

## **Flying the Flag for Willenhall Finalists**

After weeks of work and more than 65 entries, they have been shortlisted to 6, which will go to a public vote to create an official flag for the Willenhall.

The 69 entries were judged anonymously and shortlisted by a panel of judges, including representatives from Poundland, WH Tildesley, Willenhall History Society, The Local History Centre- Walsall, WTFC, Councillor Ian Shires and Les Burrows

The winning design will be revealed and launched at this years Willenhall Carnival, June 14<sup>th</sup>.

A total of 69 entries were made in the competition with contributions coming in from local schools as well as folks of Willenhall and further afield.

Members of the public are now being asked to cast their vote for what they would like to see as their Willenhall Flag. There is a deadline of April 26<sup>th</sup> to make the all-important votes either in public via the posting stations or online and via our Facebook group (see links)

A few words from some of the judges –

Philip Tibbetts, Communities Vexillologist, Flag Institute Advisor, Parliamentary Flags & Heraldry Committee said "On behalf of the Flag Institute I have to commend the Willenhall flag competition for the passionate and dedicated way in which it has been run. Including the anonymous way in which we and the other judges selected the finalists. The proof of the quality of this competition has been proved through the finalists themselves which would all make bold and attractive flags. Indeed in working up the finalists to registration standard artwork we have had to make very little in the way of edits, only a matter of simplification in a couple of cases".

**Pavan Riyat-Ward, Marketing Controller representing Poundland said. “It was a challenge to get down to a short-list of six designs given the number and quality of entries that we were asked to choose from – a great effort from the people of Willenhall. It’s now down to the public to pick a winner from the six stunning designs that we felt best represented Willenhall.**

**Ruth Vyse said ‘She was very pleased that Walsall Local History Centre had been asked to supply a judge for the Willenhall flag competition. She thought that the number and quality of the entries was excellent. They reflected the importance of lock making in Willenhall’s history and represented that very imaginatively.’**

**Simon Hall, Chair at Willenhall Town FC said "we are delighted to be involved in such an innovative project and have been really impressed by the standard of entries into the competition. Now the public will vote and it's sure to be a close competition given the high standard of work and creativity! Well done to everyone who has got this far! We're looking forward to seeing the winning flag flying around the town and at our ground"**

**Ralph Jackson representing Willenhall History Society said. “We were pleased to be asked to be a selection judge. I think there was a good response with 67 odd flag designs. We did our best to shortlist them and what we thought were the best and now it is up to the rest of Willenhall to make their choice for the flag of Willenhall. Look forward to seeing the winner.**

**The winning flag will be added to the Flag Institute's UK Flag Registry.**

**The finalists are**

**Mr A Leonard**

**Mrs K Plant**

**Mr A Khan**

**Mr M Hayden**

**Mr J Wood**

**Mr S Cattell**