

# WILMSLOW PARK ROAD USERS' ASSOCIATION

Web Site: [www.wilmslowparkroadusers.org.uk](http://www.wilmslowparkroadusers.org.uk)

September 2025

Dear Neighbour,

We are writing to you, as we do each year, seeking your support and contribution to the Wilmslow Park Road Maintenance Fund. The fund is necessary since Cheshire East Council does not maintain or repair the road or footpath through the Park because it is unadopted and private, and any costs must be borne by those using the road. In order to keep the costs to an absolute minimum, all the work done by the Committee members is on a voluntary basis. Sharing the costs in this way is obviously the most equitable and last year over 90% of residents in the Park made the contribution. We remind the very few who did not that non-payment simply increases the burden on all other residents in the Park.

The contribution requested for the year 1st April 2025 to 31st March 2026, is unchanged from last year.

It would be appreciated if residents would please make their contributions by direct bank transfer into the Association's account. The account details are as follows: -

**Account name: Wilmslow Park Road Users Association      Sort Code: 40-46-36      Account No: 11472046**

When making your direct bank transfer, please enter your address in the reference field of your payment instruction. We ask residents who have set up a standing order to please adjust the amount to be paid. If you would still prefer to make your contribution by cheque, or this is your only option, please complete the payment slip below and forward your cheque payable to **Wilmslow Park Road Users Association** to the Association's Treasurer, John Cudlip, at 25 Overhill Road, Wilmslow, SK9 2BE.

We would like to thank all those residents in the attached list who contributed last year and would ask everyone to support the voluntary work of the Committee by making your contribution as soon as possible, so avoiding the costs of having to send out reminders. We would also encourage all residents who have yet to join the Wilmslow Park Road Users WhatsApp Group to click on the QR Code below.

Wilmslow Park Road Users  
Association  
WhatsApp group



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Frontagers Please pay the greater of £ \_\_\_\_\_ based on your frontage of \_\_\_\_\_ ft.

OR the non-frontage contribution shown below based on the number of cars

Non-frontagers Please pay £24 for your first car plus £12 for each extra car

Non-car owning residences Please pay £24

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed £ \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## **WPRUA CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT (Neil Masom)**

We wrote an exceptional newsletter in the Spring, and I would like to update you on the matters raised in that:

### **1. Committee Changes**

Firstly, changes to the Committee members who selflessly act on your behalf. I have now left the Park and moved to a new home in Wilmslow after over 30 years living in WPS and for the last few months spending the glorious summer split between my house in Conwy and renting in Briarwood. In the Spring newsletter I asked for volunteers to take over my duties and I am delighted to say that Wayne Jaffe, who has done such a great job in establishing the WhatsApp Group as an effective communications vehicle, has agreed to pick up that mantle. I hope you will all join me in thanking Wayne and wish him well. Roger Hill, who continues to diligently keep the road in its excellent condition and John Cudlip, who with equal diligence maintains the Finances of the Association, have agreed to continue and the three of them now make up the core officers of the Association. Additionally, I would like to thank Mike Highton for continuing to maintain the website, having refreshed it over the last year or so, and a particular thanks to Anne Quilligan who has stepped down from her role as Secretary after some 5 years. Although Wayne, Roger and John have agreed that they will cover Anne's duties between them it would still be great to get someone to step in Anne's shoes and if you are prepared to support the Association in even the smallest of capacities please get in touch with Wayne through WhatsApp.

### **2. WhatsApp Group**

Secondly, we asked everyone to join the WhatsApp Group and if we can make that the main communication vehicle within the Park it makes things so much easier for the Association to become a community interaction group rather than a small team of committed individuals. I know a number of people I have spoken to struggle with the technology and/or have moral objections to joining WhatsApp, but the benefit of having an integrated communications vehicle should I hope outweigh these and so please use the QR code on the front of the newsletter to join. We now have 96 members, but we would like to double that by this time next year.

### **3. Future Challenges**

Finally, we advised you of the maintenance work we intended to do at the bridge restriction. This was before Cadent caused havoc in WPN, just as they are doing in the rest of Wilmslow, upgrading the gas infrastructure. We have therefore delayed any further work on the road until Cadent have completed their works which will include the rest of Wilmslow Park over the coming months. In the meantime, Roger has made running repairs at the width restriction which should be sufficient until such a time that a more permanent fix is required.

In the final section of the Spring newsletter I also spoke about the longer-term challenges, and I will here simply repeat what I said then because it still relevant. 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.

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.

It has been a privilege to serve as your Chairman for these past five years and I wish you all the best in keeping Wilmslow Park Road to the standard befitting the quality of people that live here.

With warmest regards

Neil Masom, Chairman

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

A copy of the Association's audited accounts for 2024/25 is attached. My grateful thanks once again to Ian Findlay, our Association's auditor.

The Association's finances remain under close review by your Committee in view of the most recent road redressing estimates we received from our contractor, which have effectively more than doubled from the previous cost in 2018. Other estimates were considerably higher still. Our normal cycle had been to resurface Wilmslow Park Road every 6 years or so, hence a further redressing was in theory due in 2024. The estimated cost of this work now exceeds the Association's total assets.

We have therefore very reluctantly taken the decision to resurface only parts of the road on each occasion, based on the greatest need for treatment. This is a major departure from the strategy adopted over the past 50 years which was to resurface the entire road each time. It must also remain our policy to maintain a prudent cash buffer for any unforeseen expenditure going forward. For example, during 2023/24, we incurred the substantial cost of a major drain repair in Wilmslow Park North, close to Overhill Road, costing c£4,500.

We must all recognise that without the considerable road maintenance work performed by our Operations Officer, Roger Hill, throughout this past year, we would have needed to engage contractors to do this work, at substantial cost to the Association. Thank you, Roger!

Despite continuing pressure on the Association's finances, we have decided to keep contributions at the same level as last year, so £24 for no vehicle or one vehicle used from the property, £36 for two vehicles and upwards per vehicle in multiples of £12.

The number of contributions from Wilmslow Park residents and landlords of rented properties for financial year 2024/25 totalled 235 out of 262 possible contributions (90%). We were also in receipt of two additional contributions for the current Association year, 2025/26, itemised on a separate line in the accounts. We would like to thank those many residents and landlords who kindly contributed to the Road Fund during this past year.

The analysis of contributions for the year by individual road can be seen as an attachment to this Newsletter. This attachment includes a second list of addresses for which we have no record to date of a contribution for 2024/25.

We believe that four properties within the Park were either empty or in passing occupation during the year. This does however mean that 23 residents or landlords within Wilmslow Park have unfortunately decided, for whatever reason, not to contribute to the Fund. Despite contributions being voluntary, most Wilmslow Park residents agree that there is a strong obligation on us all to make what is generally considered to be a very modest contribution to the Road Fund. You will notice, yet again, that there is sadly a small hard core of regularly non-contributing households, which is a big shame and very frustrating for their fellow residents who kindly contribute every year. We must all use the through road, and in this respect, non-contributors are no different from the rest of us.

91% of contributing residents chose to make their contributions by direct bank transfer this past year, a further increase on the previous year, for which we are very grateful. It is so much more convenient to process contributions made by direct bank transfer than those made by cheque or in cash, which also incur bank charges. Bank charges are detailed in the annual accounts. I am pleased to report that our Bank, HSBC, has decided to cease levying their standing bank charge (£5 per month) on our account from August 2025, but will continue to charge for cash and cheque deposits, so please change to direct bank transfer contributions if you can. Thank you.

John Cudlip  
Treasurer

## **OPERATIONS OFFICER'S REPORT**

The activities conducted over the last 12 months are as follows:

- Updated residents on works via the residents' WhatsApp group, responding to requests where appropriate.
- Conducted weekly inspections of the road, clearing gutters and drains. Responded in real time to heavy rain incidents and residents' notification of flooding issues etc.
- Regularly cleared leaf and soil litter from the sides of the road, pavements and around the speed limiter to ensure road and pedestrian space does not narrow.
- Conducted hedge-cutting with the help of volunteers near Fairford Way where foliage was encroaching onto the road.
- Cleared weeds along the roadside and pavements throughout Spring and Summer. Cut down weeds that could potentially damage the bridge structure.
- Helped to cut away branches from the fallen tree at York Crescent and laid out traffic cones as a safety measure before the arrival of the Council tree surgeons.
- Laid Tarmac around the speed limiters and at the bottom of Cow Lane where wear and potholes were evident.
- Placed notices on unauthorised cars parked at length in WPRS in response to residents' requests.
- Liaised with Cheshire East Council regarding road sweeping, endeavouring to move as many parked cars off the road to ensure an effective sweep.
- Dealt with private commercial sweeping companies, obtaining quotations and working with the company on the day to clear selected gullies to aid drainage in readiness for the Autumn and Winter.
- Rodded and hosed the drain near Overhill Road which continues to get clogged. I have now covered the drain with a metal mesh to stop it being blocked by conkers and leaf litter again.
- With Brian Hull's help, I liaised with Cadent and residents throughout the extensive gas pipe replacement work, endeavouring to resolve issues if possible. Liaised with utility and other companies working on Wilmslow Park Road, sought clarification where unannounced works occurred and ensured proper signage was in place as well as acceptable access for residents.
- Reported the mains leak running from Garth Heights onto WPRN again and liaised with United Utilities on site visits. Now dealing with representatives of Garth Heights. Carried out an exploratory dig which has reduced the flow, but more is to be done.
- Regularly chased BT to replace the damaged manhole in WPRN which was eventually done.
- Continued to liaise with Cheshire Highways re potential road re-dressing should funds allow, including rectifying the worn areas of road surface around the speed bollards the latter hopefully at the Council's expense (the ball is presently in the Council's court thanks to Brian Hull's prompt to our local Councillor). I have shelved the quotation I obtained from a private contractor for now.
- Monitored planning applications and progress, reporting to the committee as and when appropriate.
- Our thanks go once again to our regular litter pickers who help to keep the road so well presented, including Barbara Rosenthal, and Celia and Rachel Tinsley.
- Continued to collect historical photographs and maps of Wilmslow Park to enable us to build a history archive on our website. **IF ANYONE HAS OLD PHOTOGRAPHS AND/OR HISTORICAL INFORMATION ABOUT WILMSLOW PARK, I WOULD BE VERY GRATEFUL TO RECEIVE THEM (rogerhill894@gmail.com 07491 819655).**

Roger Hill  
Operations Officer