



Wickham Parish Council Annual Report May 2009 - April 2010

The Parish of Wickham

Wickham Parish is one of the largest parishes within the District of Winchester City Council with nearly 1850 houses. The parish extends along Titchfield Lane and Fontley Road to the south west of Wickham centre; it also includes Old Knowle and Knowle Village. To the east are the parishes of Boarhunt and Soberton with Shedfield, Curdridge and Whiteley to the north and west.

The Parish Council

The Parish Council comprises 11 Councillors who are elected every four years.

Councillors are unpaid and are governed by a mandatory code of conduct which includes obligations to act in an appropriate manner.

The Parish Council provides a local voice for its residents; each Parish Council differs in the work it carries out. The majority of the work carried out by Wickham Parish Council is through its committees: Finance, General Purpose, Planning, Recreation, and the Water Meadows Millennium Green Trust. A Highways and Lighting representative deals with road, transport and street lighting issues; there is also a Tree Warden and representatives for Footpaths and Rights of Way, HCC's Passenger Transport Forum, Fareham BC's SDA, Parish Partnership Forum (Police Liaison), Safer Neighbourhood Panel, Wickham Community Association and Wickham Youth Club

Communication

The Parish Council has notice boards in The Square and at Knowle and also in Wickham Community Centre; it also produces a regular newsletter for the Parish Magazine and has a website to keep residents up to date with its work: www.wickham.parish.hants.gov.uk.

Residents are very welcome to attend meetings and to contact Councillors and Clerk with issues of concern.

Chairman's overview

Once again it has been my honour to serve the community as Chairman of Wickham Parish Council.

As usual it has been a challenging but enjoyable year with a number of important issues to discuss and projects to progress.

Very recently permission was given to the Scouts to build a new HQ on the recreation ground, we hope this will commence in the very near future.

At the present time a new community building is being constructed at Knowle which will provide much improved facilities for residents.

I feel I should make an apology regarding the embankment and piece of land opposite the church. Some of the trees had become dangerous and more than expected had to be felled once work started. At present it isn't pleasing to the eye but we do have a vision for this important gateway into the village, but would also welcome your views as to what you would like to see.

Another very successful Parish Assembly was held this year and there is more on this later in the report.

All councillors work together and are very proactive in promoting the needs of the community. We do not have all the answers but we are all very committed and we do not forget that we are elected by you, our residents.

It continues to be a great pleasure to serve as Chairman.

Angela Clear, Chairman Wickham Parish Council

Parish Council News for 2009/10

Goodbyes and new faces

Parish Councillors were very sorry to receive the resignation of Michael Sadler-Forster. Michael has worked very hard for the Council on a variety of projects all of which has been greatly appreciated. Michael's input is missed.

To fill the vacancy Marie du Boulay was co-opted following the receipt of three applications from interested residents.

A new home for Wickham Scouts



The Parish Council is working with the Scouts to deliver a new building to serve their needs. Planning permission has been granted for a new site on the recreation ground.

Drainage in Wickham

The Parish Council continues to raise concerns about the inadequate drainage system in Wickham.

Mention is made in responses to planning applications for new development that the existing drainage system will be unable to cope without significant improvements.

Yellow Lines



Yellow lines agreed some years ago have finally been installed, unfortunately Tanfield Lane was missed during the legal process so will be carried out at a later date. The lines will be reviewed after a year so if you have any comments please let the Council know.

Safer Neighbourhood Panel



Local policing priorities are discussed regularly through the Panel with the Meon Valley Safer Neighbourhood Police team. Current priorities are dealing with anti-social behaviour and speeding on local roads.

Please contact the Parish Council or your local contacts Justin Gamblin and Angela Clear if you experience any problems that need to be addressed

Parish Council Website



www.wickham.parish.hants.gov.uk

Would you like some web pages included on the Parish Council website to promote your organisation?

Contact the Parish Council for more information.

Thank You

Thank you to the secret gardeners who are providing a wonderful display under the Welcome to Wickham sign in Winchester Road.

A new doctors' surgery for Wickham

Plans for the new surgery are available to view online or at the Parish Council office. www.wickham.parish.hants.gov.uk *Latest News*

Best Summer Garden 2009



Wickham Parish Council

The Brian Sharp Memorial Cup



Best Summer Garden Competition 2009

Congratulations to our winners:

Brian Sharp Cup
Bob and June Rawson

Wickham Parish Cup
Anthony and Rosemary Clark

Best Senior Citizen's Garden
Iris Oliver

Best Small Garden
Denise Caws and Tim Mead

Best Family Garden
Angela and Mark Martin

Thank you to everyone who entered, the standard was extremely high.

Judging for the 2010 competition will begin shortly.



Recycling in Wickham

Thanks to SCATS the village has local bottle banks with separate bins for different coloured glass. There is also provision to donate unwanted clothes to raise funds for local charities. The facility is available for use during the store's opening hours.



Skatepark extension

Wickham Community Association has very kindly agreed to allow the skatepark to be extended.

The Parish Council has worked with young people to design an exciting and challenging layout and to secure a grant of £60,000 to pay for the project. Work will start shortly.



More information on the **Extend Wickham Skatepark** Facebook site

Speed limit reminder sign



In response to many complaints about speeding traffic, particularly lorries, the Parish Council has purchased a speed limit reminder sign. The sign will record the number of vehicles exceeding the speed limit and flash to warn drivers to slow down.

The sign is being moved around 8 locations in Winchester Road, Fareham Road and School Road to maximise its effectiveness.

There have been problems with the batteries retaining sufficient charge to operate the sign which we are trying to resolve. Running the SLR sign is an expensive process and will be reviewed after a year.

Street Lighting

The Parish Council is responsible for the maintenance and running costs of 75 street lights in the Wickham area.

If you would like an area to be considered for new lighting or discover lights not working please contact the Parish Council or your local representative Angela Clear

Wickham Festival 5th – 8th August

The Parish Council has agreed to make a grant to the Festival to allow all residents to experience the event free of charge.

All residents of Wickham and Knowle have free entry on Thursday 5th August, and free entry to 'Village Green' family arena (but not the Music 'Big Top') throughout the entire weekend.

See more details in the Magazine

Church Crossroads

The Parish Council has carried out some clearing work at the Church crossroads to remove some trees that had become unmanageable and also to open up the space to create a new village green where residents will be able to sit and view the church.



New planting and seating are being planned to enhance the area further. Your views and ideas would be welcome.

The unkindest cut?

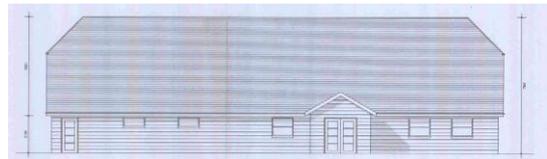


Last year Winchester City Council, faced with budget pressures, threatened to close the public loos unless the Parish Council agreed to contribute towards the running costs. This was reluctantly agreed as the loos are considered to be an important facility in the village for both residents and visitors. The agreed contribution for 2009/10 was £1835

Knowle

The Parish Council will be taking responsibility for the village green and play areas along with the community building at Knowle in due course, this will reduce the burden on the estate management contractor and resulting charges to residents.

The building will be sub-let to Knowle Community Buildings Association.



Work has begun on the new building and everyone is looking forward to its completion.

Grants agreed for Knowle projects

Wickham Parish Council agreed a grant of £1700 to Knowle Village Community Buildings Association towards the cost of producing the Village Post.

A grant of £3000 has also been awarded to Knowle Cricket Club to help the Club buy equipment and maintain the cricket pitch.

It is great to see the community developing at Knowle and the Parish Council is pleased to be able to support existing and new projects.

Affordable Housing for Local People

Two schemes of affordable houses are currently being planned in Wickham, a total of thirty five new homes that can only be let or sold to people with a connection to Wickham.



Planning permission has also been granted for a further 64 affordable homes at Knowle.

Individuals and families with an income of up to £60,000 can register for affordable housing.

If you have not registered your interest in an affordable home please contact Winchester City Council or the Parish Council as soon as possible.

Annual Parish Assembly

On 28th April the main hall of Wickham Centre was full of people celebrating community life in the Parish. Year 3 and 4 children from Wickham Primary School demonstrated their dancing skills and an excellent report on a recent school trip was made by Year 6 pupils.



Kat Lemon and the Voice4Youth Group also presented their findings from recent surveys.

This was followed by the presentation of the Citizen of the Year Awards by the Mayor of Winchester Dominic Hiscock.

Wickham Citizen of the Year Valerie Shuttleworth.

Valerie has organised and led the Church Choir for the last 10 years bringing a high standard of music to Wickham. In addition to ensuring the choir is well prepared whenever music is required for services, weddings and funerals Val organises special music throughout the year. Wickham is lucky to have such a willing volunteer who puts so much into the music of the village.

Wickham Citizen of the Year Robert Goulson.

Robert is a very active member of the community, he is a member of Wickham First (Community) Responders, is a Church Warden for St Nicholas Church and a fund raiser for the Church and other good causes such as Christian Aid. Robert also helps distribute the parish magazine and leads weekly healthy walks from Bishops Waltham for local people.



Add to this helping with the Christmas lights and being one of the most active litter pickers in the village and the community has a very deserving Citizen of the Year.

Knowle Citizen of the Year Andy Snow

Andy is an active member of the Knowle community and this award is in recognition of his role as Chairman of the Knowle Community Buildings Association from which he has recently retired. Under Andy's leadership the KCBA has gone from strength to strength with new sports and social committees formed to organise local events.



Andy has devoted a good deal of his time and energy to developing community spirit in Knowle which is much appreciated.

Life Time Achievement Award Joyce Johnston

Joyce moved to Wickham in 1975 and soon became involved in community activities, the list of which is long! A close involvement in the Church and supporting vulnerable people have taken up a great deal of time. Joyce is currently an assistant church warden and is usually the first point of contact if anyone wants to know anything about St Nicholas and its history.



The development of a wildlife area in the churchyard was lead by Joyce and is now enjoyed by the Church's many visitors.

Life Time Achievement Award Ron Burt

Ron has lived in Wickham since he was 2 years old and his large and now extended family live nearby.

Ron has been involved in sport in Wickham from his teenage years, playing cricket for the village team and is now Club Umpire and Life Vice-President of Wickham Cricket Club. Ron managed Wickham Dynamos football team for 10 years before handing over to his sons.



Ron was in the retained fire service in Wickham for 27 years and is caretaker of the church and looks after the Garden of Remembrance. Ron, a man you can always rely on for a speech!

Services to Young People Award Ray Hughes

Ray is the much loved and respected leader of Wickham Youth Club. He has worked extremely hard to make the Club a success despite, in the early days, having a full time job as a baker which meant getting up at 3am to start work. Ray knows all the children well and offers a friendly but firm ear to help solve any problems.



Business Contributing To Community Life Mount Folly Nurseries

Angela and Graham Cowell started their nursery many years ago and have developed the business as a result of a great deal of hard work.



Angela and Graham see Wickham as their village and make very generous contributions to the Church Fete as well as providing the plants for the village flowerbeds and hanging baskets.

Thank you!

Stan Woodford 2009 Photographic Competition winners

Under 14 Morris Fool by Megan Richards



Adult April by Brian Edgeworth



Winners and all entries are available to view on the Parish Council website.

Committee Reports

Planning Committee

Between May 2009 and April 2010 the Planning Committee has considered and responded to 42 planning applications in the Parish.

Copies of planning applications are available to view locally by contacting the Parish Clerk - no need to travel to Winchester. Many applications are also available to view online on Winchester City Council's website: www.winchester.gov.uk. (Use the public access link.)

General Purposes Committee

The GP, or General Purpose, Committee is landed with the work that can't be allocated to any of the other committees and has had a particularly busy year.

A map of the Parish has been completed showing rights of way, it can be viewed by the entrance of the Community Centre and the Station Close car park entrance to the Meon Valley Trail. A further map will be installed next to the notice board in The Square in due course.

The Committee has overseen the yellow lines project and the signing of a new contract for the street lighting. Within the next five years all the elderly lights will be replaced at no cost to residents.

A new seat has been installed opposite the Old House Hotel and work to improve the landscaping at the Bridge Street junction carried out.

The flower displays in the village are organised by this committee and it also assists with funding the churchyard maintenance, Christmas tree and lighting display and bus shelter maintenance.

Recreation Committee

The Recreation Committee looks after the recreation ground managing the maintenance of the landscaping, tennis court and football pitch and also the ageing 'pavilion'.

This Committee also manages the play areas on the recreation ground, The Circle and in front of the Community Centre.

The skatepark is also the responsibility of this Committee. Regular safety inspections are carried out and repairs arranged as necessary. Plans for an extension to the skatepark to provide more challenges are underway.

The pavilion on the recreation ground has been refurbished and plans are in hand to provide a new multi-use games area for the village.

Water Meadows Millennium Green Trust

The Parish Council, as First Trustee, oversees the maintenance of the Water Meadows for the benefit of both wildlife and visitors. The leasing and maintenance of the Old Forge are also the responsibility of the Trust.

The Meadows are regularly maintained by groundsman Paul Collins and his team, helped by local residents who keep the area free from litter and their efforts are greatly appreciated!

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee reviews the Council's income and expenditure on a regular basis, it also discusses applications from local organisations seeking funding assistance and makes recommendations to the Full Council.

The Parish Council approved the following grants during the last financial year:

Wickham Youth Club	£1000	Grant towards running costs
Meon Valley Home Start	£1000	Grant towards running costs
St Nicholas PCC	£1096	Grant towards church yard maintenance
Wickham Summer Playscheme	£850	Contribution towards running costs
Citizens Advice Bureau	£1750	Contribution towards running costs
Wickham Primary School	£150	Grant towards coach hire
Wickham Twinning	£150	Grant towards hosting visitors
Knowle Community Buildings Association	£500	Contribution towards cricket event
Knowle Village Residents Asc	£1070	Grant towards newsletter printing costs

Local organisations are welcome to make grant applications, forms are available on the Parish Council's website or from the Parish Clerk.

A copy of the accounts for the year ending March 2010 is included overleaf.

Income and Expenditure Account For the Year Ended 31 March 2010

2008/9		2009/10
£	Income	£
82,545	Precept	90,139
Nil	Agency Services Reimbursed	Nil
Nil	Loan/Capital Repayments	Nil
2,706	Interest	80
Nil	WACA grant refund	Nil
1,138	Football fees	1,038
20	Training income	436
500	Village of the Year prize	Nil
	Running costs	
600	General Purposes (flower bed sponsors)	600
250	(Christmas lighting contribution)	193
	New Projects	
	Loan to WCA repaid	2,500
	Sale of handcart	300
	HCC grant for skatepark	6,745
6,460	Vat Reimbursements	1,884
94,219	Total income	103,915

	Expenditure	
21,769	Employment	21,521
10,462	General Administration	10,615
	Agency Services	
2,629	S. 137 Payments	2,190
1,750	Grants	1,569
	Running Costs	
10,007	General Purposes Committee	17,062
4,329	Lighting Committee	5,716
8,271	Recreation Committee	25,313
88	Chairman's allowance	34
108	Councillor / Clerk training	744
	New Projects	
16,647	New projects/contingency	3,794
1,880	VAT	3,509
77,940	Total Expenditure	92,067

	General Fund	
88,588	Balance at 1 April	104,867
94,219	Add: Total Income	103,915
182,807		208,782
-77,940	Less: Total Expenditure	-92,067
104,867	Balance at 31 March	116,715

Wickham Parish Council Contact details May 2009

Chairman

Angela Clear 14 Manor Close, Wickham,
PO17 5BZ tel 01329 832923
(Chairman of Finance Committee and
Highways and Street lighting representative)

Vice-Chairman

Sue Roger-Jones Moonrakers, Fareham
Road, Wickham, PO17 5BY tel 01329 833165
(Recreation Committee and Water Meadows
Trust Chairman, Community Association
representative)

Councillors

Trevor Astbury 9 The Circle, Meon Park,
Wickham PO17 5HW tel 07787 495779 (Rights
of Way representative, Tree Warden)

Mike Bennett 9 Cold Harbour Close, Wickham
PO17 5PT tel 01329 835205 Police Liaison
Panel representative.

Marie du Boulay Great Pecks, Blind Lane,
Wickham PO17 7HD tel 01329 832136

Mike Carter Hart House, Mayles Lane,
Wickham, PO17 5ND tel 01329 832928
(Rights of Way, Community Association and
Wickham Youth Club representative)

Thérèse Evans 3 Copperwood, Holt Close,
Wickham PO17 5EY tel 01329 832700

Di Frost The Laurels, Mayles Lane, Wickham
PO17 5ND tel 01329 832633

Justin Gamblin Niagara, Tanfield Lane,
Wickham PO17 5NW tel 01329 832076
(General Purposes Committee Chairman)

Jenny Hollis 12 Buddens Road,
Wickham PO17 5HQ tel 01329 835243
(Planning Committee Chairman)

Colin Roke, 27 Knowle Avenue, Knowle PO17
5LG tel 07720 548989

Parish Clerk

Nicki Oliver, Heatherdene, Turkey Island
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