



Wickham Parish Council Annual Report May 2020-2021

Serving the communities of Wickham
and Knowle

Chairman's overview



This is my first overview as parish council chairman and I trust everyone is safe and well; also that all those that need the Covid injection have received it.

My own experience is that the local inoculation centres have provided a superb service and deserve our thanks as do all the keys workers and essential staff who have kept us going throughout this unique experience – hopefully by August we will be back to as near normal as possible.

Once again, the traditional annual events had to be shelved and we were unable to meet the public at our Annual Assembly.

This year has seen the resignation of some senior and well-respected members of the parish council who have given sterling service over many years – our thanks go to all of them for this.

On 15th July we will be holding a by -election to fill three vacancies – a polling card will be sent to all households and this is your chance to influence who speaks on your behalf!

The local sports and amenities are all now opening up again – with appropriate safety restraints, please continue the efforts you have already made in keeping each other safe by following these.

The work done by the volunteers throughout this period has been of immense service to the vulnerable and needy parishioners and they should all receive our grateful thanks - the work done has shown the true local spirit and benefit of a local community.

Parish council meetings are now taking place in person rather than online, as always everyone is welcome to attend – the meeting dates and venue are flagged up on the parish website.

Consultation meetings on the proposed Mill Lane sports field development are underway and again we encourage all residents or interested parties to attend these when they are held. This is a major and exciting development to enhance our sports facilities – potentially providing a much-needed centre of activity for the area.

Once again, the work done by the Parish Clerk has been of immense value in holding things together and this year has been especially challenging so many thanks to Nicki Oliver for her dedication.

Last year we faced a severe challenge in keeping the much-loved Water Meadows clean and safe – it is to be hoped that the pressure on them will be less this year. We can all do our bit by taking home any rubbish we create -at least that way we know the mess the grounds team and volunteers clean-up is not of our own making – If you want to get involved in keeping Wickham litter free Nicki Oliver can arrange provision of litter picking equipment.

Kind regards and wishing you all a safe return to normality

Alistair Hayes Chairman Wickham Parish Council

The Parish of Wickham

Wickham Parish is one of the largest parishes within the District of Winchester City Council with nearly 2000 households.

The parish extends along Titchfield Lane and Fontley Road to the southwest of Wickham centre; it also includes Old Knowle and Knowle Village. To the east are the parishes of Boarhunt and Soberton with Shedfield, Curdrige and Whiteley to the north and west.

The Parish Council

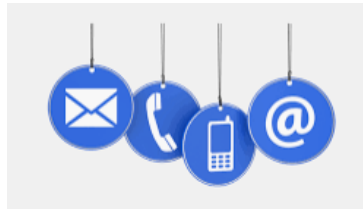
The Parish Council comprises 11 Councillors who are elected every four years. Councillors are unpaid and are governed by a mandatory code of conduct which includes obligations to act in an appropriate manner.

The Parish Council provides a local voice for its residents, each parish council differs in the work it carries out.

The majority of the work carried out by Wickham Parish Council is through its committees: Finance, General Purposes, Planning, Recreation, and the Water Meadows Millennium Green Trust.

A Highways and Lighting representative deals with road and street lighting issues; there are also Tree Wardens and representatives for Footpaths and Rights of Way, Police Liaison, Welborne Liaison Group, Wickham Community Association, Winchester District Association of Local Councils, Wickham Community Tennis Club and Wickham Youth Club.

Contacting the Council



Residents are very welcome to attend meetings and to contact Councillors and Clerk with issues of concern. See-contact details on the last page of the report



Communication

The Parish Council uses a number of ways to communicate. The council has notice boards in The Square, Wickham Community Centre car park, South Square Knowle and Totsome Cottages.

A regular newsletter is included in the Parish Magazine. Social media is also used for more immediate updates see Facebook - Wickham in Hampshire page.

The council's website holds all the information required by legislation as well as keeping residents up to date with its work:

www.wickhamparishcouncil.org

Nicki Oliver Parish Clerk is the first point of contact

Email clerk@wickhamparishcouncil.org
Tel 01329 835019

Council meetings

The Parish Council held online meetings from March until May 2021 using the now ubiquitous Zoom software.

It has been good to return to face to face meetings and members of the public are welcome to attend subject to any remaining Covid restrictions.

Agendas and minutes of meetings are available on our website

www.wickhamparishcouncil.org

together with all the Council's financial information

Parish Council Website



Welcome to Wickham Parish Council

Wickham is enviably situated in Hampshire, surrounded by the attractive countryside of the Meon Valley yet within easy reach of the towns of Southampton, Winchester and Portsmouth.

The Parish Council was formed in 1834 to serve a small rural village; today the parish covers a wide rural area and includes the new village at Knowle, a total of nearly eighteen hundred and fifty households.



Latest News

There is a vacancy for a parish councillor. If you are interested in applying please contact Nicki Oliver Parish Clerk clerk@wickhamparishcouncil.org tel 01329 835019

The website has been redesigned to meet the latest accessibility requirements which require responsive content that can be effectively viewed on a number of devices.

Agendas and minutes of meetings are available to view on the website along with lots of information about Wickham and Knowle and the work of the council.

Parish Council Online Networks



We have over 7,000 people engaging with the **Wickham in Hampshire** Facebook page and **Wickham - a Hampshire Community** Facebook group, an increase of 1000 during the last year and over 450 followers on Twitter @WickhamPC.

We also have an Instagram account to showcase our villages **wickham-in-hampshire** which has 640 followers an increase of 275 during 2020/21

There are links to the Council's Facebook pages and Twitter from the home page of the Council's website.

Parish Council News for 2020-21

Changes to the council

During the last civic year we unfortunately received resignations from six councillors. We would like to record our thanks and appreciation for their service to the community during their time in office.

Angela Clear, Therese Evans and Di Frost were three of our longest serving councillors with a total of 53 years between them. You are missed!

New councillors Mark Ashton, Lorrae Hayes and Alistair Hayes are welcomed to the council and the three remaining vacancies will be filled by a by-election due to be held on 15th July 2021.

A thank you to outgoing chairman
Angela Clear



Angela served as Chairman to Wickham Parish Council for 17 years, an inspirational and enthusiastic leader throughout. Angela combined her work as chairman with that of Winchester District Councillor with great effect.

We are very proud that she has been chosen to take up the role of Winchester City Council Cabinet Member and Portfolio Holder for Community and Wellbeing. This a prestigious appointment and very well deserved. An honour for Wickham and Knowle. The new role will rightly take up a great deal of time.

Angela led meetings with efficiency and fairness as Chairman of the Parish Council.

During Angela's term as chairman a huge number of projects were carried out or supported for the benefit of local people.

Some of the key projects include:

Supporting two schemes of affordable housing for local people Gwynn Way and Houghton Way.

Acquisition and development (and naming!) of Lysander Meadow as a wetland wildflower meadow with grass pathways for public access.

Acquisition and management of Knowle Village Hall, Village Green, play areas, Knowle Cemetery and Dean Copse, the installation of flower displays and additional seating.

Instigation of the Citizen of the Year Awards and helping to bring new life to the Parish Assembly.

Leading the support for the first music festival in Wickham in 2006 and its subsequent expansion.

Winning Hampshire Village of the Year in 2007 and Southern England Village of the Year in 2008.

Development of the Christmas Light Switch on event and supporting the Taste of Wickham Festival.

Overseeing the delivery of skateparks for Wickham and Knowle and the redevelopment and improvements to the play areas for Wickham and Knowle including the creation of a new play area at The Circle in 2006. Not forgetting the installation of numerous benches in both communities.

During Angie's term of office Bridge Street Village Green was developed as a new public open space. The same year two floodlit tennis courts followed by a club house were built on the recreation ground and an all-weather pitch for community use built at Wickham CE Primary School.

And last but not least our outgoing chairman has overseen the planting of over 1600 trees to create new hedges.

Angie also served a term as Mayor of Winchester whilst fully carrying out her role as Parish Council Chairman.

Thank you Angie for your support, kindness and unstoppable dedication to Wickham and Knowle communities over nearly two decades, we know it will continue with your new appointment.

You have left big footprints for our new Chairman Alistair Hayes to follow!

The impact of Covid-19

The Parish Council co-ordinated a volunteer response to ensure the most in need were cared for. We are very grateful to the volunteers who shopped and delivered prescriptions, offered lifts and visits.

Through this we have developed a close relationship with the Meon Valley Food Bank which has now moved its headquarters to Wickham. Thank you to Mike and Collette Little who make regular collections and deliveries to the foodbank and to the Co-op and One Stop who provide a drop off point for donations.

The foodbank looks after a very large number of local families and your support is greatly appreciated.

A thank you to Wickham Surgery

Thank you to the staff at Wickham Surgery who are providing the majority of us with a route out of the pandemic though the very efficient vaccination sessions at Colden Common GP practice. Please take up the offer of a vaccine at the earliest opportunity!

Visit from the Mayor of Winchester



On 29th September we were honoured to receive a visit from the Mayor of Winchester Cllr Patrick Cunningham. The Mayor asked to come and say thank you to all those who are keeping the community up and running during the pandemic.



We worked him very hard! We started with a socially distanced reception for volunteers hosted by the Square Cow where he thanked volunteers for all their help, this was followed by a tour of the Square with visits to the traders.

After lunch at The Deck it was off to Knowle to enjoy some archery at Knowle Haven with the Friday Night Charity, table tennis at the village hall with Knowle Village Table Tennis Club and then on to visit traders in South Square.

The weather was kind and everyone enjoyed and appreciated the visit by the Mayor.



2021 Mayor's Awards

The Parish Council was delighted that the Mayor chose to make awards to Wickham Co-op, Mike Little and Mike Hall.

Wickham Co-op



The nomination for the Co-op was for all the staff. The shop has been open throughout the various lockdowns and the staff have continued to work cheerfully and tirelessly providing everyone with their local shopping needs.

They have dealt with some challenging behavior from a minority but of course the majority of shoppers are extremely grateful for the full shelves on their doorsteps.

Staff also support a local drop off point for Meon Valley Foodbank which probably takes up more space than they would prefer but again, is much appreciated. Thank you to everyone for continuing to work during difficult times.

Mike Little

Mike Little is very quietly and unassumingly Knowle's key community leader.

Always on hand to help residents, Mike is the first person to ask for information about the village and for assistance in times of need.

Mike also manages a team of volunteers who look after Knowle Haven, a wildlife sanctuary and community open space.



During the early days of lockdown Mike quickly recruited a team of volunteers who efficiently and with great care shopped and delivered prescriptions to those in need.

Under Mike's management residents were also taken to GP and hospital appointments.

This role grew as it was agreed to help provide supplies for the Meon Valley Foodbank. Mike, his wife Collette and the volunteer team co-ordinated the collection of donations and the delivery of huge volumes of supplies to the foodbank and continue to do so.

This is just a small example of Mike's work in the community.

Mike Hall

Mike Hall moved to Wickham a few years ago and has thrown himself into village life.

One of his busiest roles is keeping the village clean and tidy with numerous litter patrols each day. These start very early in the morning, messages timed just after 6am often arrive notifying of full bins and flytipping.

The volume of litter Mike collects is staggering (and also shameful). Mike's time and dedication is greatly appreciated by Wickham Parish Council and the residents of our village.

Christmas celebrations at Wickham and Knowle



The Parish Council funded Christmas trees and lights for Wickham and Knowle but due to Covid we were unable to hold switch on events.

Thank you to Chris Hoare for installing the lights in Wickham Square and to A&B Landscapes for the Christmas tree and lights.

Father Christmas and the Chief Elf visited both villages during a whistle stop tour thanks to Angela Clear, Neil Cutler and Pete Yeoman for taking part.

Autumn and Easter Trails at Knowle

The Parish Council organised Halloween and Easter trails for local children which lots of families enjoyed. Knowle has plenty of safe paths to explore.



New Housing in Wickham

Winchester City Council's Local Plan allocated two sites in Wickham for development: 120 houses north of The Circle with access from Winchester Road, and 82 houses behind School Road on the Glebe fields.

Both sites are now underway

The Winchester Road site will provide much needed sports fields in Mill Lane.

An invitation to a public consultation event for the sports facilities on 30th/31st July 2021 is being delivered throughout the parish.

The Glebe will provide a play area and significant area of meadow as open space.

Both sites will include affordable housing.

Links to access the plans are on the Latest News page of our website www.wickhamparishcouncil.org

[Or view directly on Winchester City Council's Planning Portal](https://planningapps.winchester.gov.uk)

<https://planningapps.winchester.gov.uk>

Winchester Road Case No:
17/02615/FUL

Glebe / School Road Case No:
18/01282/REM

Knowle Water Meadows and new housing proposals

The Parish Council supported proposals for new housing at Knowle together with the transfer to the Parish Council of Knowle Triangle and a significant area of River Meon Water Meadows.

Whilst the proposals have been agreed, a formal decision on the planning application from Winchester City Council is still awaited.

The open spaces will be managed for public and wildlife benefit by the Parish Council and its contractors.

For more information see the link on the Latest News page of our website

[Or view directly on Winchester City Council's Planning Portal](#)

Case Ref 18/01612/OUT

The next Local Plan

Winchester City Council carried out a consultation, Your Place Your Plan, earlier in the year to begin the preparation of the next Local Plan which covers development requirements to 2038. The results of this are being collated.

The settlement hierarchy has been reviewed with Wickham remaining as a Market Town and Knowle 'another settlement in the Market Towns and Rural Area.' The definitions are based on the available facilities: retail, education, medical, recreation etc

Landowners and developers have also been asked to put forward sites for consideration which will update the 2020 assessment.

To see the sites in the area put forward prior to the 2021 update use this link

<https://www.winchester.gov.uk/assets/attachment/27003/00-SHELAA-2020-Appendix-4.pdf>

Decisions on housing numbers or sites for Wickham and Knowle have yet to be made.

Sign up for updates

<https://www.localplan.winchester.gov.uk/>

Committee Reports

Recreation Committee

The Recreation Committee looks after Wickham recreation ground, managing the grounds maintenance, tennis courts, football pitch and pavilion.

This Committee also manages the play areas on the recreation ground, The Circle and in front of the Community Centre and the skate park at the rear.

A grant of £20k funded additional play equipment for the Recreation Ground which has proved extremely popular.

The ariel runway had to undergo significant repairs but wasn't out of action for too long.

The well-loved toddler play equipment outside Wickham Community Centre has had a repaint and will be enjoyed by another generation of children.

At Knowle the Committee is responsible for the village hall, green and pitches, the skatepark and games area, Consort Mews, Barbastelle Walk, Victoria Mews and Greater Horseshoe Way play areas.

During the last year pedestrian gates have been installed on Knowle Village Green along with four new benches. The gates to the car park have also been replaced. Three picnic benches are on

order and should be in place in time for the summer holidays.

Councillors have been consulting with young people to see what improvements could be made to the skate park.

Thanks to Paul Collins and his team for their dedication to keeping so many of our open spaces looking great. Thank you to Pete Wadsley and Chris Hoare who carry out a lot of repairs and maintenance and to Dave Ellis who has the unpleasant job of emptying all the dog waste bins. A job he does with a smile!

New Sports Facilities for Mill Lane



In 2003 Winchester City Council's Local Plan allocated a 3.5 hectare site in Mill Lane for sports facilities to provide for a shortfall in sports pitches for the growing population. The agreement for housing to the north of The Circle includes the transfer of this land to the Parish Council on a long lease.

The Parish Council has employed Fieldform consultants to help deliver the new facilities following a competitive tendering exercise.

We are beginning the planning process by asking the community what they would like to see provided on both the Fareham Road recreation ground and the new site with a public consultation on 30th and 31st July 2021 at Wickham Community Centre.

The theme of the consultation is **What is needed? What would you like to see? How can we help more people become more active?** Invitations will be widely circulated.

We hope everyone will take part.

Wickham All Weather Pitch



During the summer of 2020 the carpet to the all weather pitch was replaced, this was part funded by the income received for pitch hire together with a grant.

The floodlit pitch is open to the public at no charge from 4.30-6pm every weekday, 9am-9pm at weekends when not booked and during school holidays.

It is available for bookings from 6-9pm weekdays with a hire fee of £30 per hour. When the pitch is not booked it is open for public use.

Access is from the back of the community centre.

Wickham Tennis Courts



The Parish Council has a partnership agreement with Wickham Community Tennis Club for the club to occupy the courts and clubhouse. The club pays into a sinking fund which allows the courts to be self-funding.

This year the fund will pay for the courts to be cleaned and repainted. Wickham Community Tennis Club welcomes new members, there are plenty of formal and informal sessions for all regardless of age and experience.

Information about sessions is on the Club's website.

If you would just like to use the courts on a casual basis, sign up on the Club's Clubspark website and book online clubspark.lta.org.uk/WickhamCommunityTennisClub

Knowle Village Hall



Knowle Village Hall is owned and managed by the parish council. It is a great venue for sports, parties, events and meetings. With its large hall and a smaller club room together with changing rooms and a well-equipped kitchen there is a space for every occasion at very reasonable rates. See www.knowlevillagehall.com for further information.

During the last financial year the hall has been redecorated externally and new wheelchair accessible entrance doors fitted. There have also been some internal redecorations carried out and a replacement boiler installed.

All the necessary requirements to allow the hall to be Covid secure are in place although we are looking forward to the lifting of all restrictions and being able to hire out for parties again.

Thank you to our hardworking caretaker and hall manager Collette Little who looks after Knowle Village Hall and its varied customers.

Planning Committee

The Planning Committee considers planning applications affecting the parish and makes responses to relevant authority where appropriate. Councillors are expected to undertake specialist training if they are members of the committee.

General Purposes Committee

The GP or General Purposes Committee takes on the work that can't be allocated to any of the other committees.

The flower displays in Wickham and the baskets in South Square at Knowle are organised by this committee and it also assists with funding the churchyard maintenance, installing the Christmas trees, festive lights, the maintenance of Knowle Cemetery, Dean Copse, Lysander Meadow, Bridge St Village Green and the bus shelter in The Square.

Thank you to Park Place Nurseries for providing the plants for all our beds and baskets.

Ensuring trees on parish land are safe involves a great deal of time and expenditure, regular tree surveys are carried out, permissions obtained, and work carried out on an ongoing basis. No trees are removed without very good reason and this is usually because they are diseased and could become a danger to the public.

This year the tree survey was completed for Knowle Cemetery and significant clearing of fallen trees has taken place.

Another very big thank you to Ken Hemsworth and Martin who carried out lengthy clear up operations at the cemetery following the fall of a very large ash tree.

The printing costs of four editions of the Knowle Village Post have been funded during the last year.



A decorative World War 1 memorial bench has been installed on the grounds adjacent to the chapel after residents were consulted on the preferred design.

Thank you

A huge thank you to everyone who helps keep Wickham and Knowle tidy. It is greatly appreciated.

Could you adopt a pavement?

Litter picking equipment available from Nicki, please ask!



Nicki Oliver

clerk@wickhamparishcouncil.org

Water Meadows Millennium Green Trust

The Parish Council, as First Trustee, oversees the maintenance of the Water Meadows for the benefit of both wildlife and visitors. The leasing and maintenance of the Old Forge are also the responsibility of the Trust.

The large numbers of visitors last year meant some urgent repairs to the river banks were needed. These were ably carried out by Paul Collins and Pete Wadsley and their teams.

Further works are needed to stabilise and rebuild the banks and we are fundraising for these at present. The overall cost of all the repairs and rebuilding will be in the region of £80k

A big thank you to the local families who have donated towards the repairs and enhancements needed for the Water Meadows, it is greatly appreciated.

The Environment Agency permissions for the works are now in place and alongside local fundraising two significant grant applications have been made.

Following additional risk assessments warning signage and a life buoy have been installed in the Meadows, unfortunately

they have suffered vandalism already so help protecting them is welcomed.



Please join our Friends of Wickham Water Meadows Facebook Group to follow the progress of the project.

The Meadows are regularly maintained by groundsman Paul Collins and his team.

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee reviews the Council's income and expenditure on a regular basis. It also discusses applications from local organisations seeking funding assistance and makes recommendations to the Full Council.

Local voluntary organisations are welcome to submit applications for grants. The application form is available to download from the Council's website or contact Parish Clerk Nicki for paper copies.

The Parish Council approved the following grants during the last financial year:

Wickham Community Association towards replacement cooker £1,500
Wickham Community Association towards improved ventilation £5,000
Home Start £2,500
Poppy Appeal £100
Wickham Youth Club £2,200
Knowle Youth Project £2,200
Citizens Advice £2,000

A £2,000 Covid Support Grant received from Winchester City Council was used to fund the purchase of 5 Dell Chromebooks to loan to Wickham CE Primary School along with a subscription to resources for teaching emotional resilience.

**Wickham Parish Council Accounts
2020/21**

Income and expenditure accounts and all accounts information available on the council's website

<https://wickhamparishcouncil.org/wickham-parish-council-accounts-information/>



Wickham Parish Council

Chairman

Alistair Hayes 2 Greenlees Close, Hoads Hill PO17 5GS Finance Committee Chairman, Climate Change representative

Vice-Chairman

Sue Roger-Jones Moonrakers, Fareham Road, Wickham, PO17 5BY

Councillors

Mark Ashton Black Cottage, Black Cottage Lane PO17 5HY **General Purposes Committee Chairman**, Tree Warden, Wickham Community Tennis Club and Friends of Wickham Common representative

Lorrae Hayes 2 Greenlees Close, Hoads Hill PO17 5GS **Recreation Committee Chairman**

Nick Guy 11 Mayles Corner, Knowle PO17 5AG Highways and lighting and footpaths and rights of way representative, Police liaison

Helen Manuel 7 Charity View, Knowle PO17 5NG Youth Club liaison

Craig Manuel 7 Charity View, Knowle PO17 5NG Parish Plan representative

Loraine Rappe 29 Knowle Avenue, Knowle PO17 5LG **Planning Committee Chairman**, Southern Parishes Group, Welborne Liaison, WDALC and Climate Change representative

Parish Clerk

Nicki Oliver, Heatherdene, Turkey Island Shedfield, Southampton Hants, S032 2JE
Tel 01329 835019 email clerk@wickhamparishcouncil.org

For formal enquiries contact the Parish Clerk in the first instance.

See the parish council website for more information www.wickhamparishcouncil.org

2019-20		2020-21
£	Income	£
215,183	Precept	221,638
38,510	Community Infrastructure Levy	24,994
110	Interest	45
830	Football pitch hire	525
19,028	Hire of Knowle Village Hall (& car park)	24,623
2,280	Tennis Club lights electricity	631
5,738	Grants	35,309
5,850	All weather pitch hire	2,534
3,900	Tennis Club sinking fund	2,600
12,240	VAT Reimbursements	36,452
303,669	Total income	349,351

2019-20		2021-21
£	Expenditure	£
38,918	Employment	39,293
13,544	General Administration	10,881
6,600	S. 137 Payments	7,000
6,127	Grants	8,600
12,893	General Purposes Committee	11,466
1,718	Lighting Committee	4,979
65,088	Grounds maintenance	80,538
18,920	Recreation Committee	1,990
11,573	Knowle Village Hall	5,585
0	Chairman's allowance	167
605	Councillor / Clerk training	440
216	Councillor travelling expenses	0
173,773	New projects	81,194
36,452	VAT	20,954
386,427	Total Expenditure	273,087

Nicki Oliver
Clerk to Wickham Parish Council