

# Wickham Residents Association - Annual General Meeting April 23<sup>rd</sup> 2025

## Chairman's Report

### INTRODUCTIONS

Firstly if I may start by introducing myself - my name is Wendy and I am currently Chair of the Association. I have personally been on the WRA committee, and its treasurer, since its conception in 2014. Mid-term Robert Broad, our then Chairman, had to step down and I have been acting as Chairperson since then. It is an honour to Chair this Association and although I had absolutely no intention of ever taking this role, I hope I have done as the majority would wish and the best that I can.

Our committee, all of which are volunteers, presently comprises of the following residents: -

- WENDY HOUSE - TREASURER AND CHAIR
- MIKE PERKINS - COMMITTEE MEMBER
- STEVE BROWN - MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY
- GEOFF BURTON - COMMITTEE MEMBER
- BEN JONES - COMMITTEE MEMBER
- DAVID HUNT - COMMITTEE MEMBER
- STEPHANIE CRUSE - SECRETARY

### BRIEF HISTORY OF THE ASSOCIATION

The Wickham Residents Association was originally formed in 2014 by Mr Anton Hanney. In August 2021 Anton called a public meeting to discuss the Parish Council's "Mill Lane Sports & Recreation Proposal" which had created substantial concern amongst residents. During the WRA meeting a call was made to form a WRA steering group to organise a community wide consultation and survey to ascertain what Wickham residents wanted. In November 2021 Anton felt the time was right for him to hand-over the reins to others to carrying on his legacy and continue campaigning on behalf of Wickham residents. And so, at his instigation, the steering group became the new WRA Committee – and was voted in at the 2022 AGM.

Since then three Committee members have gone on to become Parish Councillors and we have recently seen quite a few changes within the Committee.

*So I would like to mention a few names :-*

For their past hard work and dedication on the committee I would like to mention and thank:-

Nic and Kathryn Holladay,  
Robert and Susie Broad and Daren Johnson.

For the new Committee members I would like to formally welcome:-

Stephanie Cruse,  
Ben Jones and David Hunt

And for those Committee members who are still with me and are still giving freely of their time and effort on the Committee – a huge thankyou:-

Geoff Burton, Steve Brown  
and Mike Perkins.

The association's mission remains, as always, to inform and provide a platform for the collective voice of Wickham residents concerning issues affecting the welfare of our community when its needs and concerns are overlooked or under-estimated by local authorities.

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### ASSOCIATION DEVELOPMENTS

As some of you will be aware the Committee received several complaints from one member (and later his friend supporting him) which included personal attacks on two Committee members character plus several accusations about the Committee as a whole. We found all complaints to be unfounded bar one. The one complaint which we agreed with, and are now trying to address, is that the committee act as judge and jury unless an EGM is called (according to our present constitution). We are proposing a change to our constitution to help with this and to better inform future Committee members should they receive any **future** negativity or allegations. We have also taken this opportunity to update other areas. Once the amendments are complete we will send out to all – this to then be voted on to be approved either at this AGM or the next depending on timings. These amendments will not be available to be used to reopen any old complaints.

### ASSOCIATION ACTIVITIES

I will now give a brief overview of the association's campaigns we have been busy with since late last year and some forthcoming activities. There will be time in the AGM programme for members to raise questions regarding these activities and any other business. Different Committee members will be discussing each major topic.

#### ➤ **Mill Lane Sports & Recreation Proposal**

- Residents overwhelmingly - in fact over 90% of respondents - reject the idea of a Wessex League Stadium for the benefit of non-local Southampton football club Infinity FC - or indeed any other adult league football club when the WRA did its own survey of residents in 2021. With the new Parish Clerk and Parish Councillors in situ now they are proposing a very different plan and, we hear, will be canvassing residents for their views on what should be put there within the confines of budgets and the fields geography. WRA are just monitoring and offering support with survey distribution at this time.

#### ➤ **Solar Farm Proposals, Titchfield Lane and Blind Lane**

- Unacceptable HGV traffic plan & questionable landfill requirements (Titchfield lane). WRA sent in its objections and informed members of info (first planning application was denied and now a second planning application has been submitted). We also shared info with parish council on the technical aspects of this landfill/solar farm.
- Is Titchfield lane inappropriate for ALL large lorries?? We are looking into this as an option to stop landfill developments off this Lane and are in communication with Highways etc.
- New application for a second solar farm (Blind lane). We have informed members of the application and sent in a WRA objection after finding out some new, disturbing information.

#### ➤ **Southern Water and drainage**

- We are presently collating information from Residents ref drainage issues and then hope to form a plan to get these issues hopefully listened too and acted upon.
- We are presently looking into the new pumping station and where it will be located before the building, for Southern Waters proposed recycling of waste water system, is started.

#### ➤ **Wickham Traffic Masterplan**

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- This is now finished, presented, and we are chasing for action.
- **More housing applications**
  - WCC are proposing, without full consultation, 100 more houses – we have sent in a WRA objection and await June/July when we can press further. We have informed WRA members of the proposal
  - Croudace are proposing, in time, a possible 170 more houses. We have sent in a WRA objection to the latest planning application for a portion of these houses and informed WRA members and Facebook members
- **Speedwatch**
  - Now a self-managed group doing good work to remind drivers to slow down and also gathering statistics for the parish council and police with reference to road safety and where help is needed. Wickham Residents Speedwatch now have two radar guns, have applied for more equipment and hosted the Police and Crime Commissioner and her team for a roadside demonstration followed by a short presentation at the Community Centre afterwards.
- **Other items on our agenda include**
  - Pharmacy and users complaints
  - Bonfire night complaints and being a better neighbour
  - Neighbour disputes

#### MEMBERSHIP

We presently have nearly 300 members and over 1050 Facebook followers. We are still actively encouraging our neighbours to join us.

***The greater our membership the more effectively we can speak up for what matters to people locally.***

Membership is free and open to all residents in the PO17 post code. If you know a resident who is not a member please do encourage them to join our ever more active association - to help influence events and developments in and around the village. They just need to go to our website [www.wickhamresidents.org.uk](http://www.wickhamresidents.org.uk) (press "join") and complete the very short application form, or drop us an email to [membership@wickhamresidents.org.uk](mailto:membership@wickhamresidents.org.uk)

#### VOLUNTEERS

In the past the association has been greatly assisted by volunteers – for example this year the Wickham Residents Speedwatch. We thank them all for their hard work and remind members that we still need more volunteers for Speedwatch. We also have two Committee members seats still to fill!! Further, if you have specific expertise e.g. finance, legal, planning (housing/traffic), technical (drainage/water management) or local authority we would like to hear from you either by dropping myself an email or contacting a committee member at the end of this meeting.

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### CLOSING SUMMARY

As you have heard in my report, the Wickham Residents Association are continuing to pursue a large number of issues concerning Wickham residents with a small but highly committed & dedicated team - your RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE! However, it cannot be stated enough that without the committee members & other volunteers' willingness to devote a large amount of their spare time, little, if any of this would have been possible.

Membership of the association is free but of course we incur some minimal costs and expenses running the association and pursuing these activities. We are only able to do this through your continued support and generous donations and I'd like to mention we will have a donation box by the exit at the AGM, if you'd like to contribute, plus Paypal is on our website. To keep costs down the Committee meets in each-others home and we pay for our own WRA stationary needs and take every opportunity to spend very wisely.

In closing the Chairman's Report I wish to;

- Thank you all for supporting the WRA
- And ask that you donate what-ever you can in support of your Residents Association

*Wendy House* Chairperson