

Wilton Community Centre Trustees:

Chair: Jason Barnes, Vice Chair: Lynne Street, Garden Manager: Roger Best, Trustee: Jane Fawcus, Trustee: Timothy Croall, Trustee: Becky Perry, Trustee: Teresa Taylor.

Treasurer: Doug Stammers, Minutes Secretary: Carolyn Stammers, Booking Secretary: Dawn Humphries, Caretaker: Nickkie Pomfrett.

Report to Wilton Town Council: Christmas Day Lunch held on 25th December 2025 – Wilton Community Centre.

1. Introduction

This report provides an overview of the Christmas Day Community Lunch event held at Wilton Community Centre, an initiative designed to support elderly residents and individuals who may otherwise have spent the festive season alone. The 'project' as we like to call it was created to foster community spirit, reduce social isolation, and offer a warm, welcoming environment during a time of year that can be particularly difficult for many.

Funding was previously sought (£500.00) from Wilton Town Council to enable the delivery of this event, and we are pleased to report that the initiative was successfully carried out with strong community engagement, and we believe a positive outcome. All of the Council's £500 funding was spent, along with additional funding which helped support, is detailed later in this report.

2. Project Aims and Objectives

The Christmas Day Lunch 'project' was developed with the following aims in mind:

To combat loneliness and social isolation by providing an inclusive and welcoming event during the festive period.

Foster community spirit by bringing together volunteers and guests in a shared celebration.

Provide a nourishing meal and joyful experience to those who may not otherwise have access to one.

And encourage connections that may extend beyond the holiday season, strengthening ongoing community support networks.

3. Event Overview

In the lead-up to Christmas, the event was widely promoted through social media, posters, and flyers displayed across Wilton. The event was shared with local charities, care networks, and community groups to ensure that those most in need were reached.

We anticipated welcoming approximately 50 guests. On the day, Teresa and the volunteer team prepared 33 sit-down Christmas lunches, along with 10 takeaway meals for individuals who were unfortunately taken ill and unable to attend in person. This ensured that no one missed out on a festive meal or the knowledge that their community was thinking of them.

The dining area was beautifully set up by volunteers, with Christmas-themed tablecloths, crackers, small gifts, and festive decorations, creating a warm and cheerful atmosphere for all attendees.

4. Community Engagement and Fundraising

To support the costs of the event, a Prize Bingo Night was held on 19th September, which generated both funds (£823.00 plus a matched fund donation up to £500.00 from some of the volunteers' employers) and community

awareness. This activity not only contributed financially but also helped build momentum and local enthusiasm for the Christmas Day initiative and unspent funds will be used at a similar event in December 2026.

The event itself was delivered entirely through the dedication of volunteers who gave up their traditional Christmas Day to prepare food, set up the venue, serve meals and puddings, and manage the washing up. Their commitment was central to the success of the project.

5. Sustainability and Responsible Use of Resources

The team ensured that all food was used responsibly. A small amount of surplus food remained, which was distributed as follows:

Uncooked items donated to the local Foodbank

Carrots donated to the Riding Stables

Vegetable peelings given to a local resident to feed their chickens

This approach ensured minimal waste and extended the benefit of the event to other parts of the community.

Organising of the event cost £820.00. This included items that can be used again at subsequent lunches, such as gravy boats, dishes, table cloths, water jugs and cutlery, as well as food, drink and other items consumed on the day.

6. Outcomes and Impact

We believe that The Christmas Day Lunch more than achieved its core aims:

Reduced social isolation by providing companionship and conversation for individuals who may otherwise have spent the day alone.

Strengthened community bonds through the involvement of volunteers and local organisations.

Delivered a high-quality festive meal to 43 individuals (33 in person, 10 via takeaway).

Created a sense of belonging and festive cheer, with many guests expressing gratitude for the warmth and kindness shown.

The event demonstrated the power of community action and highlighted the ongoing need for initiatives that support vulnerable and isolated residents.

7. Acknowledgements

We extend our heartfelt thanks to:

- The Team - Teresa and the entire volunteer team, Stephen, Val, Claire, Jason, Rich, Heidi, Kev and their daughter Betsy, and not forgetting Lyn and her dog Baldrick who delivered some of the lunches to local residents at their homes, whose hard work, generosity, and willingness to give up their Christmas Day made this event possible.

- Local charities, care networks, and community groups for their support in identifying guests.

- Residents and businesses who contributed through donations, attendance at the fundraising Bingo Night, or by spreading the word. We would particularly like to thank and acknowledge the support from Reeve the Baker, Manor Farm Meats (Burcombe), The Baptist Church, Wilton Club, Tesco and The Co-Op. Thank you for your kind donations.

Our collective efforts ensured that the Christmas Day Lunch was not only successful but deeply meaningful for all involved.

8. Conclusion

The Christmas Day Community Lunch was a heart-warming success that delivered tangible social benefits to some of Wilton's most isolated residents. The event showcased the compassion and community spirit that characterise our town, and it stands as a model for future initiatives aimed at supporting vulnerable individuals.

We look forward to building on this success and continuing to strengthen community connections throughout the year.

[Teresa Taylor \(Trustee\) and Dawn Humphries \(Booking Secretary\)](#)
[Wilton Community Centre, West Street, Wilton, Wiltshire SP2 0DG.](#)
[Registered Charity 278026.](#)

Email: wccchair22@gmail.com
www.wiltoncommunitycentre.org.uk

Foreword

From Cllr Chris Harrison,
Mayor of Wilton

Dear Friends & Neighbours

I'm pleased to share this year's residents' update - and to introduce the Strategic Plan that will guide our work through to 2030.

As a council, we've been honest with ourselves about where Wilton needs investment and attention. This plan sets out our priorities clearly: well-kept open spaces, facilities that actually work, and proper care for the historic character that defines this town. Crucially, it commits us to a timetable we can be held to.

This year you'll see real progress. We'll complete the Public WC project, begin Phase 1 of improvements to Pavilion Car Park - tackling the surfacing and adding lighting - and deliver a refreshed Christmas Lights programme that the whole community can enjoy.

From 2027, we'll continue phasing in improvements across play areas, open spaces, trees, signage and heritage conservation. We'll report progress openly so residents can see exactly where things stand at every stage.

It's an ambitious plan - but it's the right one for Wilton. I'm proud to be leading a council that's ready to deliver it.

You can get all the latest updates by visiting our website or following our social media channels



Meet Your Councillors



Mayor of Wilton
Cllr Chris Harrison



Deputy Mayor
Cllr Charlotte Blackman



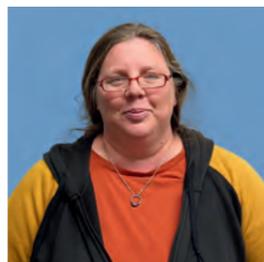
Councillor
Angela Alexander



Councillor
Gary Blandford-Hull



Councillor
Alexandra Boyd



Councillor
Michelle Ditton



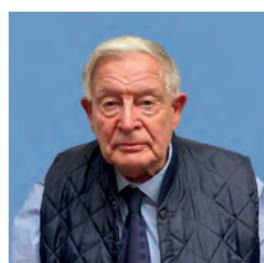
Councillor
Peter Edge



Councillor
Claire Forbes



Councillor
Maria La Femina



Councillor
Phil Matthews



Councillor
Mick Whillock



Wilton
Town Council

Wilton Works
*Honouring our History,
Shaping our Future*



What we did in 2025-26

Over the last financial year, Wilton Town Council has appointed a new team of Council Officers to undertake the Council's work and help drive projects forward.

We have redeveloped our website, updating it to better reflect the Council's vision for the town and to allow for easier updating; keeping you up-to-date with what your Town Council is doing for your town.

We have improved our maintenance schedules, with better oversight of grounds-maintenance and other contractors, enabling us to work towards keeping our building and open spaces looking their best and functioning in a more reliable way.

The Town Council Offices are now open to the public on every weekday from 10am to 2pm.

We have improved the accessibility of Town Council meetings by moving them out of our first floor Council Chamber to ground floor spaces at the Wilton Baptist Church and Castle Meadow Pavilion.

We have improved our communications, through the new website and extended opening hours, and increased our presence on social media. We have also held our first listening event, at Wilton Shopping in mid-March and produced this leaflet to give you a better understanding of what we do and what we're planning to do over the next year.

We believe that we have set firm foundations from which to continue improving our town, and have developed a Strategic Plan which will outline the Council's plans up to the year 2030.

Contact us

Follow us on social media for all the latest news, updates and local events

- @WiltonTownCouncil
- @WiltonTownCouncil
- @WiltonTownCouncil

The Council Offices are
Monday-Friday:

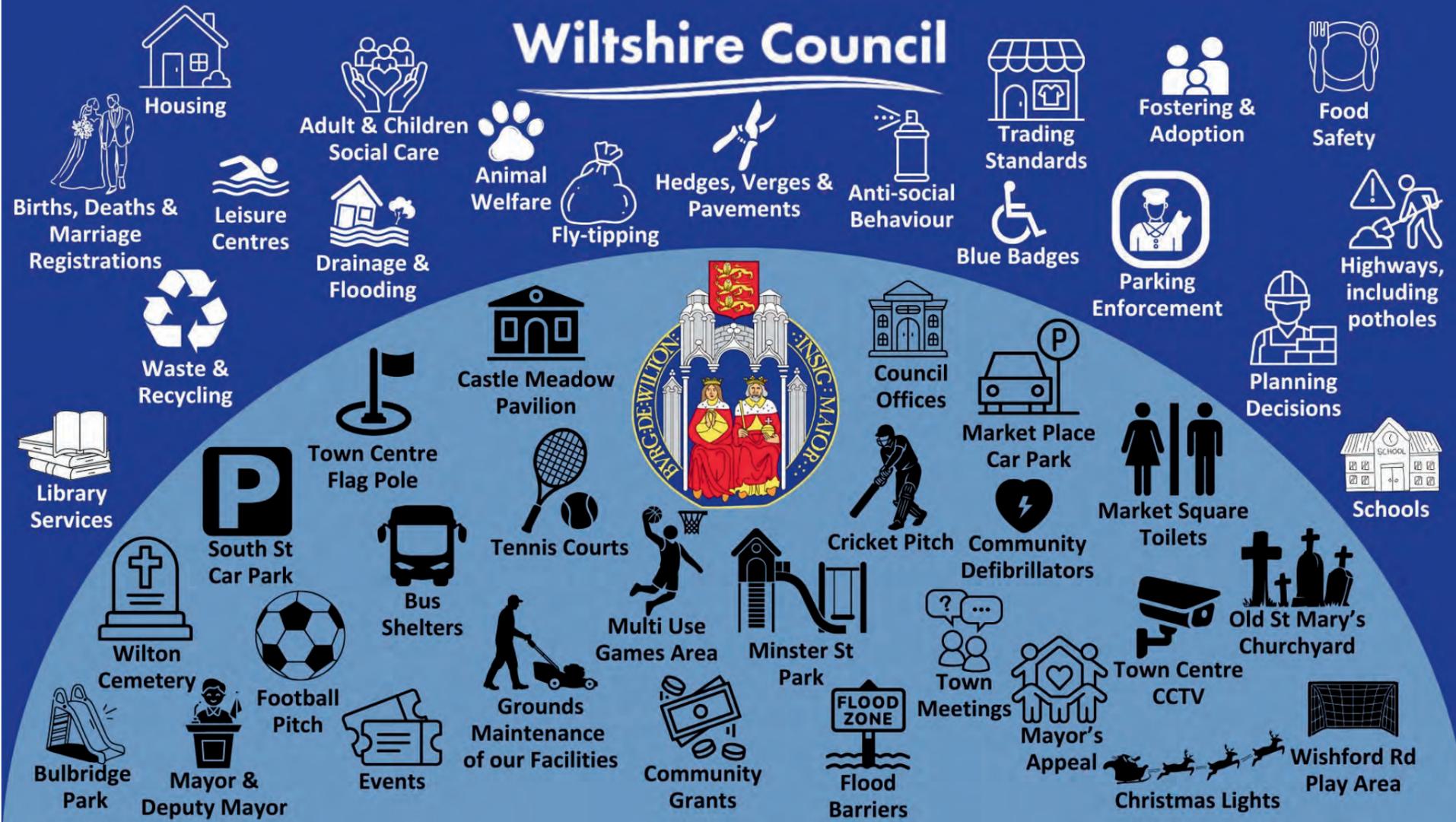

Wilton Town Council
open 10am to 2pm
Council Offices
Kingsbury Square
Wilton
SP2 0BA

Find out how Wilton Town Council is working to benefit our town,
for today and for the future



?AFC

wiltontowncouncil.gov.uk



What we do

Wilton Town Council is the parish council for Wilton. Wilton is an historic market town with over two millennia heritage. Once the ancient capital of Wessex and the town from which Wiltshire takes its name, it is nationally recognised for Wilton Carpets and internationally associated with Wilton House. The town's distinctive riverside setting at the confluence of the Rivers Nadder and Wylde shape its setting and amenity. The town's historic churches, civic traditions and strong sense of identity make Wilton both a place of deep history and a living, working market town. The Council embraces its responsibility as a custodian of local heritage — including artefacts, regalia, charters and civic records — ensuring appropriate conservation, storage and, where suitable, digitisation so that the story of Wilton can be preserved and shared for future generations. We are also responsible for a number of key community assets:

- The Castle Meadow recreation ground, sports pitches, outdoor gym, Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) and pavilion
- The tennis courts and play area at Minster Street
- The play areas at Randalls Croft Road and Wishford Rd
- The public toilets in the Market Square
- The cemetery on Shaftesbury Rd
- The churchyard at Old St Mary's Church in the town centre
- 5 bus shelters around the town
- The public car parks at the Market Square and South Street
- The Council Office and Council Chamber in Kingsbury Square

Who We are

The town council is made up of 11 elected council members, including the Mayor & Deputy Mayor of Wilton. Councillors are supported by four part time staff.

What we plan to do in 2026-27



Along with routine maintenance of our community facilities, we are planning a number of projects to take place around the town over the 2026-27 financial year. These include:

How we will spend your Precept



The Town Centre Public Toilets renovation is one of Wilton Town Council's key 2026 priorities. The project will modernise and replace ageing facilities to ensure the town centre has reliable, safe, accessible and hygienic public conveniences that meet the needs of residents, visitors and local businesses. This investment supports Wilton's strategic goals of improving civic infrastructure, enhancing visitor experience, and reinforcing pride in the town centre.

The Pavilion Car Park improvement project forms a key part of Wilton Town Council's infrastructure and resilience programme for 2026. Phase 1 focuses on essential upgrades to drainage, surfacing and accessibility to ensure the car park remains safe, functional, and suitable for increasing community and event use at Castle Meadow. This phase lays the groundwork for future enhancements while ensuring immediate health-and-safety, usability and durability benefits.



To maintain a reliable, safe and visually attractive display, Wilton Town Council will undertake a comprehensive review and upgrade programme in 2026, focusing on safety compliance, asset condition, performance and long-term cost-efficiency. A key component of this year's work is determining the most sustainable model for delivering the display in future years—hire or purchase—and ensuring the Council partners with a reputable, specialist lighting supplier with proven capability in high-quality, low-energy, innovative festive lighting installations.

Following the completion of the 20mph feasibility study in April 2025, the Council will now progress the next steps toward delivering a reduced speed limit in and around the town centre.

This next phase will involve reviewing the feasibility findings in detail, preparing the required supporting information for Wiltshire Council, and ensuring that the proposed 2026/2027 implementation can proceed promptly once approval is granted.



WILTON TOWN COUNCIL

Grant Application Form



Please read the Council's Grants Policy before completing all sections of this form
– [Wilton Town Council Community Grants Policy](#).

1 APPLICANT	
Name of Organisation	Wilton And District Link

2 APPLICATION SUBMITTED BY	
Your name	Stephen Long
Your address	83 North Street, Wilton
Postcode	SP2 0HH
Email	chairwiltonlink@gmail.com

3 PROJECT	
Project Title	Wilton & District Link is 25 years old!
Project Summary	Wilton & District Link has been helping vulnerable and elderly members of our communities for 25 years and this year we want to celebrate our achievements with our clients, volunteers and representatives of our community which will include the Wilton Mayor and Town Councillors. (Max 100 words)
Location	Our plan is to hold a celebration event in the Courtyard, Wilton Village by erecting a marquee and inviting guests to join us for afternoon tea.
Date	Friday 26 June 2026

4 PROJECT DETAIL

Tell us about your project including your aims and objectives and who will benefit

Each month we receive about 100 requests for transport to hospitals, dentists, care homes and many other locations across the county and beyond occasionally. The last time we failed to find a driver for a client was May 2025. We also help our clients in many other ways by giving practical help e.g by collecting prescriptions or shopping, solving IT problems, dog walking, gardening. We want to celebrate the service we give every day of the year with our volunteers, clients and other members of our community and in doing so raise awareness of our charity. We presently have 98 clients and 24 volunteers. It is our aim in 2026 to increase both these numbers so that more members of our community can benefit from the excellent service our volunteers deliver.

5 PROJECT COSTS

Total cost of your project

£ £1,277.60 comprising marquee hire (including tables and chairs) £777.60 and catering costs of £500

How much are you seeking from Wilton TC?

£ 250

How will WTC funds be used?

Any contribution by WTC will be gratefully received and help towards the cost of the catering provided by Norma's Pantry, Wilton.

Please list all other sources of income, showing amounts raised or sought.

£
£
£
£
£

An application for financial support has been submitted for the attention of the South West Area Board and I have also been invited to a meeting of the Wilton Rotary to give a presentation on the Wilton Link and to ask them to consider supporting us.

How will any shortfall be met?

Any shortfall will be met from the funds of the Wilton and District Link

6 DECLARATION

By signing this application for your agree to the following terms and conditions

- ✓ We declare that the funding awarded by Wilton Town Council will be applied solely for the purpose described in this application
- ✓ We agree that any funding that is unused will be returned
- ✓ We agree to make available if requested, our latest income and expenditure accounts, bank statements, constitution and such other documents as Wilton Town Council may require in order to assess this application.
- ✓ We agree to acknowledge Wilton Town Council in our event publicity and marketing.
- ✓ We agree that I will submit a detailed report within 6 months of the award explaining how the funding has been used.
- ✓ We agree, if requested, to attend a meeting of Wilton Town Council to inform councillors about the project.
- ✓ We confirm that we are both authorized signatories for the organization bank account.

Signed



Position held

Chair, Wilton & District Link

Date

2 March 2026

Please complete all sections and return your application by email - [email Wilton Town Council](#)