



WICKHAM RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION November 2024

What's been happening with the WRA Committee?

Over the last few months, the Committee, have had a difficult time, culminating in contacting all our members and asking them to vote on four key points – one being a vote of confidence in ourselves. We thank all our members who took the time to vote. The results of these votes will be posted on our website shortly. These issues have taken up most of the Committee's time – we are all volunteers with busy lives already and we therefore apologise if we have not been as alert as usual to village issues lately. We are now able to spend more time again on Wickham and its residents, and the issues they bring to us. Please always contact us if you have a problem that we might be able to help with (member or not) – we can just advise or take a more active role; whatever you require. As we have been working for Wickham Residents for well over ten years now – if we don't know the answers, we will probably know who does and can point the way!

There have been a couple of changes within the Committee – the first is that Darren Johnson, due to his new work commitments has had to step down from the Committee but has kindly agreed to continue to take the lead with WRAs SpeedWatch. Darren has done a great job managing the WRA SpeedWatch for us which was set up in 2022 by our then Chairman, Robert Broad with Committee support. It has gone on to provide valuable information about speeding on the Winchester Road and School Road, and the need for better traffic management.

Wendy House is temporarily WRA Chair until such time as a replacement can be found. She has agreed to carry on with the Chairmanship until further notice, with the full support of the Committee. If a member of WRA, would like to take over this, please let us know but we sincerely thank Wendy for continuing in the role until a new Chair is found.

And lastly Nic and Kathryn Holladay have regrettably, resigned from the Committee – we shall miss them a great deal. After 5 years of dedicated work for WRA in local campaigns on behalf of residents, recent events, which include unfounded and distressing personal attacks, have become no longer tolerable for them, and have forced their decision. Nic and Kathryn wish both members of WRA and the Committee well in the future. We wish to thank them for their tireless support and hard work on behalf of the WRA – you leave some huge shoes to fill.

So – we now have roles to refill in the Committee. We meet once per month in our homes (to keep costs down) and value a wide spectrum of backgrounds and experience within the team. If you are a WRA member and you would like to join us please email chair@wickhamresidents.org.uk

Solar farm at Funtley tip

Last month we told you about this re-application by 'Navigate Corporation' to try again to get planning permission to have a landfill site/solar farm. The deadline for objecting to this application was the **18th October**. We contacted all members informing them how to object if they wished to. WRA have sent an objection on behalf of members as well – this was supported by the fact that there were 200 objections to the last application and this new one appears to be very similar. See link

<https://planning.hants.gov.uk/Planning/Display/HCC/2024/0503>

Winchester City Council has decreed that another 100 houses to be built in Wickham

The Parish Council were recently told that in the final district local plan Wickham is to have another 100 houses, with only a month to make a recommendation on which sites they should choose. There was no time or opportunity during the summer holidays for them to consult residents. Since Wickham parish had already accepted 200 new homes at Ravenwood, Knowle, the Parish Council objected. Winchester City Council have gone ahead and allocated 40 off Mill lane, north of the surgery and 60 next to Wykeham Vale at the Glebe. The Inspector is unlikely to determine the situation until next year. Meanwhile we encourage all residents to express their views at <https://www.localplan.winchester.gov.uk>. In view of the shortage of time available, WRA Committee has lodged an objection to the Mill Lane option and has expressed a view that the Plan is unsound as consultation has not taken place or consideration made of all alternatives.

Wickham Traffic Masterplan

Committee member, Geoff Burton, has devised a traffic masterplan which has been circulated to the Committee for comment. It includes issues raised to us by members. He is now going to present his findings to the Parish Council planning sub-committee on 17th October and seek their endorsement to take it forward to Hampshire Highways.

Neighbourhood Plan

The Parish Council is promoting the organisation of a Neighbourhood Plan. It concerns residents' views about future housing and open space in the village. It would give the community more influence over the type, location, size, place and design of a housing development in our area. It helps to provide a statutory weight in the Winchester City Council planning system over the next 10 – 20 years. Here is the link to have your say if you think this should happen cllr.lorraine.rappe@wickhamparishcouncil.org

The more voices, the louder we can be heard – join the WRA !!

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 <https://wickhamresidents.org.uk>.

The WRA Committee