

## WICKHAM RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION - NEWS UPDATE



### SAFER ROADS FOR WICKHAM – we are on our way.

Traffic volumes and road safety in Wickham are issues that affect every one of us and one that must be addressed now particularly with the massive development of Welborne and the new junction on the M27 on the horizon.

This is being tackled head on with the full involvement of the WRA on three different fronts.

#### VILLAGE GATES

In an effort to reduce the speed of traffic **entering** Wickham, prominent 'village gates' with the village and 30mph speed restriction signs, are to be funded and installed on the A32 by the Casualty Reduction Team of Hampshire County Council.

These will be placed in the same position as the current 30mph signs on the A32 at the approach to the church crossroads from the Meon valley and at the foot of Hoads Hill at the approach to the Shell roundabout. They are due to be installed at the end of March/early April.

The WRA is pursuing funding for similar gates to be installed on the downhill section of the A334, Winchester Road, just south of Drapers Road.



Existing speed limit signing behind new gateway.

Village Gates will be a strong visual sign to drivers that they are entering Wickham. The siting of the gates close to the verge edge give the impression of a road narrowing and is a visual deterrent to excess speeds. Gates also have the added benefit of enhancing the environment and aiding local identity and community cohesiveness. Where surveys have been undertaken, these gates in conjunction with other simple measures have been shown to reduce vehicle speeds by 4-5 mph, this would certainly help save lives in the event of an accident. A pedestrian hit at 30mph has a very significant (one in five) chance of serious injury or fatality this rises significantly to a one in three chance if they are hit at 35mph.

#### PARISH COUNCIL SPEED INDICATION DEVICES (SID'S)

At 6 sites around Wickham, on the key entry roads, KWPC has deployed the speed activated light up panels you are now familiar with. These helps change the behaviour of motorists not only as they see them but also over the long term. They also record traffic statistics which will help us monitor overall speed changes over time.

The SID's were recently deployed in School Road & Winchester Road for the period from 12<sup>th</sup> Feb to 25<sup>th</sup> March. The results are both illuminating and worrying when you consider some the statistics; 11-16% of drivers speeding, highest speeds recorded 67mph (School Rd @ 13:30hrs) and 75mph (Winchester Rd @ 00:00hrs) - over twice the 30mph speed limit!

## COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH - GOES LIVE

The WRA Community Speed Watch (CSW) initiative has now gone “live” marking a significant milestone in the community effort to promote road safety within our neighbourhood. With thanks to all our dedicated volunteers who have mounted four speed watch sessions during the period 8<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> March resulting in 37 motorists recorded exceeding the speed limit in Winchester Road.



For those drivers who have been caught exceeding the speed limit, letters will be sent by Hampshire Constabulary warning drivers of the danger of speeding and the need to adhere to the speed limits. The Community Speed Watch initiative has been driven by a community commitment to create safer roads for all our residents. Their presence has received positive feedback from members of the public who say that they are glad that steps are being taken to address speeding concerns in the village.

**We hope that CSW initiative combined with the SIDs can not only reduce overall speeds but also provide vital data and evidence to convince the authorities such as WCC, HCC Highways & the Police to fund and improve road safety in and around Wickham.**

If you would like to join the volunteers or require further information or have any questions regarding the Community Speed Watch Scheme in Wickham please do not hesitate to contact our coordinator at [SpeedWatch@WickhamResidents.org.uk](mailto:SpeedWatch@WickhamResidents.org.uk)

## WICKHAM RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION - AGM

The WRA will hold its Annual General Meeting for members on **Thursday 4th April 2024** at 7pm in the Wickham Community Centre. The meeting will be your and our opportunity for sharing:

- an update and discussions on changes within our community
- actions by the WRA to support & promote residents views and concerns.
- hear what matters most to you, our members, going forward.

There will also be a Wickham Residents' Open Forum - an opportunity for WRA members & residents to raise questions and issues of concern as well as discussing current and future projects (Speaking time will be controlled to ensure that everyone is heard.)

Members of record of the Association as of the 21st March 2024 will be able to attend and vote at the meeting. Alternatively, you can join on the evening but will be unable to vote in the proceedings.

**Why WRA Membership Matters:** 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**

# **STOP PRESS!!!**

## **VERGING ON THE RIDICULOUS**

I am sure, like me, many residents have noticed the increase in parking and driving over the verges in the village. Together with the recent atrocious weather, this has left the verges in a dreadful state and not a great image for our beautiful historic village. **The WRA would kindly ask residents & visitors to consider what damage this is doing to both the verges and the impression it gives that we do not care for our beautiful village.**

## **POTHOLES**

The potholes we identified in last months article have all been filled plus more in Mill Lane – THANK YOU Highways Maintenance. Unfortunately, one has reappeared in Winchester Road near Upper House Court. It is a deep one so classed as dangerous so needs fixing quickly. **It has been notified.** Residents, please watch out for these and report them on the HCC website – just Google **Report a Pothole Hampshire and follow the link..** Highways do regularly inspect but they really need us to keep watch and tell them. **PLEASE IF YOU SEE IT REPORT IT!!**

**Mike Perkins**  
**WRA Press Officer**