

WICKHAM RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION – July/Aug 2024



WRA TRAFFIC REPORT:

RETURN OF QUESTIONNAIRE CLOSING DATE EXTENDED TO JULY 31ST 2024

The WRA have been researching traffic in and around Wickham for the last 12 months and have now prepared a preliminary report with supporting drawings and documents. This report identifies the major traffic movement and traffic safety issues facing Wickham and proposes solutions which, if implemented, will make the Village a safer and even more pleasant place to live.

This initiative will impact the development of Wickham for many years and will be essential input into other planning activity at Parish, District and County level. It is important that the views of this community are heard and an opportunity that must not be missed.

The brief questionnaire at the end of the Report asks for a simple tick box response to each topic. **This is for all adult residents, so each adult in each household can respond separately.** A strong response will be influential when we present the Report to our Parish Council Planning Committee in September. **Please return the questionnaire as soon as possible.**

The preliminary report is now on the WRA website, www.WickhamResidents.org.uk and on our Facebook page, www.facebook.com/groups/wickhamresidents.

We have had an enthusiastic response so far, but we need more residents to read the Report and return the simple questionnaire. **IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE KNOW WHAT YOU WANT.**

SPEED WATCH

We continue to mount the Speed Watch on School Road and Winchester Road several times a week. There are three key objectives

- 1) To provide a visible presence in Wickham alerting motorists to observe the speed limits
- 2) To educate speeding drivers about the dangers of excess speed in our village and the effect it has on the community.
- 3) To collect data regarding speeding events which in conjunction with the SID speed and volume data from fixed devices provides base information for the Traffic Review.

Current data:

- *In 26 one-hour sessions recorded speeding offences - 642*
- *Winchester Road – over 50 speeding offenders per hour at certain times*
- *Offenders caught twice – 76, caught 3 times - 4 and caught 4 times - 1*
- *Average offending speed is 39 mph*
- *Top speeds recorded in the 30mph zones as high as 78mph*
- *Average speed of the top ten offenders - 55mph*

The unique value of Speed Watch is its deterrent and educational impact. The data captured by our volunteers includes the vehicle's Make/Model/Colour/Registration and that informs Police action.

Several hundred letters have already been sent by the police and this will be having an impact on local and regular users. Serious repeat offenders receive a visit from the Police.

However, Speed Watch on its own will not solve the traffic problems. This will require wide ranging discussions and actions by a number of agencies and authorities and for that we need a solid database which tracks vehicle movements, vehicle types and speeds. This comprehensive data can be provided by the Speed Indication Devices (SID) attached to lampposts.

The unique value of SID is that it covers 24 hours per day and provides a consistent and complete data set of each vehicle type and speed. Also, by displaying vehicle speeds, it impacts speed in real time.

Together SID and Speed Watch will have a deterrent effect and we will be able assess the level of benefit of different traffic control initiatives. This requires SID to be consistently in use and consistently analysed. These **two initiatives** operating together will be immensely important for informing the Traffic Review. The SID are not in use at present and we will discuss, with the Parish Council, their reintroduction as quickly as possible.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PARKING

In our article in the June edition, we highlighted the increasing incidence of vehicles being parked completely or partially on grass verges and pavements. This was in response to Resident concerns.

There are locations in the Village where the number of residents' cars exceed available parking spaces. This is not surprising, as in the 1950's and 1960's, when areas like Wykham Vale, Buddens Rd and The Circle were added, car ownership in the UK was just 4 million. It is now 34 million with an average of 12 vehicles for every 10 households.

We all want convenient parking but where there is no space shortage then there is no excuse for parking on verges. However there are a few locations where there is no parking available and these need to be reviewed to find acceptable solutions.

WRA will include a review of parking issues with its Traffic Report and focus on some of the parking hotspots.

PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU HAVE ANY RESIDENTIAL PARKING ISSUES. Write to myvoice @ wickhamresidents.org.uk and tell us what problem you have and what your current solution is. For this data to have value we will need your name and address and contact info .

WRA 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 OR visit our website at www.wickhamresident.org.uk.

TOGETHER WE ARE STRONGER - JOIN US AND HELP MAKE A DIFFERENCE