Council Office and in the Pavilion are postponed until further notice. For information about private events that usually take place in the Pavilion, please contact the individual organisers.

However, the Parish Office can still be contacted by phone 01984 633979 or email clerk@willitonpc.org.uk.

During these uncertain times, when many residents are going to become reliant upon help from other people, please be very careful. There have been reports (not local thankfully) of people offering to do shopping, taking bank cards and emptying accounts. **DO NOT FALL VICTIM TO SCAMMERS AND CROOKS.** Please only ask for help through your neighbours or a dedicated scheme.

Michelle Francis, Parish Clerk

WHEELS and COVID 19

As WHEELS is an organisation run by retired people for elderly people, we are all in the group said to be at greatest risk if we catch the Covid 19 and are being urged by the Government to stay at home.

I have therefore decided that WHEELS will stop accepting any bookings from March 17th. I do this with a heavy heart as I know many of our passengers find WHEELS an invaluable service and our drivers are glad to be of help.

I wish I could say when WHEELS will be back in operation but we will get going again as soon as this disease has run its course and it is safe to do so.

I pray that all our drivers and passengers remain safe and healthy over the next few months.

John Carslake, Chair of WHEELS

IF YOU NEED HELP:

Williton Surgery Robert Street TA4 4QE Tel: 01984 632701 Out of hours: 111. In an emergency call 999.

In the light of the escalating situation with Coronavirus, the surgery is changing its surgery opening times to enable staff to plan for the day ahead. They will also be telephoning all patients ahead of any face-to-face appointments to avoid non-essential contact.

West Somerset Advice Bureau Tel: 01643 704624

Christians Against Poverty - Free debt help. Freephone: 0800 3280006 www.capuk.org

Quantock Foodbank 07483 815122 email: quantockfoodbank@gmail.com

Williton Police: In an emergency call 999. Otherwise call 101.

Williton Parish Council telephone the Clerk (Michelle Francis) or her assistant (Jo Holmes) on 01984 633979 or email clerk@willitonpc.org.uk

Church Clergy contact details are on page 8 of this magazine

Williton Coronavirus Community Help Group - ring 01984 573673 or email willitonhelp@yahoo.com

Williton Registration Office - 01823 282251 Pre-booked appointments only

Village Agent - Izzy Silvester email izzy@somersettrcc.org.uk or tel: 07931 018045. Leave a message with your contact details.

SPECIAL THANKS TO

Dave Messenger and Doug Wintle for their help in distributing the Williton Window when the Church was closed last month, and to everyone who has offered help this month to enable the magazine to go to every household in Williton. *Editors*

UNITED BENEFICE OF WATCHET AND WILLITON

ST PETER'S CHURCH

For Home Communion or visits of any kind, please contact:
the Vicar: Rev Clive Gilbert on 631005

Associate Vicar: Rev Kathryn Flenley 633568

Readers Bev Machin, Donna Marsden and Julie Pelling (see page 8)

Church remains open daily during daylight hours for personal prayer

FROM REV CLIVE GILBERT

In a time of great uncertainty we are certain of our faith - faith in God and faith in our community.

On Tuesday 17th March the Church of England took the unprecedented step of suspending public worship until further notice.

In a joint letter Archbishops Justin Welby and John Sentamu said it was now necessary to put public services on hold until further notice.

But they said that far from having to "shut up shop", the Church of England must face the challenge by becoming a radically different kind of church rooted in prayer and serving others and we are exploring what we can do to help in this time of anxiety and need. Williton is a wonderful community and we can make it even better by putting others first and making sure that friends and neighbours who might be isolating themselves don't feel isolated from those around them.

At St Peter's we have not shut up shop and the church remains open. The church will be open from 9.30 am until 5.00 pm every day and available for private prayer and reflection.

Daily Morning and Evening Prayer will be said by clergy and readers for and on behalf of the village and the church bell rung to indicate that this is happening. Sadly no public services will take place but please be assured that your church is still here for you. Please as always contact Clive or Kathryn if you need to. We are always willing to chat and pray with you.

On Sunday mornings the Archbishop of Canterbury will be leading all who wish to join him in worship on the television. This is a great opportunity for the church nationwide to worship together.

Can I invite all of you who would like to join me in pausing at 12 noon each day, wherever we are, to this prayer:

Loving God, We pray for all those who are suffering because of the coronavirus, may they know your healing power. When we are afraid for ourselves and our loved ones, give us your strength and courage. When we feel alone and isolated, reassure us with a sense of your presence. Give wisdom to those in authority and may our community work together for the good of all. We give thanks for those who care for others and ask you to bless them in all they do. We ask this in the name of Jesus, healer and physician.

Amen.

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BAPTIST CHURCH (WATCHET)

The Baptist Church usually meets at Knights Templar School every Sunday. For more information, visit the **website**: www.watchetbaptist.org.uk or email mike@watchetbaptist.org.uk or telephone 01984 633755.

METHODIST CHURCH

Worshipping at Danesborough View Common Room TA4 4SH

All our church services are cancelled until further notice in line with all other denominations. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all, keep safe and we look forward to worshipping together in the future.

THE SALVATION ARMY WATCHET CORPS

Salvation Army Hall, 1 Brendon Road, Watchet. All are welcome.

(Part of Churches Together in Williton and Watchet)

All enquiries to the Corps leader, Miss Sam Searle on 07979 575 453.

CATHOLIC CHURCH

Mass is normally celebrated at the Methodist Church, Watchet. In these troubled times, please contact Deacon Vincent Woods on 01984 634681 for information.



Quantock Foodbank

Tel: 07483 815122 Email: quantockfoodbank@gmail.com

COVID-19 Statement

THE QUANTOCK FOODBANK'S aim is to remain operational for as long as possible, and to return to operational status as soon as practicable after any outbreak of the virus amongst volunteers or their families. Measures have been taken to prevent the spread of infection at its premises.

An increase in demand for food parcels is anticipated as a result of the impact on the local population from the UK's strategy for dealing with the crisis. It is expected that:

- Holiday parks, hotels and food outlets who would normally engage seasonal workers will not do so or will lay off employees as they experience loss of trade.
- Closure of schools will mean loss of income for working parents and, if school kitchens also close, loss of free school meals for those on low incomes or universal credit.
- Small business owners and the self-employed will face severe financial difficulties from the knock-on effects.

This loss of income in the community may coincide with a decrease in the foodbank's supplies through shortages caused by panic buying; and comes at a time when it is already dealing with a record level of need.

The Quantock Foodbank will continue to provide a lifeline of emergency food to people unable to afford the essentials; and encourages continued public donations with regular updates on items urgently required from its incredibly generous supporters.

This support from communities in the Quantock area is very much appreciated at such a challenging time.

Thank you.

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LIBRARY SERVICE

In the interests of the health and wellbeing of the community, as of Thursday 19th March 2020 all public libraries in Somerset will be closed until further notice.

During this time customers will be unable to borrow or return any items. No overdue charges or additional hire charges will apply on any items during this time. All reservations have been cancelled and will not be available to collect.

Please remember library services are available 24/7 at SomersetReads.co.uk where you can download e-books, audiobooks and magazines.

For updates, please visit our website Somerset.gov.uk/libraries or follow us on social media:

Twitter: [@SomersetLib](https://twitter.com/SomersetLib) | Instagram: [somersetlibraries](https://www.instagram.com/somersetlibraries)

Facebook: [Somerset-Libraries-UK](https://www.facebook.com/Somerset-Libraries-UK) – most libraries have their own Facebook pages too.

We sincerely apologise for any inconvenience. Please stay safe and we look forward to welcoming you back in the future.



WASPS - WILLITON AND SURROUNDING AREA PARKINSON'S SUPPORT

The meeting held at the Pavilion on Thursday 5th March attracted fewer members than usual but the weather was not very nice and also some were ill.

Jenny Manvell did some enjoyable exercises with the members present. Our speaker this month was Venetia Moore, who gave a very interesting talk on healing, massage, reflexology, relaxation and gentle exercise for people with Parkinson's and also for carers.

Our AGM was due to be held on 1st April but, due to Coronavirus, all our meetings have been cancelled until further notice.

However, because we cannot meet, the WASPS do not cease to exist. If you have been diagnosed with Parkinson's you are not alone. The WASPS offer friendship and support. If you would like to have further information, please contact Linda Bishop on 01984 631472. *Ginny Yandle, Committee Member*

GLOBAL FRIENDS

The March session was used for discussion about a future venue. We also discussed the possible help two of our members would need when they finish their university degrees. For more information about Global Friends and future meetings, please contact 01984 248392 or 634734. *NH*



WELCOME TO WILLITON - WELCOME PACK

Have you recently moved to Williton or do you know someone who has? If so, you may like a free Welcome Pack, which gives a map of Williton, details of services, clubs and organisations, and other useful information. Please ring Jenny or Tony Gibson on 634899, email willitonwindow@yahoo.co.uk or go to our website: www.willitonwindow.org.uk/welcome-pack

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

On Thursday 20th February, Liz Payne took us on a lovely journey on the River Thames in a talk called 'An Englishman's Home is his Castle'. It was a very entertaining slide show of photographs taken by Liz when she and her husband travelled along the Thames on their boat, which showed all the different varieties of homes along the riverside. There were houses 'on stilts' to prevent flooding, passing by 'The Traitor's Gate', houses that looked like castles, houses ancient and very modern. One in particular I recognised and I couldn't think where I had seen it before, but after a thorough search through the various filing cabinets in my brain (!) I remembered a television programme about 'Honeypot Cottage' which was owned by the actress Beryl Reid. We really enjoyed our afternoon out on the Thames.

Unfortunately, due to the sad situation we are all in, the WI has been cancelled until further notice. We hope you all stay well and virus free!!

Irene Draper, WI Member

GOOD NEIGHBOURS CLUB

Our March meeting was very well attended, when speaker Liz gave us a talk on the Cotswold Canal Trust and the rejuvenation of canals. We regret to say that this was our last meeting until further notice.

Enquiries to our Chairlady, Jenny Berry, on 632616.

Joy Elgood

RECIPE FOR THE MONTH by Shirley Dee

SOMERSET SLICE

175 g (6 oz) butter	175 g (60 oz) wholemeal flour
225 (8 oz) demerara sugar	50 g (2 oz) oats
225 g (8 oz) dried mixed fruit	2 teaspoons baking powder
1 egg	

Melt butter and sugar in a saucepan / microwave. Stir in all other ingredients, put into 11" x 7" tin. Cook for about 30 minutes at 350°F, 180°C, Gas mark 4. Cut into slices when still warm.

DOWN AT THE STATION

The West Somerset Railway will not be re-opening on Saturday 21st March and will be closed until further notice. The Spring Gala has been cancelled.

Phil Chapman – Assistant Station Master

WILLITON WALKS

There will be no organised walks this month, but you can and should walk independently - just keep two metres away from other people. *Jenny Gibson*

WILLITON BOWLING CLUB

The club was due to open on 4 April, but this has been postponed until further notice.

Stan Martin, Secretary

ONE OF LIFE'S LITTLE PLEASURES

Listening to the birds sing outside your window, when you wake up too early and lie in bed worrying.

ST PETER'S SCHOOL DIARY

We have been really busy in this second half of the term leading up to Easter as you will see.

Oak class have been very excited about the way the tadpoles in their classroom have developed from frog spawn! The children watched the change very carefully and made sure all adults were aware of what had happened too!

Ash class, as part of their RE lesson and the lead up to Easter, had fun making origami palm crosses. First they learnt why palm leaves are used at this time and the story of Jesus riding into Jerusalem. Making the cross was not as easy as it looked, but everyone took on the challenge and created one!

Yew class have been especially busy. As well as learning about King Edward the Confessor and the Battle of Hastings, taken part in balanced class discussions ready to write their own discussion based on plastic pollution and taken part in a wild beach project, they went on a trip. On Thursday the 5th March the class went on a Pilgrim Day to Wells Cathedral with other year 4 children from Somerset. There was an opening ceremony after which they split up into three groups for various activities; drama, music and making a papier maché shell. Some had the opportunity to dress in pilgrim's cloaks and went on a pilgrimage journey around the cathedral. They learnt that we are all pilgrims on life's journey and had an amazing day!

The story massage group from Happy Stars were very lucky to go to visit Guiliana Wheater in her chalet in Porlock. The children took part in a meditation story, a story massage train, yoga, music therapy and games, finishing off with lunch. It was an amazing morning which everyone thoroughly enjoyed.

We participated in Sports Relief with the help of Premier Sports who ran events all day assisted by our Sports Captains. In the morning there was an Archery Competition, which was won by St Audries house and in the afternoon the children completed a timed obstacle course. We raised £69.75 for Sports Relief. Thank you to everyone who supported this great cause.

We also had fun on World Book Day. The whole school, including staff, was invited to dress up. It was great to see everyone parading in their costumes in the morning; a lot of effort went into the creation of some of the costumes! The whole school got together in the afternoon to share books with each other, the older children buddied up with some of the younger children and read to them. It was lovely to see the children share their love of books.

Also, well done to the St Peter's pupils and staff that took part in the Swimathon. St Peter's A team did 58 lengths and St Peter's B team did 51 lengths. The staff team also managed 86 lengths. Thank you to parents and families who supported the children to raise money for the Rotary Club who then support local schools, children's charities and other local charities.

Finally, it will be strange not having all children in school in the coming weeks, a necessary but confusing time for both children and adults! SG

WILLITON PARISH COUNCIL

At the Parish Council Meeting held in the Pavilion on Wednesday 19 February 2020 and open to the public for comments before the meeting proper commenced, it was decided that the Parish Council's objection to planning application 3/39/20/003 should be published in the Williton Window, so that every resident in Williton should know what Councillors agreed and their reasons for objecting to the proposal. This is the letter sent to Somerset West and Taunton:

3/39/20/003 - Outline application (with all matters reserved) for the erection of up to 350 dwellings (comprising a mix of dwelling sizes and types and affordable housing), approximately 1,000sqm of flexible uses within D1 and B1 use classes (including a Doctor's surgery and/or business space), vehicle access, public open space, sports and recreational facilities, footpaths, cycle ways, enhancements to the Barrows scheduled monument including information boards, landscaping and associated works, Land to the west of Williton, Priest Street, Williton

At Williton Parish Council's meeting held on 19 February 2020 it was resolved to OBJECT to the proposal on the following grounds:

1. The application site is larger than the allocated site in the West Somerset Local Plan to 2032 in that approximately 1 hectare of land has been included to accommodate B1 and D1 uses together with land for links into Williton, sports pitches and /or community facilities, a community orchard, allotments and surface water attenuation features. It is considered that the inclusion of land for B1 and D1 uses should be included within the allocated site as no proven need has been provided for not including it within the allocated site or justification as to why it has to be on the proposed site and is a site that is not easily accessible by all. This part of the proposal is therefore contrary to policy OC/1, in particular bullet point 4 which states,

"it is new-build to benefit existing employment activity already established in the area that could not be easily accommodated within or adjoining a nearby settlement identified in Policy SC1

and policy EC3, in particular, bullet points 1 and 3 which state,

Development proposals requiring a greenfield location will be directed to existing identified and/or allocated sites for those type of uses unless it can be demonstrated that:

- the proposed location is essential to the business and that it could not be located elsewhere, and,*
- it complements existing service and facility provision in the settlement and surrounding area without generating new unsustainable transport patterns*

It is recognised and highlighted by the Somerset Clinical Commissioning Group (SCCG) who has commented, that whilst this proposed development does not mean that the GP surgery will not be able to register new patients but together with other recent planning permissions and current applications in and around Williton and Watchet means that the surgery will reach capacity and as such has requested an off-site contribution for healthcare infrastructure. This suggests that the proposed site for the Doctor's surgery is not where the SCCG need the surgery and pharmacy to be located. This further illustrates that policies OC1 and EC3 are

WASH YOUR HANDS FOR 20 SECONDS
Sing the "Happy Birthday" song twice while washing and rinsing your hands!

not being complied with.

2. As the number of dwellings proposed is up to 350 on this site but when including the other two allocated sites in Williton, Aller Mead already has planning permission for 90 houses (3/39/18/009) and the applicant has indicated that the other site adjacent to Danesfield School can accommodate 150 dwellings.

This amounts to 590 dwellings and equates to an extra 184 dwellings or 45% more than the "approximate 406 dwellings" mentioned in the first bullet point of policy WI2. The proposed 350 dwellings on the application site would be reduced if the B1 and/or D1 use land was located within the allocated site and would also ensure that this area of countryside is protected in its own right.

The argument put forward by the Agent that more houses than those required in policy WI2 should be provided for as other allocated sites have not been developed and may not be deliverable is not justified as the Local Plan was only adopted in November 2016, three years ago so little time has passed. In addition a number of large windfall sites have been put forward such as the Liddymore Farm and paper mill sites in Watchet and the Doniford Road site (as noted at point 3 below) which could provide up to 959 dwellings that are not included in the Local Plan. It is also considered that the number of houses proposed is not an appropriate amount for Williton as required in the purpose of policy WI2 or at point 1 of policy SC1.

Furthermore the significant increase in the number of dwellings above that required by policy WI2 is not acceptable as in the Issues and Options Document for the Local Plan Review 2040 for Somerset West and Taunton it states that,

"...importantly, the housing requirement figures in our current Local Plans are significantly higher than the new Standard method figure by the Government (Option 3a.) This means that even if the proportion of housing development increases in any of the tiers, it is possible (depending on the outcome of Option 3a) that the number of houses directed to any of the tiers may still be fewer than the current Local Plan requirement."

It goes on to say,

"5.3.1 Providing the right number of new homes

The Local Plan will have a housing requirement figure and must have pro-active policies to help deliver this amount of housing. The Government's 'Standard Method' calculates our minimum figure which is 702 dwellings per year totalling 14,040 dwellings over 20 years.

To put this in context, we already have commitments (planning permission granted) of 6,177 dwellings and further sites identified as deliverable of 7,911 dwellings .

These total 14,088 dwellings and with many further sites identified as developable and small windfall sites continuing to come forward the housing supply in our area is very healthy and it is unlikely that any further significant allocations will need to be made if we use 702 as our annual requirement figure. We will check the suitability of known sites against the spatial strategy that we take forward"

In other words there is no need for this significant increase in dwellings in Williton over what has been allocated in the Local Plan and it is therefore considered that the number of the application site should be reduced to ensure that over the three sites there is no more than 406 dwellings.

3 .The increase in the proposed number of dwellings over the three allocated sites

in Williton will have an adverse impact on the infrastructure of Williton, not only due to the number of dwellings proposed but the fact that the infrastructure of Williton would be further exacerbated by other extant permissions and current planning applications. This includes the proposed 139 dwellings at Doniford (3/37/17/019) which the District Council has resolved to grant planning permission together with the Liddymore Farm site at Watchet (3/37/17/020) where it has also been resolved to approve for up to 250 houses. The number of dwellings could also increase substantially if the planning application at the paper mill site at Watchet (3/37/19/021) for up to 570 dwellings, a 60 bed retirement home and other uses and the application at Cleeve Hill, Watchet (3/37/18/015) for 136 dwellings are approved.

It is considered that the adverse impacts relate to the need for the provision of classroom places at St Peter's School and Danesfield School, pressure on the capacity of the Doctor's surgery, the road network and lack of provision of jobs for the occupiers of these proposed developments including this application site. No S106 Agreement appears to have been submitted to ensure that the provision of extra school places to accommodate the additional pupils from this development or to ensure that a new Doctor's surgery is provided. It is considered that the application should also be refused on the lack of such an Agreement.

4. As Williton is at the crossroads of the A39 and A358 all traffic to and from Minehead and to and from Taunton and Bridgwater as well as to and from the coastal strip goes through Williton as does the majority of the traffic to Watchet. The proposed development will increase the amount of traffic using the roads and due to the proposed roundabout at the Co-op (as shown in the paper mill application) and a roundabout for the extant approved supermarket (3/39/14/024) this will increase the time it takes to travel though Williton and will reduce air quality. The submitted transport assessment (capacity modelling) does not however appear to take account of these roundabouts and has not included the traffic increase generated from the applications at Doniford Road, Liddymore Farm, paper mill or Cleeve Hill sites. In fact it has been decided by the authors of the assessment that these sites should not be included for flawed reasons. It is considered that these sites and the proposed roundabouts should be taken into account and any adverse impacts on Williton including over capacity of road junctions be mitigated.

5. Whilst it is recognised that access is a reserved matter, the illustrative spine road through the centre of the site will result in a development that is a cul-de-sac and not well integrated into the existing road network. It is considered that the spine road should join onto the Five Bells road (B3191) to ensure that the development is better integrated and will help to reduce the length of traffic journeys from the application site through Williton to Watchet and Five Bells as vehicles will not need to enter Williton but use the proposed spine road. The current proposal is therefore not in accordance with bullet point 2 of policy WI1 and the last paragraph of policy WI2. It is considered that this link should be included in the application site.

In addition, the proposed footpath/cycle way routes do not take you into the centre of Williton so are unlikely to be used for getting to the centre of the village as they are not desire lines. The proposal does not therefore provide integrated footpath and cycle links that connects the proposed development to the village centre as required by the final paragraph of policy WI2. Occupiers of the proposed

development will therefore probably use their cars and use the facilities in Minehead (where there is more choice and free parking) rather than using the more limited shops and facilities in Williton which would be to the detriment of Williton's role as a rural service centre. The proposal is therefore not in accordance with the first bullet point of policy W11 which states that the proposed development must support and strengthen Williton's role as a local service, administrative and employment centre.

6. Policy W12 states that an indicative masterplan is required. Whilst detail has been submitted on the application site in relation to what uses will be on the site, character, areas and landscaping, the submitted masterplan lacks detail, in particular in relation to how the three allocated sites relate to each other, how the houses will be allocated on each site, the size and number of dwellings, number of affordable dwellings, phasing within the application site, flood mitigation and the road network. These are required to know how the proposed developments will impact on Williton and the surrounding area and to inform what mitigation is required. It is therefore considered that due to the lack of information on an indicative masterplan for the three sites that this is a reason for refusal as policy W12 has not been complied with and as there is not enough information to make an informed decision.

7. It is stated that 35% of the dwellings will be affordable. It is known however that there has been difficulty in filling the affordable houses on the former Croft House site and at Aller Mead. It is considered that a housing needs survey should be carried out to see what the demand is for these properties and if below 35 % is required that the correct percentage be provided.

8. It is noted that an Environmental Impact Assessment has not been provided. If this is required it is considered that this should be provided before a decision is made and that the Parish Council are informed when it is received so that further comments can be made if appropriate.

9. Policy CF2 states that a health impact assessment is required for all strategic sites which includes this application site. No such assessment appears to have been submitted. The Parish Council wish to be informed when this is received so that further comments can be made if appropriate.

10. As part of the site is within flood zones 2 and 3, in particular the proposed routes for the footpath/cycle links, it is considered that the technical information on how the proposal will not exacerbate flooding on the application site including the proposed links into Williton or the surrounding land, the hospital, nearby properties and the A39 are required before the application is determined.

It should be noted that the A39 was flooded in February 2020 from Washford Cross to the site and the road was closed. As this would be the only access into the site and as the A39 is an important and well used road that links Williton with Minehead and beyond it is very important that flooding of the A39 is not exacerbated by the proposed development. It is therefore considered that the proposal is not in accordance with policy CC2.

The Parish Council wish to be informed when this is received so that further comments can be made if appropriate.

All documents and comments connected to this planning application can be found on website: somersetwesandtaunton.gov.uk/online-applications, click on Planning, then on West Somerset Planning search and enter reference 3/39/20/003

WORDSEARCH FOR APRIL *by Phyllis Chidgey*

A HAPPY EASTER TO YOU ALL

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A	L	O	O	F	L	I	R	P	A
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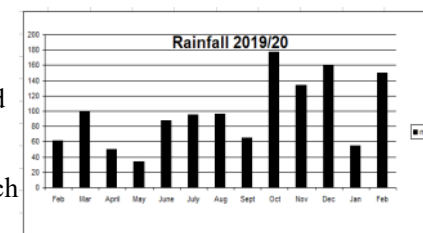
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DEAN	BUNNY	MAUNDY	PALM SUNDAY
HOT/CROSS/BUNS SIMNEL/CAKE			

WEATHER - FEBRUARY

FEBRUARY

Temperatures were up to 15°C on 24th. The coolest night was 0°C with frosts in the third week. The maximum pressure was 35.5 inches (very high) on 5th and the minimum was 29.4 on 13th. The rainfall of over an inch (29mm) on 9th caused floods and many dangerous road surfaces of standing water.

For the month we had a rain total of 154 mm in the east of Williton and 215 mm. in the west. (Porlock and Minehead had 145 mm for the month.) This is four times the total for last February! *PJ*



THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

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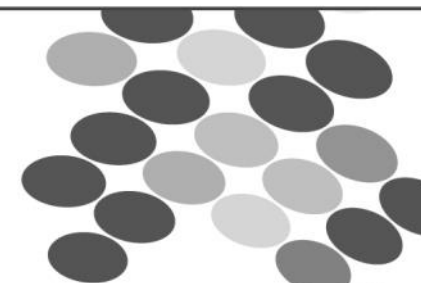
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