

WILMSLOW PARK ROAD USERS' ASSOCIATION

Web Site: www.wilmslowparkroadusers.org.uk

Spring 2025

Dear fellow neighbour,

We normally write to you in the Autumn of each year, seeking your support and contribution to the Wilmslow Park Road Maintenance Fund, which is a necessary consequence of it being unadopted and private, and any costs have therefore to be borne by those using the road.

The purpose of this interim newsletter is to inform you of three things

1. Firstly, changes to the Committee members that act on your behalf, and a request, as I make in every newsletter, for further volunteers to help in the work of the Association
2. Secondly, to further encourage you, if you haven't already, to join the WPRUA Whatsapp group which was kindly set up by Wayne Jaffe, and if you have joined the Group for you to encourage others to do so, and
3. Finally, to appraise you of maintenance work we intend to conduct at the bridge restriction and some of the wider challenges that the Association will be facing in the coming years.

These three topics are interlinked.

Committee Changes

I have acted as Chairman of the Association for 5 years now and recently moved out of the family home at Southfields in Wilmslow Park South after just over 31 years, as part of my retirement plan to spend more time in North Wales, which is now my primary home. Work commitments and friends in the area mean that I still have a rental property in Wilmslow Park for the next year or so and I am therefore happy to continue as your Chairman for the rest of 2025, but we are actively looking for someone to take on this role. Likewise, Anne Quilligan has performed the role of Secretary for a similar period of time and for personal and family reasons she also needs to step down this year. Our Treasurer John Cudlip, is, like all of us, not getting any younger and has signposted that he will need to step down at some point within the next-few years.

The Committee currently has four volunteer members, and the bulk of the heavy lifting is undertaken by two of them. Firstly, Roger Hill who passionately tries to keep the road in the high-quality condition it is in. He can often be seen in his Hi Viz jacket, armed with bags of tarmac and most recently chivvying BT/Openreach into fixing the broken manhole cover on the hill. And secondly John Cudlip, who diligently manages our financials and the collection of contributions. The Secretary's role, whilst important in recording and keeping the association on the straight and narrow, is less onerous, as is my own, which is primarily about comments handling, communication and looking to the longer-term issues that we face.

We have until recently, had a fifth member, Mike Archer, who focussed on planning applications in the Park and we also have others that have performed more ad hoc contributions, notably Dave Higton, who revitalised the website, Wayne Jaffe, who set up the Whatsapp group, and prior to Covid, Fiona Woolley, who kindly allowed her home to be used for committee gatherings. There are also a number of people that give their time in distributing correspondence and collecting litter.

The association needs all these types of volunteers, and that is my primary request in this newsletter.

It is vital that these roles are filled to take the work of the Association forward, because without them the Association, and with it the road, will simply wither away. For over 40 years before me, Brian Hull passionately carried this banner. I didn't particularly want to do the role and haven't come close to his level of commitment, but I recognised the importance of having someone step up and take it on, and with the support of others it is an important, fulfilling, but not time-consuming role. Please therefore give it careful consideration and if you require any more information then please let me know.

WhatsApp Group

The Whatsapp group is the ideal vehicle to address much of the above and has already demonstrated its worth in recent weeks; support to trimming back of the overgrowth round Fairford/York Crescent given it is a blind bend, helping to find a lost dog, keeping the BT broken manhole front of mind, and highlighting the issue of parking at the south end of the Park are all things that the group has addressed. It currently has 46 members, and we need to get this very much higher if it is to be the truly interactive neighbour communications vehicle that it can be. I currently receive emails from residents at the WPRUA Chairman's address, and I want to move away from this and receive them through this WhatsApp Group, so that everyone can see my response and also others can contribute to the issues raised.

To join the Group, follow this link <https://chat.whatsapp.com/Ey6nW9iWDit7XJG9opGTHM>, which also appears on the WPRUA website, or drop Wayne a request at +44 7966 460580

Future Challenges

The biggest single challenge as we look forward is the cost of maintaining the road. In the past, Cheshire East have given us highly competitive quotes as they have fitted in our redressing programme around other work they do in the area. However, the costs have more than doubled since the previous surface redressing. Independent quotes are twice as much again. Whilst we have a healthy balance of funds available to us at the moment these would be completely consumed if we redressed the whole road, which is why we took the decision last year to delay this and look at more focussed redressing options, for example at the width restriction by the bridge. We now have quotes for this work, which will be conducted shortly, resulting in a road closure for one and possibly two days. When this happens we will advise and also ask for volunteers to help police this.

Looking to the longer term, the surface water drainage system is becoming increasingly worn out, primarily through tree root encroachment, and as you drive through, particularly WPN, the undulations in the road are getting more pronounced, suggesting at some point in the future more serious repair work will be required.

The Association simply will not have the funds available to address these longer-term issues and this is also why the Whatsapp Group is so important in starting a community conversation about them, and whether as residents we want to keep Wilmslow Park Road in its current high quality state, or allow it to deteriorate to the levels of many of the other exclusive private roads in the area.

I look forward to hearing from you. My email for all correspondence is chairman@wilmslowparkroadusers.org.uk, text or Whatsapp me on +44 7801 716433, or better still join the WPRUA Whatsapp Group and get involved through that

With warmest regards

Neil Masom, Chairman