



What we know about Wargrave

About Wargrave.....

Wargrave is part of Newton Le Willows in the borough of St Helens. No-one knows for sure the origin of the name Wargrave, but there have been links to a grave of a man who served in the American Civil War.

Wargrave was one of the earliest industrial townships, begun in 1830. The Vulcan Foundry was founded in 1832 by Charles Tayleur in partnership with George Stephenson. Later parts of the engineering works survive on Wargrave Road.

Lots of the housing in Wargrave as we know it today was built in the 1920's, was some of the very first to be built by the council and as an estate one of the largest to be built at that time in Europe. It housed many of the workers from the Vulcan Foundry: An extremely important international industrial centre for building trains which were used as far away as India and Tibet. The railway works were part of a rich surrounding industrial heritage including glass works and mining.

There are just over 2000 households in the area – just over 40% are socially rented (most from Helena Partnerships) and just under 10% from a private landlord. 33% of people living in Wargrave receive housing benefit.

Modern day Wargrave is a relatively young area. Of the 4894 people that live there, on average there are more people under 16 (1057) and less people over 65 (650) compared to the rest of the borough. Half of the residents now own a home while the other half rent our homes from social or other landlords. It is not a very multi-cultural area with only 4% of people declaring themselves non-white British on the most recent census.

The heavy industry is now long gone and has not been replaced. And so modern Wargrave suffers from a lack of large employers reflected in the high unemployment rates and has lower skills levels than the borough and a high number of people in poor health. 23% of those of working age receive benefits which is higher than the Borough average – 36% of children in the area live in out of work families and 37% of people of pensionable age receive pension credit.



Vulcan Foundry 1927



Wargrave Street Party 1945/46

How we found out about local issues

We listened. We got hundreds of residents to fill in surveys to get their views on what's right and what's wrong about Wargrave. We held listening events. We listened to the experts. We learned from this information and based on this, our plans started to form.

We have held 8 open consultation events, 2 Christmas Tree switch on events, supported the Town Show with a stall for the last 2 years and taken a stall at the market to talk to people while they shopped. These events had more than 1000 visits and local people completed more than 400 questionnaires for us. We have used our website, Facebook and Twitter to talk to people and we have tried to deliver flyers about our events to every household in Wargrave.

We have contacted more than 40 local organisations, schools and churches to ask them to join in with our consultation and have worked particularly with Trees Community Group, Age Concern, Newton Community and Family Centre, the Rotary Club of Newton-Le-Willows, Newton and Earlestown Community Group, Hope Academy and Emmanuel Church.

We have also met with organisations in who deliver services in Wargrave, particularly around our themes of Community Safety, Health, Environment and Employment. This includes Helena Partnerships, St Helens Council, Merseyside Police, St Helens Chamber of Commerce, Together Liverpool and Groundwork UK. These organisations have helped us with facts and figures and making sure that the problems and opportunities we want to tackle are the most important locally.

So what did we do with what people had to say.....?



Newton Community Centre, Wargrave



Vulcan Inn



Mesnes Park

Working out where to start

We started by coming up with a vision for Wargrave – how we wanted things to change. We wanted something that would make a *long term* difference to the people of Wargrave and future generations. We wanted to do something over the years which would change the way people thought about themselves.

Why? Because this is what can hold us back. So we chose our vision to be:

‘To raise the ambition and aspirations of the people of Wargrave.’

Having listened to people, we have begun to understand the issues that stop people in Wargrave from being ambitious. We think these include:

- Poor health, particularly people suffering from depression and anxiety
- People feeling unsafe in their homes and communities
- People finding it difficult to get jobs, because of a lack of confidence, skills or opportunities
- People being concerned about how their neighbourhood looks

So, to start to tackle this we developed some goals:

Theme	Our Goals
Community Safety	To help people to feel safer and to take action to reduce risks in their community
Health	To help people take action to improve their own health and to support others with health issues
Environment	To improve how our neighbourhood looks and create more opportunities for people to enjoy their environment
Employment	To connect people with the support and opportunities they need to reach their goals in life

So, what have people said that makes us see things this way?

Community Safety Goal

To help people to feel safer and to take action to reduce risks in their community

What local people said

- Some want feel safer at home, on the street and in our parks but lots of people feel safe already
- Some are angry about people who don't seem to be concerned about the effect their behaviour has on others – vandalism, speeding, neighbours
- Many are concerned about the effects that drug dealing has on the local area
- Many are worried about domestic violence and the effect this has on families
- Many would like to see more done to help older people and young people understand each other's needs better

What local organisations told us

- They need help getting the message out that domestic violence is unacceptable – on average it takes 30 incidents before a victim asks for help.
- Reported incidents of anti-social behaviour have shown significant decreases over the last 3 years
- Statistics for violent crime and burglary show that this happens less often in Wargrave than people think
- Drug offences across the whole of the borough average 300 over the past two years
- People feel safer when they have information and feel they can take action when they see or hear something that worries them

Health Goal

To help people take action to improve their own health and to support others with health issues

What local people said

- You want vulnerable and disabled people to feel supported
- You want help with cooking healthily on a budget
- Many are worried about the numbers of people suffering from anxiety and depression and would like more services to support them
- You want to help people to become more active, especially outdoors
- You want more social opportunities for the whole community including older and younger people
- You are worried about smoking, drugs and alcohol abuse

What local organisations told us

- Self-harming is a worrying issue, especially amongst young people, in our area
- The borough has the 3rd worst rate in England for alcohol related deaths in women
- Nearly a quarter of people in Wargrave say that their health stops them from doing what they want to
- 1 in 4 people will suffer from depression during their lifetime
- More than 35% of children in Year 6 (9/10 yr olds) are overweight
- Long term conditions, such as heart disease and lung disease, affect more people in Wargrave than on average

Environment Goal

To improve how our neighbourhood looks and to increase the opportunities for people to enjoy their environment

What local people said

- You want a community garden that everyone can enjoy and contribute to
- You'd like to see improvements in the park and green areas
- You'd like to see a scheme to help people with their gardens
- You'd like the neighbourhood to be free of litter and dog mess
- You want more and better play areas for children and young people
- You'd like to see more community clean up days

What local organisations told us

- Cleaning up an area will only work when local people are on board
- More than 50 sites locally have been identified that could be improved
- Land ownership is an issue – finding out who to talk to
- We all need to be recycling more – this is good for the environment and saves us money
- We want to find ways to encourage more people, especially children, to cycle and walk – this is good for the environment and keeps us healthier
- We want more people, across all age ranges, to use our parks and other green spaces

Employment Goal

To connect people with the support and opportunities they need to reach their goals in life

What local people said

- You want young people to have the opportunity to work when they leave school and have the right skills to do this
- You want people generally to get help in our local area with finding a job
- You feel that many people need help building their confidence and self esteem
- You'd like to see far more courses, covering a wide range of subjects, being offered in Wargrave
- You think we need to find out more about what local employers need

What local organisations told us

- 55% of employers say young people lack the key attributes for work
- The biggest barrier young people face in finding work is a lack of experience
- Local training providers struggle to get young people from Wargrave involved, even when course are run locally
- 10% of households in Wargrave have no adults in employment
- Youth employment accounts for 32% of all unemployed
- Nearly 30% of people in Wargrave have no qualifications

What happens next

We need to find out more. We will continue to talk to local people about their needs and ideas by holding events, building relationships with local groups and through our website, Facebook and Twitter.

We will keep talking to local organisations, and service providers, about the best ways to achieve our goals. We've still got a lot to learn – we want to make sure we use the £1m wisely, adding value to what is already there. We already know from the conversations we've already had, for example, that we could achieve a lot just by moving some existing services closer to Wargrave.

We will continue to build on our profile, adding information as we learn it and making sure that we keep up to date, taking advantage of new opportunities that come our way.



Wargrave C of E Primary School



Newton Community Hospital, Wargrave



Emmanuel Church

To find out more about Wargrave Big Local:



Big Local Wargrave



@BLWargrave



www.biglocalwargrave.co.uk