


# WANGFORD WITH HENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

## CHAIRMANS ANNUAL REPORT 2017-2018

Firstly I would like to thank our parish councillors for all their time and effort and also thanks to our Clerk – Jean for her hard work and support.

During the past year the Parish Council has been quite busy on your behalf.

The playing fields, childrens playground and multi games area continue to be maintained with our handyman strimming and applying weed killer when necessary. The steps and fence from the High Street entrance to the playing fields have been repaired and we are allowed to plant bulbs along the bank on the boundary to the High Street, so we will be asking for volunteers to help to tidy this area up in the near future.



Due to a PSPO the parish council have had to agree to allow dogs on leads onto the playing fields and allotments. However, dogs are not permitted to enter the childrens playground area at any time and the appropriate signage will be put in place. We are waiting for a new gate to be fitted to one of the playground entrances, this will then make the area more secure. The signage relating to no dogs being allowed on the playing fields and allotments will shortly be removed and new signage stating “Dogs on Leads” will be erected. It will be discussed at a future meeting whether a disused area of the playing field can be fenced off and used for a dog exercising area. We ask all dog owners to please act responsibly if and when using these areas and to clean up after them.

The allotments are still proving quite popular, however there are a few vacant plots and we are actively advertising availability. Allotment tenancy agreements have been updated as has the plan. Marker posts will shortly be positioned for easier identification of plots. The problem with rats seems to be under control at present but if residents do see an increase perhaps they could report it to the Parish Council.

We have identified four new plots for concrete garage bases, these will be installed soon, now that the weather has improved and there is less chance of frost. We also have to deal with an old garage which has an asbestos roof, it has been agreed that the Parish Council will get this removed. There are also two dilapidated sheds in the garage area that have been damaged further by the recent strong winds. The removal of these will be discussed at the next monthly meeting.

We have recently had delivery of four large rubbish bins. These are sponsored by Latitude and will be placed in the four laybys within the parish on the A12. We are currently waiting for prices for the fixing of the bins.

Our allocation of Latitude tickets have now sold out. If you failed to apply before the deadline and would like tickets please contact the Clerk or myself as some may become available at time of payment. A poster will be placed on the noticeboard shortly, giving instruction as to how and when to pay. At time of payment we will again be asking villagers to volunteer a few hours of their time, if they don't do so already, to help with any projects in the village and also at the Steam Rally.

Once again I have been asked if we could provide volunteers to traffic spot during the festival. Volunteers who carry out an 8 hour shift will be given a day ticket and the festival organisers will give a generous donation to the Church. Posters advertising for volunteers have been placed on the noticeboard and in The Messenger.

The Vehicle Activated Sign is still being used and appears at the four locations on a regular basis. It would appear from the data collected that it has had an impact and there seems to be fewer vehicles travelling through the village over the speed limit.

Councillor Carter is currently trying to get support for traffic calming measures or a speed limit reduction on the A145 at Henham. He would appreciate as much support as possible to strengthen his case.

Wangford is a very active village and provides some great amenities and services. Therefore, it is a great pity that the Angel Inn has recently closed. Let's hope that the doors will not stay locked for too long and that the owners might be more lenient with the rent for any incoming tenant.

Finally it is important to remember that the Parish Council is responsible for representing the entire village, and I encourage all residents to make their views known to us.

Adrian Smith, Chairman – Wangford with Henham Parish Council.