

## WANGFORD WITH HENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

### CHAIRMANS ANNUAL REPORT 2020 – 2021

Firstly I would like to thank our parish councillors for all the time and effort that they devote to their duties which I remind you they do on a completely voluntary basis. Also thanks to Jean our Clerk for her hard work and support.

This year we welcome two new councillors, Edna Utting and Richard Waters and thank them for their input so far. Unfortunately Councillor John Crossley decided to step down earlier in the year but we thank him for his service and contribution. There is currently a vacancy for a parish councillor so if anybody would be happy to take on this position then please speak to Jean or one of my fellow Councillors who would be happy to explain the role.

I don't have to tell you that it has been a difficult time for everybody over the last twelve months with coronavirus and the number of problems and restrictions that it has caused. But thanks to Jeans organisation we have still managed to have our monthly meetings by zoom, they have been well attended and most of the goals we had in place have been achieved. From next month it is hoped that we may once again get back to meetings in the Community Centre.

During these very difficult times we as a parish council would like to extend our gratitude for everyone who has helped keep the community thriving and safe. Particular thanks to Neil and all of the staff at the village store who have kept things going throughout these difficult times, thanks also to everyone who has helped with food deliveries to residents who have been shielding and for looking out for one another, to people who have volunteered at the health centre with vaccinations and to parishioners who have gone the extra mile to try and help anyone in need. Too many to mention individually, but they know who they are. Hopefully now that restrictions are starting to be eased slightly we may return to a more normal life.

Even with the restrictions that have been in place the parish council has still been busy on your behalf.

The playing fields, children's playground and multi games have continued to be popular when restrictions have allowed. We are aware of some areas that need to be looked at, improved and repaired. These include one or two items of play equipment and the timber boarding surrounding the multi games area. Due to an ongoing problem with dogs fouling we have decided that better and bigger signage will soon be installed.

The allotments are still proving to be very popular with most plots having been rented. The problem we had with rats in previous years seems to be under control due to the regular visits by the pest controller. Marker posts have now been installed to make it easier to identify individual plots. A new tenancy agreement is being looked at just to tighten up on one or two points. Thank you to Steven for overseeing the grass cutting and maintenance and to Geoff for holding allotment holders meetings when possible and trying to answer tenants queries.

Our allocation of Latitude tickets is now full. If you failed to apply before the deadline and would like a ticket please contact me as some spares may become available nearer the time.

We will be holding off asking for payment for tickets as long as we can as there is no guarantee as yet that the event will be taking place. It is totally down to what restrictions may or may not be in place at 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 future projects in the village and 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 will be placed on the website, in the village store, on the notice board and in the Messenger nearer the time.

### Current Projects.

#### The Community Garden.

Work on the community wild flower garden began towards the end of last year and it is amazing how much has been achieved especially with the restrictions that have been in place. Thank you to all volunteers who have helped with this project under trying circumstances and a special thank you to Helen Rolfe and Geoff for their knowledge and input. The majority of the planting has been completed and it is already starting to flourish.

The grass paths are being cut and the benches are in place. Finally we have been able to secure a position for the memorial bench for past councillor Phillip Hayes. A heavy duty mesh path will shortly be installed to give better access to the disabled picnic bench. More wild flowers and bulbs will be planted in the autumn. We have had a number of favourable comments from residents and hope that in the future people will use the garden and appreciate the increasing wildlife. We would welcome further volunteers to help look after the area over the coming years.

#### Bus Routes.

It has been decided that buses that pass through the village will be rerouted so that they are only using Norfolk Road instead of passing through Church Street. Church Street is only a narrow road and we feel along with the bus companies that it is not suitable for the large buses that have used the road in the past. Designs and placings for new bus stops are being considered along Norfolk Road. It is likely that there will be a stop by the vets and one opposite by the memorial. Two stops near the Millfields turning where lay bys will be created and two stops towards the Farm Shop.

#### Future Projects.

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

Some funding will be ring fenced for the multi games area, better signage to the playing fields and repairs when needed to the childrens play area.

A project that we will be discussing at future meeting is the increasing number of vehicles in the village and parking.

We would 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 over the last year 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.

Chair

Adrian Smith Wangford with Henham Parish Council.