



## Wickham Residents' Association

### WRA – WHAT WE DO AND HOW WE WORK WITH OTHERS

The full Wickham and Knowle Parish Council met on Thursday 12 October, and it was clear that change is on the way. The new Council appears to have had a challenging transition following its election in May but has come out of it showing a clear sense of purpose, tighter controls, and operating practices with a commitment to open and clear communication.

**So now is a good time to re-affirm what the WRA does and how we work with the Council and others for the benefit of residents of the Parish.**

We have all chosen to live in Wickham for a variety of reasons, its historical heritage, the Square with its wonderful amenities, the many local attractions and activities, its convenience for several major cities and the coast and most importantly the friendly and embracing nature of the people that live here.

One of our new residents wrote to us saying:

*"My wife and I chose Wickham because it offers a semi-rural lifestyle mixed with charm, character, history, and a strong community bond. The village has a safe family feel and provides easy access to the*

*beautiful Hampshire countryside. The calendar is filled with events that draw locals and visitors from afar. With the independent shops, cafes, and pubs, it provides a unique village life."*

We all want to maintain what we have, whilst adopting new ideas and developments and catering to new needs, if they do not fundamentally change the nature and charm of Wickham. We count in this, Knowle Village, which is now part of this Parish, and we work closely on common interests with the Knowle Residents Association.

Tri- annually the WRA members select a committee of up to 10 residents. The current committee has a wide range of skills and experience and is comprised of long-term residents and newcomers. Its role on behalf of residents is to **listen, investigate, assess facts and act**, as appropriate. Frequently one person's problem is common to other voices we have heard so we coordinate and act for all. Anything we do is based on clear resident demand.

Often our first port of call is the Parish Council as they are the official channel to Winchester City Council and Hampshire County Council. However, as appropriate we can and do go directly to organisations and authorities to seek a resolution. We should remember that the Parish Council has a wider remit and many other calls on their time and limited resources.

The **Funtley Tip Solar Farm** is a prime example where we decided to work directly with HCC Planning, providing analysis and information,

demonstrating that the Application was not feasible and that there were significant road safety issues. We represented the voices of over 200 objectors. The Applicant has now withdrawn his application, but we will continue to watch for any re-application. We also continue to communicate with HCC Highways to re-evaluate road safety in Titchfield Lane, Fontley Rd and Mill Lane. With broader issues like the far-reaching **traffic routing and road safety review, initiated by the WRA**, we are using resources within our committee and residents before passing potential solutions through to the Parish Planning Committee. This is a development that will impact every resident so it deserves a broad review, to ensure consensus, before taking it further with Winchester CC and Hampshire CC and it will no doubt require finance for external expertise.

**One related issue however that needs to be addressed quickly relates to the pedestrian crossing on Winchester Road at Bishops Gardens.**

A resident in Bishops Gardens sent this e-mail to us:

***"The road crossing at Bishops Gardens on Winchester Rd leaves pedestrians overly exposed with no protection from oncoming traffic. It is common for vehicles to be picking up speed, often over the speed limit as they travel down the hill towards the crossing. In addition, traffic travelling southbound tends to veer closer to the island than the nearside kerb. It***

***makes crossing the road an intimidating experience as there is no margin for error. A trip from a pedestrian or a vehicle losing control could have catastrophic consequences. In its current state, it certainly does not feel safe for the use of families, dog walkers, the visually impaired or those in wheelchairs.*** “



Checking the crossing and taking detailed measurements and photographs the dimensions are marginal. This photograph illustrates a lorry filling the carriageway, with the wing mirror overhanging the central refuge. A vehicle travelling at 40mph appearing from the curve at Park Place will be at the crossing in less than 10 seconds. Most vehicles naturally err towards the centre so smaller trucks with wing mirrors set lower also overhang the crossing “refuge”. WRA is pursuing a resolution to this risk as a matter of urgency. In the meantime, we urge Bishops Garden residents to take particular care when crossing Winchester Road.

These are just some of the issues we are involved in, and we hope this demonstrates the different ways in which they are handled by the WRA depending on urgency and scope but always to achieve a result as quickly as possible. If you have any comments or input on any of the above, please contact us at

[myvoice@wickhamresidents.org.uk](mailto:myvoice@wickhamresidents.org.uk)

The support of all our members is very much valued and if you are still not a member, please join us to make our voice even louder. Membership is available to anyone 18 years or older who lives in the PO17 postcode area.

Joining is simple and FREE just e-mail your name, address, and contact number to [membership@wickhamresidents.org.uk](mailto:membership@wickhamresidents.org.uk) OR visit our website at [wickhamresident.org.uk](http://wickhamresident.org.uk).

**TOGETHER WE ARE ALL STRONGER – JOIN US AND HELP MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

Mike Perkins  
Press Officer  
Wickham Residents’  
Association

PS Finally this photo of an unusual sign has been sent to us. We understand that it is located somewhere in Wickham but have no idea what or where it is. Has anyone seen it if so please e-mail us at

[myvoice@wickhamresidents.org.uk](mailto:myvoice@wickhamresidents.org.uk).

**If we get an answer, we will put it in next month’s Parish Magazine.**



**Mmm! Something to do with sheep maybe??? Who knows.**

## Parish Clerk Resignation

On the 4th of September, our clerk, Nicki Oliver, resigned from the Parish Council giving one months’ notice of her plans to retire that included clearing outstanding leave. For varying reasons since that date, it has unfortunately meant the Council has faced many challenges to keep the Council functioning.

Nicki has provided 22 years of service and besides working for this Council has also had shared arrangements working with Whiteley Town Council.

Obviously with such a long duration of time, she not only came to know the Parish well but brought extensive knowledge of a clerk’s responsibilities. Many of the Parish activities and undertakings were originated by Nicki – the *Taste of Wickham* being one example.

The departure of the clerk has led to lessons being learnt. The opportunity is now being taken to reflect and review various matters including roles and responsibilities to allow the Council to best operate in the future. Nicki is thanked for her inputs over the years, and she is wished well as she continues to work with Whiteley Town Council.

Bonne chance et meilleurs vœux Bon  
(Good luck and best wishes)