



Wickham Parish Council Annual Report May 2008 - April 2009

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, Forward Planning, 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

I was very pleased and honoured to be elected once again as Chairman of Wickham Parish Council. The past year has been challenging, exciting and at times frustrating, but I do enjoy a challenge and working with and for the local community.

In April 2008 the judges visited Wickham for the National Village of the Year competition and once again the community put on an excellent show. As a result Wickham won the People Category for Southern England – a fantastic result.

Thank you to all who attended the Parish Assembly this year and made the evening so successful, more details later in the report.

Parish Council meetings are open to the public as it is the electorate's right to observe how the council operates. You will always be made very welcome if you attend, so why not think about it? Agendas are posted on notice boards and we also have an excellent website.

Being elected as a councillor does not come with all the solutions to the community's problems - I wish it did, but by working together as a team and combining energies and skills, this can only help to improve the quality of life and the environment for the residents of Wickham and Knowle.

Having an active Parish Council that has a close relationship with its community, must surely benefit us all.

Please be assured we will do our very best at all times when acting on your behalf.

Angela Clear, Chairman Wickham Parish Council

Parish Council News for 2008/9

Winchester City Council's Local Development Framework

Winchester City Council is planning for the housing numbers required by Central Government under the adopted South East Plan.

Wickham is likely to be expected to accept around 300 new homes between 2006 and 2026. (32 of these have already been completed).

The Parish Council has advised Winchester City Council that it supports the provision of some new housing on green fields to the north of the village together with new recreation land to the east of Mill Lane to enable the village to maintain and improve its social and economic sustainability. The Council has also advised WCC that:

- It supports the provision of affordable housing for local people.
- It supports the provision of significant green gaps between the settlements of Knowle and Wickham and the North Fareham Strategic Development Area.
- It supports the retention of existing employment land within the village envelope unless proven to be no longer economically viable.
- It requests early and urgent support for measures to reduce the impact of traffic growth on Wickham and its rural surroundings.

A new home for Wickham Scouts



The Parish Council is working with the Scouts to deliver a new building to serve their needs.

Improving access to public transport information



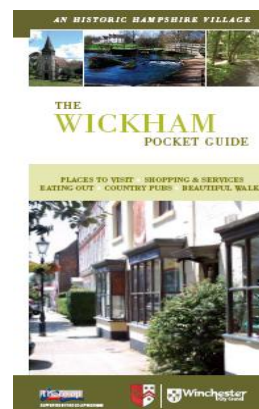
The Parish Council has produced a local travel guide in partnership with Swanmore, Shedfield and Wickham Parish Councils to make travel information more accessible. Copies are available locally and also on the Parish Council website

Drainage in Wickham

The Parish Council has been raising concerns about the inadequate drainage system in Wickham for over ten years, (perhaps longer but we don't have the files!)

Recent events have highlighted the problems and councillors met with Southern Water to demand some action. Southern Water made a series of promises to address the problems which the Parish Council is closely monitoring

A tourism guide for Wickham



The Parish Council has worked with Winchester City Council and local businesses to produce a new tourism guide funded by Winchester City Council and launched in October last year

Copies are available in shops around the village and from Greens.

Many thanks to Carol Duckworth for her extensive input and Neale Fray for providing lots of the photographs for the guide.

Christmas Light Switch On



Thank you to everyone who helped with the Christmas Light Switch on, especially staff at AE Roberts and Neale Fray and his team.

Recycling



Following a request by members of Wickham Scout Group, the Parish Council has worked with Winchester City Council to find a site for glass recycling facilities.

Thanks to SCATS the village now has local bottle banks with separate bins for different coloured glass. The facility is available for use during the store's opening hours.

Thank you to the Scouts for their request which put recycling to the top of the Council's agenda.

Safer Neighbourhood Panel

Wickham is leading a new project for the Meon Valley, bringing local representatives, Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators and residents together to discuss and review local policing priorities.

There is a suggestion box at Wickham Community Centre if you would like to make your views and concerns known.

Your local contacts are Parish Councillors Justin Gamblin and Angela Clear.

Parish Council website

www.wickham.parish.hants.gov.uk

The website was redesigned and upgraded in April to meet current accessibility standards. It has lots of information about the village and Parish Council. The agendas and minutes of meetings are available to view on line, Stan Woodford's photo collection is available to view and download in the Village History section.

Would you like some webpages for your group? If you provide the content, pages for your organisation can be added to the Parish Council website. Contact the Clerk for more information



Wickham Parish Council

The Brian Sharp Memorial Cup



Best Summer Garden Competition 2008

The Parish Council launched a new competition last year in memory of Parish Councillor Brian Sharp to find the best gardens in Wickham and Knowle

Congratulations to our winners:

Brian Sharp Cup
Malcolm Duke

Wickham Parish Cup
Lucy Marson

Best Landscaped Garden
Morgan and Susie O'Connell

Best Colourful Small Garden
Mrs Lewington

Best Mixed Small Garden
Mr Lipscombe

Best Patio Garden
David and Sue Roger-Jones

Best Mixed Garden
Ray Hatch

Entries for this year's competition are about to be judged.

Please consider entering your garden for the 2010 competition!

Village of the Year 2008

Thanks to the fantastic hard work by lots of local organisations Wickham won the People Category of the Southern England Village of the Year Competition



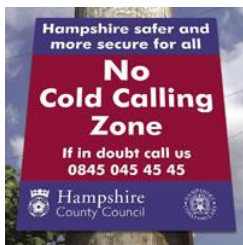
Affordable Housing for Local People

Two schemes of affordable houses are currently being planned in Wickham, a total of about thirty new homes.

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

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

No Cold Calling Zone for Meon Park



The Parish Council has supported a scheme run by the Police and Hampshire Trading Standards for a No Cold Calling Zone in Meon Park to help protect local people from the problems caused by cold calling.

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 representatives Angela Clear and Trevor Astbury

Annual Parish Assembly

On 13th May the main hall was full of people celebrating community life in Wickham. Lots of local groups prepared displays promoting their work and the Co-op very kindly provided refreshments to compliment the buffet.

Wickham Primary School performed songs from Joseph, there was some beautiful singing and very confident soloists.

Wickham Cubs demonstrated a popular game, gathering volunteers from the audience to take part.

This was followed by the presentation of the Citizen of the Year Awards.

Wickham Citizen of the Year Vicki Pawlyn.

Vicki, her husband Mike and family moved to Wickham thirty years ago, it wasn't long before she became involved in village life.

Vicki took on the management of the Community Care group which takes local people to hospital appointments, makes home visits and arranges help for those in need.

Vicki is also a cook for the Wednesday Lunch Club and helps with the Thursday Club. This hard working lady deserves our thanks and gratitude for all her good works

Knowle Citizen of the Year Graham Shrive

Graham was elected Chairman of Knowle Village Residents Association some four years ago and has become a formidable force in ensuring that the developer for the new village meets its obligations to residents and that the management company makes fair charges for its services.

Under Graham's chairmanship KVRA has launched it's own website with the aid of lottery funding and also promoted a good working relationship with Wickham Parish Council.

Graham identifies issues on behalf of Knowle residents and takes up their causes and chases them through to conclusion. Without his unflagging efforts Knowle Village residents would be the poorer and not just in financial terms.

Life Time Achievement Award Lucy and Mike Carter

Lucy has been a Church Flower Lady since moving to the village thirty four years ago using her skills to both provide the greenery and decorate the church. Lucy has organised the plant stall for the Church Fete for many years stocking the stall with plants grown in her garden.

Lucy chairs the Thursday Club which provides a wonderfully supportive group for older people, her committee organise regular monthly meetings, interesting talks, good food and summer outings and now that Lucy has qualified as a mini bus driver she is able to take club members on trips.

Lucy is also active member of the Wednesday Lunch Club team, providing the opportunity for usually, single older people to get together with their friends over a good lunch.

Mike has been and still is involved in many Wickham activities with time spent as chairman of organisations such as Wickham Society, Wickham RNLI Branch and Meon Valley Beekeepers.

Mike is a great fundraiser for Wickham Youth Club and was an active founder of the 100 club.

Mike is Chairman of the Youth Club Management Committee and works very hard supervising the volunteers and fundraising. As Parish Councillor Mike is involved with several committees and spends a great deal of time organising and promoting the Stan Woodford Photographic Competition which is growing in popularity year on year.

Mike is also a trustee of the Chesapeake Mill Heritage Centre. All this on top of a very busy sailing and social life!

Mike and Lucy are thoroughly deserving of the Life Time Achievement Award.

Services to Young People Award Ashley Wilson

Ashley has been described as one of the most selfless people you could wish to meet. He gives a large amount of his time every week to the young people of the village as one of Wickham's Scout Leaders.

Ashley recently broke both wrists but it didn't stop him running his Scout group even though his wrists were in plaster.

Ashley helps in the Montessori School, is an active Governor of Wickham Primary School and a National Archery Instructor.

Service to Wickham award John Tull

John played cricket and football for Wickham Saturday and Sunday teams during the 60's and helped form Wickham Dynamos in 1979 when a group of lads wanted to play football in the village but had difficulty in getting a game.

John was secretary and treasurer for the club from 1979 until 1995 when he was made Life Vice-President.

In the late 80's John was a club representative for Meon Valley Football League and currently works as a representative for Hampshire Football Association Benevolent Fund.

John was a local fireman from 1967 until 2001 serving 34 years in Hampshire Fire And Rescue Service and is, of course, an ever present figure in the business community.

Services to Wickham award Doug Copeland

Doug came to live permanently in Wickham in 1978 and took a keen interest in local affairs from the start, becoming a member and then Chairman of the History Society.

Doug has been an active member of the Horticultural Society and served on Wickham Parish Council for seventeen years.

On top of this Doug was a key member of the Wickham Square Events Team organising village events for a number of years.

Watering the flower baskets in The Square is another task that was quietly performed by Doug over many summers.

On joining the British Legion Doug took part in the annual sponsored walks raising money for the poppy appeal and helps with house to house collections. He also fundraises for the Sailor's Society and the RNLI.

Good Neighbour Award Margaret Gwynn

Margaret is always there for those in need, visiting, taking home cooked goodies and frequently using her nursing skills to help when asked. She has a lively sense of humour and a philosophy of putting the most important things first: grandchildren, family, friends, reading the Daily Telegraph, crosswords, organising and writing reports for Wickham Wives (by hand!), and Winchester Hospital Nursing League, singing in the Church Choir, gardening walking and lastly.....housework!

Good Neighbour Award Annette Andrews

Annette lives in Dairymoor and spends a great deal of time caring for her neighbour, lighting a coal fire and switching on his heating on a daily basis and helping with shopping and housework.

Without Annette's help her neighbour would not be able to live at home.

Annette has successfully appealed and won attendance allowance for her neighbour and has had a stairlift installed for him. Annette is the sort of person who does not seek recognition for her actions, but all would agree the award is thoroughly deserved.

Business of the Year Award. Kutis of Wickham

Kutis opened in 2007 and the restaurant has become a very popular venue for visitors from near and far. Owner Aziz and his team have thrown themselves into community life supporting the local cricket team and hosting meals for local groups including the war veterans from Villers, Wickham's twin town. Staff also took part in the Christmas light switch-on last year bringing a taste of Bangladesh to proceedings with wonderful samples of spicy hot food to compliment the traditional mulled wine and mince-pies!

Kutis has transformed Star Corner from a derelict eyesore to an attractive restaurant and has brought a once forlorn area of the village to life again. Staff are very welcoming and always greet passers by with a friendly smile and wave.

Stan Woodford 2008 Photographic Competition winners

Under 14 May Day 2008 by Emma Richards
Under 18 All Girls Together by Ryan Cottle
Adult Morris Dancers in The Square by Neale Fray



Highly Commended:
General Composition: 'Where's my breakfast?'
by Brian Oswald
Most Amusing: Enjoying the View by
Rachel Christopher

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

Committee Reports

Forward Planning Committee

During the last two years this Committee has followed the production the Local Development Framework for both Winchester City and Fareham Borough Council and responded to consultations where appropriate.

The Committee is overseeing the completion of a revised Village Design Statement and Parish Plan to provide strategies and policies to deal with future development and to protect and enhance the village wherever possible.

Planning Committee

Between May 2008 and April 2009 the Planning Committee has considered and responded to 68 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!

The flower displays in the village are organised by this committee and this year the Committee is overseeing additional grass cutting on some open spaces to see if it improves residents' amenity.

The Committee also assists with funding the churchyard maintenance, Christmas tree and lighting display and bus shelter maintenance.

Current projects include a review of parking in The Square, researching the possibility of speed warning signs for Winchester Road, looking at a project to enhance the Bridge Street entrance to the village, preparing a map of the parish and running a Best Garden Competition.

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 actioned as necessary. A new ramp has been recently installed at the request of users. The young people chose the ramp and successfully applied for grant funding for the project.

The Parish Council has agreed to take responsibility for the play areas and village green at Knowle and will also take ownership of the new community building in due course. The building will be run by Knowle Community Buildings Association.

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	£500	Grant towards running costs
Loan to Wickham Centre	£5000	Loan towards access improvement works
St Nicholas PCC	£1147	Grant towards church yard maintenance
Wickham Community Centre	£2000	Repairs and replacements to cctv system
Wickham Summer Playscheme	£850	Contribution towards running costs
Citizens Advice Bureau	£1750	Contribution towards running costs
Wickham Primary School	£480	Adopt a school scheme - sports for young people

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 2009 is included overleaf.

Income and Expenditure Account For the Year Ended 31 March 2009

2007-8		2008-9
£	Income	£
79,668	Precept	82,545
Nil	Agency Services Reimbursed	Nil
Nil	Loan/Capital Repayments	Nil
4,001	Interest	2,706
116	WACA grant refund	Nil
863	Football fees	1,138
578	Square Events repayment	Nil
75	Training income	20
300	Village of the Year prize	500
200	Donation towards badge of office	Nil
	Running costs	
800	General Purposes (flower bed sponsors)	600
245	(Christmas lighting contribution)	250
	New Projects	
Nil	Vat Reimbursements	6,460
86,846	Total income	94,219

	Expenditure	
17,157	Employment	21,769
10,594	General Administration	10,462
Nil	Agency Services	
Nil	S. 137 Payments	2,629
4,635	Grants	1,750
	Running Costs	
8,682	General Purposes Committee	10,007
4,083	Lighting Committee	4,329
11,102	Recreation Committee	8,271
	Chairman's allowance	88
	Councillor / Clerk training	108
	New Projects	
14,506	New projects/contingency	16,647
2,619	VAT	1,880
73,378	Total Expenditure	77,940

General Fund		
75,117	Balance at 1 April	88,588
86,846	Add: Total Income	94,219
161,963		182,807
73,378	Less: Total Expenditure	-77,940
3	Round up	
88,588	Balance at 31 March	104,867

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
(Wickham Youth Club and Rights of Way representative, Tree Warden)

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

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

Michael Sadler-Forster Blanton House, Bridge Street, Wickham PO17 5JJ tel 01329 833598

Parish Clerk

Nicki Oliver, Heatherdene, Turkey Island Shedfield, Southampton Hants, S032 2JE

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