

Wickham Residents' Association



WRA is a collective voice for residents of the parish of Wickham and Knowle. Residents' interests are actively promoted and represented to the Wickham and Knowle Parish Council (W & K P C) and other Hampshire Authorities

We maintain communication with Residents through meetings, website & Facebook pages and the Parish Magazine and seek to provide clear, well-researched, information regarding the progress and outcome of the numerous campaigns upon which we are engaged. **Any resident can contact us on myvoice@wickhamresidents.org.uk**

News Updates

PARISH COUNCIL ELECTION RESULT

WRA Committee members Kathryn Holladay, Robert Broad and Nic Holladay, have been elected to Wickham & Knowle Parish Council. All eleven seats on the Council were up for election but as there were only eleven nominations the election was "uncontested", so all nominees were automatically elected without needing a ballot on election day, 4 May 2023. Congratulations to the other eight Councillors elected. Residents are well-represented on the new Council as Knowle Residents' Association (KRA) members, Loraine Rappe, Craig Manuel, and Sheila Chambers, were also elected.

DISTRICT COUNCIL ELECTIONS

One seat is being contested for election to the Southwick and Wickham Ward of Winchester District Council. The election takes place on May 4th. Four candidates have been nominated and their details can be found at <https://www.winchester.gov.uk/elections/winchester-district-and-parish-elections-2023>.

CURRENT WRA CAMPAIGNS INCLUDE:

- Mill Lane Sports and Recreation Site
- Funtley Tip Landfill and Solar Farm Planning application
- The Glebe Meadow
- Flooding issues relating to the Bewley Development (on Winchester Road)

There are several other initiatives under review including traffic management, parking, pavements, Welborne impacts and disabled access. As these take shape we will be informing members and asking for volunteers to undertake investigation and research to ensure our representations are fully informed.

Key Campaigns were fully reported in the April Parish Magazine so in this May edition we are just including a thumbnail of key issues and the latest status. WRA's committee and volunteers are continuing to work on each campaign to find solutions that meet Residents' needs and bring them to the attention of

W&KPC and other local authority bodies as appropriate

Mill Lane Sports and Recreation Site

There is progress in the Forum set up by the Council on the resolution of the use of this site situated off Mill Lane to the northeast of the village.

Discussions have ranged from:

- **two full-sized football pitches**, artificial surfaces, fenced and floodlit - initially proposed by the Council's Masterplan, designed to meet the wishes of our local football team and teams from outside the parish
- **a multi-sports facility** – including junior grass football pitches and other sports and exercise facilities supported by residents in response to a sizeable public survey completed by about 25% of all parish residents. WRA, KRA and the Wickham Society representatives on the Forum have worked together to create this proposal that we jointly feel meets the needs of the majority of residents.

The Forum, after extensive review, plans to put forward two options to the W&KPC. It is hoped that W&KPC will

undertake further public consultation on these options, a decision that will be fully supported by WRA, as we are committed to ensuring that residents' needs and preferences are heard and delivered. Work has already started - and there is much still to do - to define, cost and seek funds for implementing the finally agreed option, and to determine costs of ongoing facility maintenance, management requirements, and the long-term financial impact on the Parish.

There are, of course, other sports facilities in the parish and the Residents' Associations' proposals include them in their thinking to deliver a coherent strategy for sports and recreation throughout the Parish. Once the options for consultation have been accepted by the Parish Council, it is hoped that the detail of each is fully presented so that residents will be able to make a well-informed, clear and quantifiable statement of preferences.

WRA's Committee has been made aware that some individuals have fed back to the Chair of the Mill Lane Forum, that information provided by WRA in its Parish Magazine updates, and in a flyer delivered to the homes of new residents, has been criticised for accuracy and for creating unjustified speculation. The Committee has taken these comments seriously and reviewed the information it has made public. It concludes these criticisms are unjustified. It accepts that some items have been published ahead of the timing of communication from the Forum to the Parish Council, but this has been as a result of the publication timetable of the

Parish Magazine being several weeks ahead of meetings of the Parish Council and its sub-Committees. The WRA Committee is grateful to all those members and non-members who have thanked the Association for providing vital information for residents on this subject.

Funtley Tip Landfill and Solar Farm Proposal

The constant, deeply researched, pressure from WRA and objections from local Councils and Societies plus over 200 objections from the public appears at last to have led to the northern route to the site from Winchester Road being ruled out.

If that is the case, all of the 84 heavy lorries per day will travel onto the southern route from the A27 at Titchfield. This route, like the northern route, has many pinch points where, based on the traffic survey recently conducted by Vectos, *"a large lorry and a family car cannot pass without encroachment"*.

WRA is liaising with the Parishes and resident representative groups impacted by the traffic at the southern end of Titchfield Lane, offering information and support.

WRA, with the technical support of an experienced Civil Engineer, has notified HCC Planning that the high level of landfill (1.15 million tons of inert material), plus inserting the support piles in fresh landfill could dangerously compromise the clay cap and thus impact the safety of the existing tip. **This landfill is unnecessary when solar panels can be surface mounted, on the existing cap, with minimal infill.**

WRA has asked HCC Planning to request an independent technical assessment, relating to the landfill, from the applicant (SLR/Navigate Corporation) and if that is not forthcoming, the planning case officer should pass the application to the HCC Regulatory Committee with an **" u n s u p p o r t e d "** recommendation. We await a response and continue to press for an answer.

Glebe Meadows

This is a welcome additional amenity for the Village. At the WRA Annual General Meeting (AGM), several access and other improvements were identified, and several maintenance and facility issues were discussed. WRA continues to support this project.

Bewley Homes & Flooding (Winchester Road)

There is flooding in areas below the site. Bewley says that this is because they are only part way through the development and when completed drainage will be effective. WRA will maintain a watch on this issue, and we invite input to myvoice@wickhamresidents.org.uk from any resident affected so that we can gauge progress.

WRA AGM APRIL 14th

This year's AGM on 4th April had an excellent attendance by members representing a wide cross-section of residents. Several new members joined, and the membership now comprises 259 individuals, up 180% from just over a year ago.

Robert Broad, the Chairman, made a detailed presentation on the progress of WRA's numerous campaigns over the

past 12 months with extensive Q and A sessions for each campaign. During the two-hour meeting, there was lively and robust debate with members raising many questions about existing campaigns and introducing other issues of concern. These are all noted and will be addressed.

There was general overwhelming consensus and support for the direction of the campaigns being conducted, on the resident's behalf.

Four members were elected to the Committee under the terms of the Association's Constitution: Wendy House and Steve Brown (both re-elected) and two new members, Mike Perkins and Geoff Burton. At its first Committee Meeting after the AGM, the following officers were elected from among the Committee: Robert Broad (Chair), Kathryn Holladay (Secretary) Wendy House (Treasurer), Steve Brown (Membership Secretary), Susie Broad (the Glebe Meadow), Mike Perkins (Press Officer), Geoff Burton and Nic Holladay.

MEMBERSHIP NOTICE

Wickham Residents' Association is free to join.

The only criteria are that you should reside in the PO17 postcode area and be 18 and over.

JOIN US AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE by simply emailing your name, address and contact number to Membership@WickhamResidents.org.uk OR visit our website at <https://wickhamresidents.org.uk>

DIARY DATE -

Meet us at the Wickham and Knowle Annual Parish Assembly

Wickham Community Centre,
Thursday **18th May 6.30**

Celebrate our community with us.

Let us know your views on parish issues

Free entertainment, buffet and wine are provided by the Parish Council.

Thank you for your support.

Mike Perkins

Press Officer

Wickham Residents
Association