

Wickford Town Council

Half Yearly Report
2024-25

New Town Council office

The new Town Council at Halls Corner was opened in November and is a new community hub for the town.

Council and Committee meetings are held here.

Residents can pop in and ask for advice and information on a range of topics.

The address is:

Unit 1 Wych Elm House, Nevendon Road, Wickford SS12 9RZ



Your Town Council

20 Councillors (19 serving – 1 vacancy as at December 2024)

Town Clerk
Mrs Tory Melhuish

Chair
Councillor Derek Harrison



Vice Chair
Councillor Graham Bradley
Also Chair of the Market Committee



Chair of Planning and
Infrastructure Committee
Councillor Alan Ball



Chair of Finance and
Resources Committee
Councillor Nicola Hoad



Chair of Environment and
Leisure Committee
Councillor Andrew Neil



Chair of Personnel
Committee
Councillor Lee Dodds



Councillor Eunice Brockman



Councillor Nigel Dermott



Councillor Graeme Ellis



Councillor Louise Gann



Councillor Clare Gregory



Councillor David Harrison



Councillor Stewart Mott



Councillor Sarah Marshall



Councillor Kim Oakes



Councillor Steve Oakes



Councillor Geoff Randall



Councillor John Speller



Councillor Geoff Whiter



New Town Councillors

Two new Town Councillors have recently been co-opted and we welcome Councillor Sarah Marshall and Councillor John Speller.

Both have lived in the town for many years and bring a wealth of personal experience to the Town Council.



Events held during the last year

Summer Fun

7 events were held in May, July & August
at Wickford Memorial Park

Free entertainment along with arts and
crafts from Creative Basildon
Punch & Judy, Mike Dodsworth
storyteller, Moji entertainer and SEE
Inspiration Yoga, Cycool bike repairs
Mooshys Funky Faces



D Day 80 6 June 2024

Thursday 6 June to commemorate the
80 year anniversary of D Day

Parade and beacon lighting was held
in Wickford Memorial Park



Jazz in the Park

A brand new event for this year held in Wickford Memorial Park.
This event was provided Free of Charge and was very well attended.
The weather was kind to everyone and entertainment was provided by The Gershwin Gang



Meet your Town Councillor

Held on a Saturday at the Town Council office
This is an opportunity for residents to speak to Town Councillors about issues in and around Wickford



Wickford Market

Basildon Borough Council handed over the operation of Wickford Market to the Town Council from Saturday 5 July 2024.

The Town Council has engaged the services of Love Markets to operate the Market under an agreement and a relaunch day was held on Saturday 5 October 2024.

The Market is held every Saturday in Market Lane with occasional markets to be held in the High Street.

There are a number of existing traders and also new traders selling their goods from the Market in Market Lane.



Neighbourhood Plan for Wickford

The Town Council has recently established a Steering Group made up of Town Councillors, residents and local businesses to establish a Neighbourhood Plan for Wickford.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN FOR WICKFORD



Do you care about the future of our town?



Wickford Town Council has started the process to establish a Neighbourhood Plan for Wickford.

Neighbourhood Plans are a community led approach to planning. They empower communities to have a positive proactive influence on planning in a local area.



For a Neighbourhood Plan to be a success, we need involvement from the community. We can't develop a community led approach without your help. We need volunteers to be involved in the production of the Plan.

You only need a willingness to learn and discuss a positive plan for the future of our town for future generations.



The area of the Neighbourhood Plan is the same as the boundaries for the Town Council. This excludes Shotgate and Runwell that have their own parish councils.

To get involved, email us at clerk@wickfordtowncouncil.gov.uk or telephone at 01268 858979.

Help shape the future of our Town for the next generation



Frequently asked questions

How does this fit in with national and local planning?

Neighbourhood Plans are developed by communities in accordance with national planning policy and the principal local authority's local development plan.

Basildon Borough Council is and will remain the Principal Planning Authority for Wickford. Once implemented Basildon Borough Council's Planning Committee would need to give regard to the adopted Neighbourhood Plan for planning applications it considers in Wickford.

Have other areas successfully developed a neighbourhood plan?

Yes. There have been over 500 communities in England that have developed their own neighbourhood plan.

In our Borough, Noak Bridge and Ramsden Bellhouse are both developing neighbourhood plans.

How will this be funded?

The cost of developing the plan will be paid for by grants obtained and precept collected by Wickford Town Council.

Where can I find more information?

The Scoping Report is the first stage in the process and has already been prepared. You can find information on this report along with other links and papers here:

www.wickfordtowncouncil.gov.uk/neighbourhood-plan

Greening Up Wickford

Compared to other Towns, Wickford is lacking in trees and hedgerows. Many roundabouts and grass verges are concreted over. There are also many developments around Wickford which are destroying any greenspaces and not replacing trees and not landscaping. The developments are destroying more trees than planted. Trees take at least 20 years to reach a mature stage. We need mature trees planted and maintained. As residents we also need to follow up on developments to ensure that they do actually landscape and maintain. This article is to show the great work groups are trying to do around Wickford. The work that they do does not replace the lost trees and hedges. The work is just firefighting. If you have a tree outside your property please look after it.

There are a number of local groups who give up their time to keep Wickford looking lovely:

Friends of Wickford Memorial Park

Wickford in Bloom

Wickford Wombles

Friends of the Wick Country Park

SOS Save Our Spaces



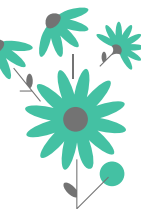
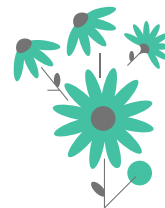
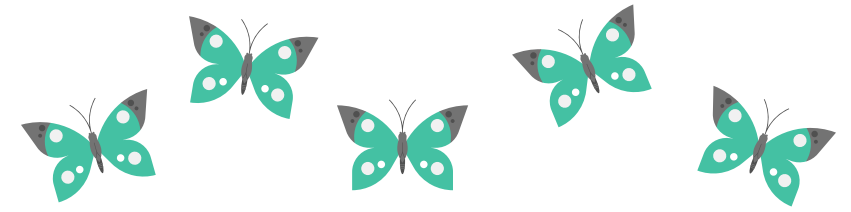
BP roundabout – improvements

A project for the Town Council is to make improvements to the entrances to the town of Wickford.

The first step was to re-plant the roundabout at the BP garage junction – Nevendon Road, Cranfield Park Road and Golden Jubilee Way – one of the main gateways into Wickford.

Discussions were held with Essex County Council and Basildon Borough Council and a planting scheme was drawn up which also included the planting of some new trees, provided by our colleagues at the County Council - our thanks go to officers for bringing this project to life !

The area was cleared and planting began in November 2024. It will take some time for the plants to establish themselves, but once they do there will be lots of colour and variety of plants.



Planning Applications

The Town Council is a consultee in the planning process with Basildon Borough Council as the Principal Planning Authority and ultimately making all decisions.

The Town Council's Planning and Infrastructure Committee meets every month to view current planning applications and make comments as necessary.

These are then submitted to the Borough Council to meet the required deadline.

More information on current and previous planning applications can be viewed on the Borough Council's website:

<https://www.basildon.gov.uk/article/4622/Planning>



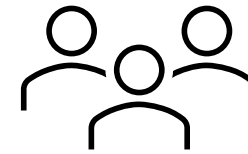
Grants Scheme

The Town Council's Grants scheme is open all year round to local groups and organisations.

Applications can be made to help finance projects and activities within the Wickford area.

Groups that were funded this year included:

- Wickford Community Association over 55s group
- Friends of Wickford Memorial Park
- Royal British Legion Wickford branch
- Essex Royals FC



Best Dressed Christmas Shop Window Competition

This was the first time of holding the competition. All businesses in Wickford were invited to join in and some lovely windows were created.

Our MP, Mark Francois came along and assisted with the judging and certificates were awarded to the following:

- Gold – Chandlers Florist
- Silver – Mems Kitchen
- Bronze – Stephens Florist
- Highly Commended – Cowling & Payne, Helen Rollason charity shop, The White Swan PH



1st



2nd



3rd



Christmas Events 2024

The Christmas Lights Switch on was held on Saturday 16 November in the High Street.

Entertainment, face painting and Father Christmas and his sleigh.



The Senior Citizens Christmas buffet lunch held on 6 December.

80 residents were served sandwiches and cake whilst listening to Carol Harper and even having a dance !



Planned Projects for 2025

Replacement litter bins for the High Street and surrounding areas

Finger Posts (directional signs) for the High Street

Artwork in the railway bridge underpass

Second phase of planting at the BP roundabout

Tree planting

Events programme

Contact Us

In person

Town Council office
Unit 1 Wych Elm House, Nevendon Road, Wickford SS12 9RZ

By telephone

01268 858979

By email

clerk@wickfordtowncouncil.gov.uk

Website

www.wickfordtowncouncil.gov.uk

Facebook

www.facebook.com/WickfordTownCouncil