

WANGFORD WITH HENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRMANS ANNUAL REPORT 2021 – 2022

Firstly, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our parish councillors for the time and effort that they devote to their duties which I remind you they do on a completely voluntary basis.

I would also like to thank Jean our clerk for her hard work and support over the last 9 years. As you are probably aware Jean is retiring from her post and will be leaving us by the end of April.

We are currently advertising for a replacement, as off this afternoon, we have had an enquiry from an interested applicant who lives in Peasehall. Jean has spoken to her at length, and I will give her a call in the next few days to try and arrange an interview to discuss the position further.

There is also a vacancy for a parish councillor so if anybody would be happy to take up this position then please speak to me or one of my fellow councillors who would be happy to explain the role.

This year, due to the lifting of Covid restrictions our meetings have been a little easier and have allowed us to meet in person, they have been well attended and most of the goals we had in place have been achieved.

Once again, the parish council has been busy on your behalf.

The playing fields, children's playground and multi games area have continued to be popular. We are aware of some areas that need to be looked at, improved and repaired. These include one or two items of play equipment, the surface and the timber boarding surrounding the multi games area. Due to an ongoing problem with dogs fouling and at times being allowed to walk off lead, we have ordered more signage which has been delivered and will be installed soon.

The allotments are still proving to be very popular with most plots now rented. The problem we had with rats in previous years seems to be under control due to the regular visits by the pest controller. Thank you to Steven for overseeing the grass cutting and maintenance and to Geoff for holding allotment meetings when possible and answering tenants queries. A new noticeboard for the allotments and garages will shortly be installed within the area and will be used to show details of tenancy agreements for allotments and garages to avoid confusion so that transfers are made in the correct way. The noticeboard will also be used to advertise any planned allotment meetings.

Our allocation of Latitude tickets has now sold out. If you failed to apply before the deadline and would like a ticket, please contact me as some spare tickets may become available nearer the time.

At time of payment, we will again be asking residents to volunteer a few hours of their time, if they don't already do so, to help with any ongoing and future projects within the village and at the Steam Rally.

We have been asked if we could provide volunteers to traffic spot during the festival in exchange for a generous donation to the Church. Kindly, the vicar Alan Parry has taken on this role and is actively seeking volunteers. If you would like to be involved or know someone who might, please let me know and I will pass on their details.

This year sees the Queens Platinum Jubilee celebrations. Thank you to Sara, along with her committee for organising the event. They have several ideas to make the day special and memorable. Regular meetings are being advertised and held and anyone is welcome to attend to volunteer their help and to put forward any ideas.

Further detail of events that will be happening on the day will soon be advertised.

Current Projects.

The book exchange within the old telephone box has now been completed and is proving a popular addition.

Work on the community wildflower garden is ongoing and now the plants and trees are starting to flourish. We have had some good feedback from both residents and people from outside the area and this work has and will continue to enhance this area of the village. An interpretation board giving more detail of how and why this area evolved has been ordered and delivered and will soon be installed. Thank you to all volunteers who help with this project and a special thank you to Helen Rolfe and Geoff for their knowledge and input.

Bus Routes

The changing of the bus routes is now underway, and funding has been ring fenced for the project. Plans are currently being drawn up to make the necessary stops and this project will hopefully be completed during the coming months.

Future projects

The parish council has reasonable funds at present, mainly due to the income from the sale of Latitude tickets over recent years. Therefore, we are looking for several projects that these funds could be spent on to enhance what we already have.

Money has been ring fenced for repairs to the multi games area, repairs to the children's play area, the new bus stops signage and maintenance to the playing fields.

Something that we will be discussing at future meetings is the increase in the number of vehicles in the village and parking. We need to actively find a solution to a problem which in time will only become worse.

We welcome any input as to where it may be possible to create areas of additional parking and for any other projects that residents care to put forward.

In closing.

Wangford, is a very active village, and it has been proved in recent years that there is a thriving and supportive community.

The Parish Council is responsible for representing the entire village and I encourage all residents to make their views known to us.

Chairman Cllr. Adrian Smith

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Adrian Smith', written over a horizontal dotted line.

12/04/2022