



# Wickham Parish Council Annual Report May 2007 - April 2008

## 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, Street Lighting and the Water Meadows Millennium Green Trust. A Highways representative deals with road and transport issues; there is also a Tree Warden and representatives for 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](http://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

It has been an honour to once again serve the community as Chairman of Wickham Parish Council.

The past year has been busy for the Council with a number of important issues to discuss and projects to progress.

A major highlight was winning the Calor Gas Hampshire Village of the Year with the help of a local team.

In April the village was judged for the next round which is the national entry. May I take this opportunity to thank all those that took part in creating a fantastic display in the Community Centre. I trust it conveyed to the judges what a great community we have in Wickham.

Another very successful Annual Parish Assembly was held in April with presentations made by Wickham Primary School and entertainment provided by the Youth Club, it was a wonderful evening which also included the Citizen of the Year awards of which there is more later in the report. The winners of the Stan Woodford Photographic competition were also announced.

Many thanks to all who attended and took part in the Assembly.

As well as being Council Chairman I am responsible for lighting and highways issues. Highways issues are quite numerous at times and I can assure you these are dealt with in the quickest way

possible, but not always as quickly as I would like!

Flooding in certain areas of the village has caused concerns and may I thank the residents of Riverside Mews for their hard work during recent problems with flooding. We are working constantly with Southern Water and Hampshire County Council to try and resolve this issue.

All the Parish Council meetings are open to the public and you will be made very welcome if you attend! Agendas are posted on notice boards and on the website and minutes are available at meetings or to view on the website.

When councillors, clerk and chairman work together as a team they combine energies and skills to deliver real benefits to the community they serve.

All councillors work together to improve the quality of life and the environment for the residents of Wickham and Knowle. We are all very committed and we do not forget we were elected by residents. Our job is to represent the interests of the whole community. I can assure you we will do our very best at all times.

**Angela Clear, Chairman Wickham Parish Council**

## **Parish Council News for 2007/8**

### **New Councillor for Knowle.**

Colin Roke, a resident of Knowle, was co-opted to the Parish Council in February following the resignation of Neil Jackson.

### **Christmas light switch on event**

The Parish Council organised this event for the first time this year.

It was very well attended and was a successful evening thanks to the volunteers who worked so hard to install

the Christmas tree and lights in The Square.

It wouldn't have happened without John and David at AE Roberts who delivered and installed the tree and particular thanks are due to Neale Fray who appointed and organised the volunteers.

The Youth Club and St Nicholas Choir were in fine voice and thanks due to The Old House Hotel for providing mulled wine and to Chris, Barry and the Scouts for the hot dogs.

Many thanks to Aziz at Kutis who helped pay for Father Christmas's horse drawn carriage.

### **Affordable houses for local people**

Following a successful survey of residents which identified a continuing need for affordable homes for local people, it is hoped to progress a second project to follow the success of the Gwynn Way development. A possible site to the rear of the community centre has been identified for the houses to allow a joint project with the Wickham Community Land Trust.

### **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.

### **Parish Council website**

**[www.wickham.parish.hants.gov.uk](http://www.wickham.parish.hants.gov.uk)**

The website 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

## Village of the Year



In 2007 Wickham entered the Hampshire Village of the Year Competition and won both Calor Hampshire Village of the Year and best village in Winchester District. A great result for the village and the team who put the entry together.

On 22<sup>nd</sup> April Wickham was visited by the judges as part of the entry into the national Village of the Year competition. The competition is about how the village looks after its community and creates life enhancing opportunities for all its residents.

The team took the judges for a tour around the village which included a visit to the primary school where they were met by Head Teacher Carol Burton and delighted by the busy pupils and inspiring surroundings.

The Water Meadows, Church, Chesapeake Mill and the houses in Gwynn Way were also part of the tour which finished at the Community Centre.

Over 40 local organisations and groups pulled out all the stops to create displays in the hall. The result was incredible and a fantastic reflection of the riches Wickham has to offer its community.



Thank you all for your hard work, it is really appreciated. Thanks also to the Men's Group and all who spent time clearing up litter and cleaning signs prior to the visit.

Thank you also to residents and businesses who displayed the 'Welcome to the judges' posters. The judges commented that they hadn't experienced such a welcome in any other village.



Thank you to the Community Centre management and staff for your forbearance and assistance as the event grew beyond all expectations.

Lastly thank you to the team that showed the judges all our village has to offer: Angie Clear, Barrie Marson, Nicki Oliver, Ted Fitzgerald and Neale Fray.

**GOOD LUCK WICKHAM!**

## Annual Parish Assembly

On 23<sup>rd</sup> April over 150 people attended the Annual Parish Assembly which must have been one of the largest attendances to date.

Wickham Primary School Year 6 pupils gave a very confident presentation on some recent projects they had undertaken, this was followed by a demonstration of an electric car the Technology Club had made and raced. This wonderful project was lead by Parish Councillor Mike Bennett and a teacher at the school.



The Youth Club performed with Drums for Fun which had everyone's toes tapping, a really enjoyable performance.

Thank you to everyone who attended and took part in the Assembly.

Citizen of the Year presentations were another highlight of the Assembly.

**\*\*Citizen of the Year 2008 Neale Fray\*\***

Neale helps with lots of projects in the village. Neale's post as Editor of the Parish Magazine takes up many, many hours. Last year trusteeship of the Community Association was added to the extensive list of local roles which includes bell ringing for St Nicholas Church. Without Neale the Christmas lights and tree for The Square would not have happened.

Thank you Neale your award is truly deserved.

**\*\*Young Citizen of the Year - Ryan Cottle\*\***

Ryan is a dedicated and reliable member of the Youth Club, always ready to lend a helping hand which is very much appreciated by the Leaders.

**\*\*Lifetime Achievement Award for Service to the Community - Eileen Gulliford\*\***

Eileen has recently retired as secretary to The Thursday Club, a position she had held for 32 years. The Thursday Club provides an important contact for the village's over 60s and runs regular meetings and outings. Eileen with her PA experience ensured the smooth running of the Club and has left a list of duties which now take four people to carry out.

**\*\*Lifetime Achievement Award for Service to the Community - David and Sue Roger-Jones\*\***

David has brought the Community Centre back into profit and can be found behind almost all village initiatives. Sue is Chair of Governors for Wickham Primary School and a long standing parish councillor. Sue too is involved in many community activities. David and Sue were active in setting up WASPS – Wickham After School Project, and are always involved in moving forward local projects especially those for young people.

**\*\*Business Making Significant Contribution to the Community - Frank and Carol Duckworth\*\***

Frank and Carol regularly contribute to village life and support charities either by holding events or through contributions. Greens is often a venue for community meetings and Carol leads many initiatives to benefit local traders.

**\*\*Good Neighbour Award - Joan Bramley\*\***

Joan was a founder and committee member of the Meon Park Social Club in the 1950s helping to organise large bonfire and firework displays, annual dinner dances and Christmas parties for children. Joan has a great interest in St Nicholas Church and runs stalls for the fete, arranges flowers and also worked in the Church charity shop raising thousands of pounds to build the Church Room. Until last year Joan helped deliver Meals on Wheels and as a dedicated member of the British Legion she continues to sell poppies and read the roll of honour on Remembrance Sunday.

**\*\*Good Neighbour Award - Gerald and Carol Hazzard\*\***

Gerald and Carol were born in Wickham and have lived in the village all their lives. The couple were key players in fund raising for the new community centre in Wickham. For many years they have organised country and western dances and raised hundreds of pounds for the community centre and local charities. Gerald served on the Scout Committee, Wickham Social Club and Wickham Bowls Club and both are always ready to lend a helping hand to local people in need.

**\*\*Special Community Award – Jean Bell\*\***

This year a special award was made to Jean Bell, who has served her customers at Jean's Hairdressers for 48½ years, willingly opening her shop at 6.30am for early appointments when needed. Jean was dedicated to her clients and business and is greatly missed as she sadly had to give up the tenancy of her shop earlier than expected.

**Stan Woodford 2007 Photographic Competition winners**

Under 14 Josh Hughes  
Under 18 Siobhan Spowart  
Over 18 Neale Fray

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

## **ADOPT A PAVEMENT ROLL OF HONOUR**

**2008**

### **Thank you to**

**MORGAN O'CONNELL  
ANGIE CLEAR  
NEALE FRAY  
DAVID RJ  
BLIND LANE RESIDENTS  
ROBERT GOULSON  
PAM FAUX  
CHARLIE AND GEMMA  
IAN FROM MILL LANE  
PETER BANKS  
BETTY BELLIS  
TED FITZGERALD  
MANDY MARTIN  
HEMSWORTH FAMILY  
TONY JOHNSON  
MICHAEL LYNCH  
TREVOR ASTBURY  
MICHAEL SADLER-FORSTER**

**for adopting a pavement.**

**Plenty of pavements left for  
adoption.....litter picking equipment  
provided!**

**Nicki Oliver, Parish Clerk**

## **Committee Reports**

### **Forward Planning Committee**

This new Committee was constituted in December 2007 to consider all options for the immediate, middle and long term development of the village and to produce a "Wickham Development Strategy" to cover the period up to 2030.

The Committee will monitor proposed studies that aim to reveal the likely consequences for the wider area of the proposed SDA (Strategic Development Area – 10,000 houses plus employment land) north of the M27 and will look to carry out its own studies if necessary to ensure the impact of the SDA on the village and its surroundings are minimised.

The Committee is closely following the production of the Local Development Framework for both Winchester City and Fareham Borough Council and responding to consultations where appropriate.

The Parish Council responded to the WCC Issues and Options consultation by supporting the provision of an additional 150 houses to the north of the village centre over the next 20 years to reinforce and enhance its role as a sustainable 'key hub'.

The Parish Council also supports the provision of affordable housing for local people together with measures to redress the current higher percentage of social rented accommodation in Wickham compared with other areas. Significant green gaps between the settlements of Knowle and the North Fareham SDA and Wickham and the SDA have been requested.

### **Planning Committee**

Between May 2007 and April 2008 the Planning Committee has considered and responded to 82 planning applications in the Parish.

The Parish Council has objected to the current proposals for the Wickham Laboratory site and has asked for the community to be involved in the planning of the development at the earliest stage.

The Council supported proposals for a new mosque and community facility in Fontley Road. The site already has outline permission for industrial use and the Parish Council does not want to see an extension of Pegham Coppice industrial estate on this site with the attendant increase in heavy goods vehicles.

The mosque proposals offer an opportunity to enhance the landscape and ecological value of the site.

The mosque is moving from another site in Wickham, the majority of residents are probably unaware of its current existence.

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](http://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 together with some verge maintenance and village cleaning which is ably carried out by Groundsman Paul Collins and his team. The Committee also assists with funding the churchyard maintenance, Christmas tree and lighting display and bus shelter maintenance.

This year the Committee has overseen the refurbishment of the war memorial, the installation of a new seat at the top of Dairy Moor, the purchase of a badge of office for the chairman and the installation of new 'Welcome to Wickham' signs.



The Committee has also lead a pilot Safer Neighbourhood Panel in conjunction with neighbouring parishes.

Work in progress includes a review of the parking system in The Square, a tourism leaflet for Wickham and a map of the Parish showing rights of way and points of interest.

## Street Lighting Committee

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 please contact the Parish Council.

## Cemetery Committee

The Cemetery Committee looks after Knowle Hospital closed cemetery and is planning for a new memorial ground and conservation area on land adjoining the Fareham Road recreation ground.

## Recreation Committee

The Recreation Committee is a busy one; it looks after the recreation ground in Fareham Road, which is rented from Rookesbury Estate. The Parish Council employs Groundsman Paul Collins and his team to maintain the landscaping, tennis court and football pitch and also the ageing 'pavilion' housing changing areas for home and away teams.

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.

During the last year the Committee has been looking at the possibility of taking responsibility for the green spaces and play areas at Knowle together with a new community building.

Plans for a new Scout HQ and changing facilities for the recreation ground are also being progressed.

Regular meetings with the Scouts have taken place since November 2006 to seek a way forward. The Parish Council secured planning permission for a new building in a new position in early 2008. The Parish Council is keen to take advantage of grant opportunities to provide new tennis courts and multi use games area which can be provided if the Scout HQ is moved to a new location on the recreation ground.

It was hoped to be able to work towards a shared community building for use by sports teams and the Scouts with funding assistance from the Parish Council's Open

Space Fund, which can be used for sports facilities, but the Scout leaders have indicated that they would prefer sole use of a new building.

Unfortunately discussions and alternative ideas together with delays in the Scouts receiving their insurance settlement have not yet provided the Scouts with a new home. The Parish Council continues to work with the Scouts to achieve a satisfactory outcome for everyone.

## 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, local organisations also help by clearing litter on a rota basis. Local people also help to keep the area free from litter which is greatly appreciated.

This year the Trust invested in the construction of new steps to access the Meon Valley Trail, the old steps had become worn and were always rather steep.



Some major tree removal and surgery has also been completed.

Thanks are due to Jenny Mallett who retired as Chairman of the Water Meadows Trust this year Jenny has overseen many successful projects as the Meadows have developed over the last decade; Jenny has kindly offered to continue in an advisory role when needed which is very much 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.

This Committee sets the budget or precept for the following financial year, this is the amount of money that the Council requests Winchester City Council to raise on behalf of the Parish Council through the Council Tax.

A copy of the accounts for the year ending March 2008 is included below.

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

Wickham Youth Club	£280	Travelling to Drums for Fun performance
Wickham Youth Club	£213	Youth Club teeshirts for drumming performances
Wickham Youth Club	£1000	Precepted grant
St Nicholas PCC	£150	Additional printing for annual report
St Nicholas PCC	£450	Contribution towards new mower
St Nicholas PCC	£827	Grant towards church yard maintenance
Knowle Village Residents Association	£500	Grant towards newsletter costs
The Chill Zone Knowle Youth Club	£1000	Grant towards set up costs for new club
Wickham Community Centre	£2000	Repairs and replacements to cctv system
Wickham Summer Playscheme	£850	Contribution towards running costs
First Responders	£500	Contribution towards running costs
Citizens Advice Bureau	£1750	Contribution towards running costs
Wickham Primary School	£200	Contribution towards '20 is plenty' signs
Home Start	£500	Grant towards running costs

**Income and Expenditure Account  
For the Year Ended 31 March 2008  
(Audited)**

2006/7		2007/8
£	Income	£
77,563	Precept	79,668
Nil	Agency Services Reimbursed	Nil
Nil	Loan/Capital Repayments	Nil
2864	Interest	4001
Nil	WACA grant refund	116
503	Football fees	863
Nil	Square Events repayment	578
Nil	Training income	75
Nil	Village of the Year prize	300
Nil	Donation towards badge of office	200
<b>Running costs</b>		
1000	General Purposes grant	800
500	Christmas grants	245
345	Recreation	Nil
<b>New Projects</b>		
111,676	Open Space project 06 (WCC grant)	Nil
21,973	Vat Reimbursements	Nil
<b>216,424</b>	<b>Total income</b>	<b>86,846</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
16,244	Employment	17,157
10,422	General Administration	10,594
Nil	Agency Services	Nil
Nil	S. 137 Payments	Nil
6,660	Grants	4,635
<b>Running Costs</b>		
12,074	General Purposes Committee	8,682
8,646	Lighting Committee	4,083
6,849	Recreation Committee	11,102
<b>New Projects</b>		
108,401	Open Space project 06	Nil
14,135	New projects/contingency	14,506
22,161	VAT	2,619
<b>205,592</b>	<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>73,378</b>
<b>GENERAL FUND</b>		
64,285	Balance at 1 April	75,117
216,424	Add: Total Income	86,846
<b>280,709</b>		<b>161,963</b>
205,592	Less: Total Expenditure	73,378
	Round up	3
<b>75,117</b>	<b>Balance at 31 March</b>	<b>88,588</b>

**Wickham Parish Council  
Contact details May 2008**

**Chairman**

**Angela Clear**, 14 Manor Close, Wickham, PO17 5BZ tel 01329 832923  
(Chairman of Finance and Cemetery Committees 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 356488  
(Wickham Youth Club representative)

**Mike Bennett** 9 Cold Harbour Close, Wickham PO17 5PT tel 01329 835205

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

**Thérèse Evans**, 3 Copperwood, Holt Close, Wickham PO17 5EY tel 01329 832700 (GP Committee Chairman)

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

**Justin Gamblin** Niagara, Tanfield Lane, Wickham PO17 5NW tel 01329 832076

**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  
(Forward Planning Committee Chairman)

**Parish Clerk**

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

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