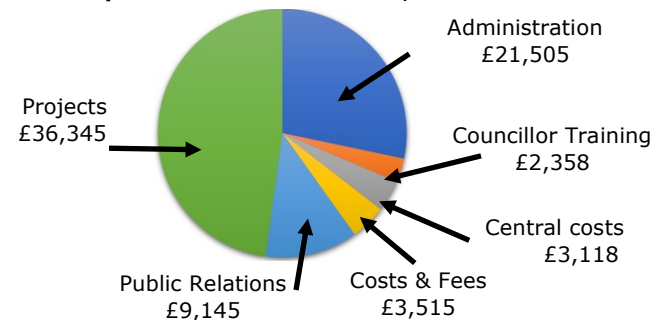


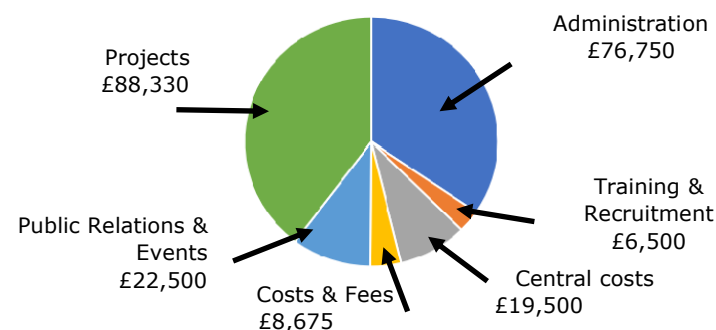
Financial Report

The Town Council's Precept for 2022-23 was £239,134 and for 2023-24 it has been set at £222,255. For a Band D property the amount is £22.61. This equates to a 7.64% decrease.

Expenditure 2022-23 £75,986



Budget & Forecast 2023-24



Councillor Attendance at Meetings May 2022 to April 2023

Council Meetings **11**

Finance & Resources Committee meetings **4**

Environment & Leisure Committee meetings **6**

Planning & Infrastructure Committee meetings **11**

Personnel Committee meetings **2**

Total number of meetings 34

Councillor	No of Meetings	Councillor	No of Meetings
Cllr A Ball	26	Cllr L Harrison	11
Cllr S Blake	14	Cllr N Hoad	12
Cllr G Bradley	27	Cllr J Janaway	22
Cllr E Brockman	15	Cllr S Mott	23
Cllr L Dodds	8	Cllr A Neil	19
(from Sept 2022)		Cllr K Oakes	17
Cllr G Douse	29	Cllr S Oakes	11
Cllr G Ellis	12	Cllr S Whiter	24
Cllr L Gann	14	Cllr J Wood	1
Cllr David Harrison	20	(from March 2023)	
Cllr Derek Harrison	34	Cllr M Wright	19

Wickford Town Councillors

Chairman of the Town Council 2022-23, Councillor Derek Harrison

Vice Chairman of the Town Council 2022-23, Councillor Graham Bradley

Wickford Castledon Ward

Councillor Graham Bradley
Councillor Gerald Douse
Councillor Louise Gann
Councillor Linda Harrison
Councillor Stewart Mott
Councillor Andrew Neil

Wickford North Ward

Councillor Eunice Brockman
Councillor Lee Dodds
Councillor Graeme Ellis
Councillor Derek Harrison
Councillor Nicola Hoad
Councillor Stephen Whiter

Wickford Park Ward

Councillor Alan Ball
Councillor Simon Blake
Councillor David Harrison
Councillor Kim Oakes
Councillor Stephen Oakes
Councillor James Wood
Councillor Matthew Wright

Contact Us

Town Clerk - Tory Melhuish
01268 858979

clerk@wickfordtowncouncil.gov.uk

www.wickfordtowncouncil.gov.uk

www.facebook.com/WickfordTownCouncil



Wickford Town Council



Annual Report 2022-23

This is the first Annual Report for Wickford Town Council and it provides information on the Town Council's activities and expenditure for 2022-23. Also provided, is the Town Council's aspiration and projects for future years.

The Town Council was formed in May 2022 after two and a half years as a Shadow Town Council and followed the making Basildon Borough Council's Community Governance Re-organisation Order.

Twenty Councillors were elected to serve the 25,000 residents of Wickford and in January of this year a full time Town Clerk was appointed.

Also in May 2022, Councillors elected a Chairman and Councillor Derek Harrison was appointed for 2022-23.

Chairman's Report - Councillor Derek Harrison



As we come to the end of the first year of your Town Council we look back at the year 2022-2023.

I was extremely proud to be elected as the first Chairman of the Town Council in May last year.

Our first event, jointly with Basildon Borough Council was the lantern parade and lighting of the beacon in the Memorial Park to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Officialdom delayed projects such as the noticeboards around the Town for those without internet access and we have only been able to install these recently.

One major project we were able to complete was the new fencing to open up the little known gem of Riverside Walk, London Road. Further work is planned for later this year.

In January we were pleased to welcome Mrs Tory Melhuish as our full time Town Clerk following her hard work as a locum. We wish her a long and enjoyable employment with the Town Council.

We have been holding regular monthly "meet your councillor" events at Wickford Library and welcome meeting residents who would like to discuss any issues or let us know what they would like to see in Wickford.

Going forward we have planned several events for the year that we hope will be enjoyed by people of all ages.

Councillor Surgeries

Monthly Councillor surgeries are held in the Wickford Library on the 3rd Saturday of the month. These drop in sessions are ideal if you would like to speak to one of your local Town Councillors about issues in and around Wickford.

If you would like to speak to one of the Councillors direct please contact the Clerk.



Council & Committee meetings

All Council and Committee meetings are normally held at The Wick Community Centre, Silva Island Way starting at 7pm.

Dates of meetings for 2023-24 can be found on the Town Council's website and on the newly installed noticeboards.

www.wickfordtowncouncil.gov.uk

Working with the local Police



The Town Council has supported a number of pop up events in the High Street with officers from Basildon Police.

Members are keen to work with the local policing team to help reduce crime and improve safety.

Make a Difference in Your Community

Funding has been provided for 5 Community Special Constables in the town. Further information is available on www.essex.police.uk/communityspecials



Completed Projects

Riverside Walk - London Road

Members of the Town Council identified the Riverside Walk area in London Road in desperate need of refurbishment. The proposal was to open up the area and make it a feature of the town. Work started in February and was completed in March. The Town Council worked in partnership with Basildon Borough Council and some funding was provided from the County Council's Locality Fund. Thank you to County Councillors Tony Ball and Malcolm Buckley.

Before and after photographs:



Queen's Platinum Jubilee

To celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, the Town Council held events in Wickford Memorial Park on 2 June 2022. This included a Lantern Parade and Beacon lighting ceremony.



Jubilee Plaque

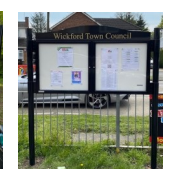
To celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee the Town Council purchased and installed a commemorative plaque.



Town Council noticeboards

To help communicate with residents, the Town Council has installed 5 outside noticeboards in the following locations:

- High Street
- London Road (St Peters Terrace)
- Nevendon Road shops
- Southend Road shops
- Tesco Express store at The Wick.



Events in Wickford

The Town Council has planned a number of free events to be held over the next few months.

Summer Fun in the Park

at Wickford Memorial Park
2 to 4pm



Wednesday 2 August - Punch & Judy

Wednesday 9 August - Storyteller,
Mike Dodsworth

Wednesday 16 and Wednesday 23 August

Moji Childrens' entertainer

FREE entertainment for all the family.

Bring along your own picnic & chairs
Don't forget the suncream and a hat!

All on Board Skateboarding event

at Nevendon Park

Saturday 16 September

FREE EVENT



King's Coronation

To celebrate the King's Coronation in May, the Town Council decorated the High Street and Wickford Memorial Park with union flag bunting.



Completed Projects

The Town Council has an Annual Grants Scheme which is open to all local community groups and organisations in Wickford. This scheme is to encourage and assist groups carry out activities for the benefit of Wickford residents.

Grants awarded in 2023 included the following:
Wickford Community Association over 55s £500
Wickford in Bloom £7,500
Wickford Carnival £4,000

The scheme for the 2024 financial year will be open from September 2023 and application forms will be available at that time.
Contact the Clerk for further information.



Future Projects

Christmas Lights

The Town Council has taken over providing the Christmas lights in the town centre and a new 3 year contract has been agreed. There will be new festive lights in the High Street along with a real Christmas Tree.

Wickford Community Events will be organising the Christmas Fayre and the lights switch on will be held on the same day:

Sunday 26 November



Wickford Market

The Town Council continues to work with Basildon Borough Council for the future of the market in Wickford High Street.



Wickford is known as a market town, since the first cattle market in the late 1890s. By 1922, Wickford was seen as a main trading hub and in the 1970s the cattle market was replaced with the development of the Willowdale Centre and the market moved to a site west of the High Street. Market stalls are now set up in the High Street.

Neighbourhood Plan for Wickford

The Town Council is looking into developing a Neighbourhood Plan for Wickford. Neighbourhood Planning was introduced in the Localism Act 2011 and it is an important and powerful tool that gives communities statutory powers to shape how their community develops.

In simple terms, a Neighbourhood Plan is a document that sets out policies for the neighbourhood area.

It is written by the local community, the people who know the area.



Local Plan update

The Local Plan sets out the overall planning framework to support growth and development in the Borough. It will cover the whole of the Basildon administrative area and include strategic priorities and long term vision for the area. Once adopted, the new Local Plan will replace the existing Basildon District Local Plan Saved policies 2007.

In November 2022, Basildon Borough Council adopted the Local Development Scheme (LDS) 2022-2027 as the timetable for preparing the Local Plan. The first formal step towards preparing a new Local Plan is the Issues and Options Consultation due to commence in June 2023. Further information is available on the Borough Council's website:

www.basildon.gov.uk/emerginglocalplan

Community Showcase

Wickford High Street

Saturday 19 August

FREE EVENT