



Wickham Residents' Association - News Update

Funtley Tip Landfill and Solar Farm Planning Application - Update

We reported in the last issue that the Planning Application for the development of the old Funtley Tip on Titchfield Lane into a solar farm will be considered at an upcoming meeting (possibly Sept?) of the Regulatory Committee of Hampshire County Council.

You will recall that it involves shipping 1.15 million tonnes of inert material along Titchfield Lane, Fontley Road and Mill Lane (The Lanes) to raise the height of the 18-hectare site by at least 3 metres. A project involving 84 large 30-ton Tipper truck movements per day over a period of five years.

Over the past 20 months, WRA has been leading the challenge to this application along with over 200 other objectors, Local Societies and Organisations. We also have strong support from the Councillors of our Parish, Winchester City and Hampshire County.

In the last month, we have finally had an incisive report from three experts in surveying, planning and civil engineering, vastly experienced in materials management and solar farms. They have comprehensively confirmed & demonstrated that a massive landfill is not required and that a solar farm using ballast-mounted solar

panels can be installed, on the existing cap, with a minimal amount of remediation. The site was granted planning permission for exactly this by Winchester City Council in 2013.

In addition, this year a road safety report by VECTOS confirmed, what we all know, that The Lanes are too narrow to safely sustain the increase in heavy goods vehicles. It identified 21 locations along The Lane where "a car and a truck" cannot pass without encroachment.

As a final push before the Regulatory Committee meeting the WRA has submitted two extensive reports to HCC Strategic Planning and the HCC Highways to assist with their final determinations and W&KPC submitted an updated formal letter of objection. Delegations from the WRA and the Parish Council plus experts will attend the Hampshire Council Regulatory Committee now confirmed for 13 Sept 2023 to present the objections. A team will highlight key issues covering all the points raised by residents plus more insight from our own experts. As time at the meeting for speaking is restricted, we request that individuals do not apply to speak, as that will limit the time for the team. That would be much appreciated but if it is an issue then please contact us at myvoice@wickhamresidents.org.uk

WRA will keep you informed through emails to members and our FaceBook pages.

Mill Lane Sports and Recreation Site

At the Parish Council meeting on 18th July, Nic Holladay, Chair of the Recreation Committee of the Parish Council outlined steps that will be taken to resolve the question of facilities to be installed at Mill Lane: a further round of evidence gathering regarding all the options that have emerged from the Forum is to take place, followed by a final survey of residents.

With that completed, Councillors then have the task to weigh all the evidence available (relating to Mill Lane, the Rec, and Knowle playing fields), and act with open minds to reach decisions - putting aside personal opinions and those of anybody to which they may be affiliated, whether it be a resident association, sports club or simply a close neighbour of any site under consideration.

Chris Chamberlain (now a district councillor) has resigned from the chairmanship of the Mill Lane Steering Group and Forum. The Chair of the Recreation Committee of the Council stressed at the meeting of July 18th that commitment to the Forum as a link to stakeholder and resident opinions and advice, remains as originally intended.

Parish Sports Strategy

Revisions to the Parish Sports strategy have been approved by Full Council. The revisions acknowledged those items that had been completed and updated items where progress had been made or changes of policy agreed upon. Key among these was the removal of reference to a Wessex League and Infinity FC regarding plans for Mill Lane, together with a more general

statement regarding pitches at the site. The revisions have been published on the Parish website.

Traffic Issues in Wickham

As per our previous article in the July issue of the Parish Magazine, the WRA is continuing to investigate a variety of traffic issues affecting Wickham & Knowle residents. We had initially anticipated posting our initial findings & possible solutions for consideration in July but the investigations are taking somewhat longer than expected. One of the areas the WRA has been investigating is Community Speed Watch Schemes.

Community Speed Watch Schemes

Speeding and noise in and around the villages of Wickham & Knowle has long been a blight on residents' lives with intermittent enforcement from the police with limited resources to do more.

Community Speed Watch is an educational scheme, not enforcement. It is considered the first-tier response to speeding issues. If a problem persists, it can be escalated to tier two, meaning that enforcement can be undertaken by the police neighbourhood policing teams.

The association is actively looking into setting up a Community Speed Watch scheme for Wickham & Knowle and has contacted Hampshire Police, the Citizens in Policing Co-ordinator, and the coordinators of two local schemes currently running in the nearby villages of Shedfield and Curdrige. The association has gained useful

insight into operational needs and experiences of running such a scheme including funding, number of volunteers required and operational issues.

It is worth noting in the recent Hampshire County Council Transport and Environment Select Committee Report (Jan 2023) there was strong support for new 20mph speed limits locally (Postcode area PO17-5 returned 80% support) and 93% of responding Town and Parish Councils supported organising a Community Speed Watch Scheme. (<https://democracy.hants.gov.uk/documents/s104349/Appendix.pdf>)

Whilst the association is still investigating setting up such as scheme if you feel you would like to volunteer your

please contact the association via myvoice@wickhamresidents.org.uk

Wickham Residents' Association is free to join!
WRA is a collective voice for residents of the parish of Wickham and Knowle. Residents' interests are actively promoted and represented by the Wickham and Knowle Parish Council (W&KPC) and other Hampshire Authorities. Any resident can contact us on myvoice@wickhamresidents.org.uk

time



Autumn Programme

26th September 2023
The Early History of the Manor of Wickham
Geoff Phillpotts

24th October 2023
Harlots, Dung and Glory – Portsmouth Part 4
Andrew Negus

28th November 2023
Lost Souls – a WW1 Family Story
Brenda Margetts

12th December 2023
The Ladies of the Tower
Anthony Strafford
NOTE: This meeting is the SECOND Tuesday

Meetings are generally held at 7.30 pm in the
Wickham Community Centre
on the FOURTH Tuesday of the month.
Annual membership is £8pp.
Visitors are most welcome at £2.50pp per meeting.
www.wickhamhistory.org.uk