

Annual Parish Meeting – 8th May 2017

Chairman's Report 2016-17

Introduction

Wickersley Parish Council serves the people of Wickersley from the Brecks to Wickersley School and from the bottom of Morthern Road to the end of Northfield Lane. It has a population of 8000 people housed in 3200 residential properties.

The village of Wickersley continues to thrive and attracts many visitors to its successful retail centre and social events.

Composition of the Council

Cllr John Barber Chairperson, Finance Committee
Cllr Andrew Bates Chairperson, Recreation Grounds Committee
Cllr Pat Beighton Chairperson, Environment Committee
Cllr Ted Bowmar
Cllr Susan Ellis Chairperson
Cllr Gordon Foster
Cllr Alan Gibson
Cllr Christine Grimes
Cllr Barbara McNeely
Cllr Kim Phillips
Cllr Ronnie Postlewaite
Cllr Peter Thirlwall Chairperson, HR & Woodland Committee
Cllr Amy Wright Chairperson, Planning Committee
Cllr Maggie Godfrey
Cllr Tracy Wallace

During the year, two councillors have retired. Ted Bowmar was vice chair of the parish for several years, but it was his diligence to all planning matters for which he will be remembered. Naveen Judah skills as an accountant served the finance committee well. They both brought a sense of humour to our work place and will be missed.

Ted and Naveen have been replaced by Tracey Wallace and Maggie Godfrey. We have immediately utilised Maggie's passed experience as planner has enabled the parish to utilise her great experience immediately.

Council Employees

This year has seen John the handy man retired after grafting so hard to keep Wickersley lovely, we hope he enjoys his retirement.

The other John has welcomed Mike as a replacement. We are grateful that Mike settled in quickly; as John was due to have an operation. You will often see the pair providing a helpful hand around the village.

Rachel, Martin, and Julie are like a well-oiled machine, keeping the community centre running and at the heart of village life. Between them they tackle everything that needs to be done in a helpful and willing manner.

Recreation Grounds Committee, chaired by Cllr Andrew Bates

This year they finished the refurbishment of the neglected bike track at Sorby Way. It was celebrated with an opening event which saw two national BMX cyclists, the cycle hub and various cycling skills being taught. I am reliably informed that it isn't only cyclist that are enjoying the track but also the local dogs.

The committee is to be recognised for their ongoing work in addressing the problems of un-booked use of the football pitches and of the litter that arises.

Woodland Committee, chaired by Cllr Peter Thirlwall

The Woodland committee are as always indebted to the Warden volunteers Brenda, Paul and Graham, without whom such events as the Bluebell walk; Himalayan pulling and Bracken pulling would not be possible.

The medium term plans for The Woods and The Gorse have now been completed which will map out all the work for the next few years. Their annual events continue to be incredibly well supported.

Finance Committee, chaired by Cllr John Barber

I am particularly grateful to John whose support for the Clerk on the closing of last year's accounts was really appreciated. As the parish council work evolves, it is important that our financial procedures reflect our change in services; the committee are well aware of this and continue to work in this regard.

Environment Committee, chaired by Cllr Pat Beighton

As always The Environment Committee has again kept Wickersley looking lovely with hanging baskets and bedding plants bringing colour to the village.

This committee borrowed Councillor Peter Thirlwall to design and project manage the refurbishments of the public toilets on the Tanyard, he seems to have magiced extra room for the toilets as well as extra room for the handy man's stores, and the opening of the toilets will be remembered with laughter for a long time to come.

Winthrop Garden

2016 saw the first season of the parish running the gardens. This took an incredible amount of work and we are extremely thankful to all of the volunteers who made it possible. We now know most of the challenges ahead and some of the solutions, it is an exciting time as the potential for the gardens to be a real community asset are beginning to be realised, with many interesting and fun events being planned for the forth coming year.

A warm Winthrop welcome is always available for volunteers and visitors alike.

Conclusion

This report only captures some of the work of the parish; your parish council has good relationships with the police; the library and the borough council etc. These relationships are vital to tackle the challenges of being a popular place to visit whilst endeavouring to keep a village community feel for the residents. The parish spends many hours on working on submissions and on consultation responses with regards to such things as parking, licencing and planning on your behalf.

It would be remiss of me not to mention and thank the people that also run our allotments; the bowling club and the committee that over sees the community centre. The services they provide make Wickersley a popular and happy place to live and I hope that we are all proud of the village that we serve.

Councillor Sue Ellis,

Chairperson of Wickersley Parish Council