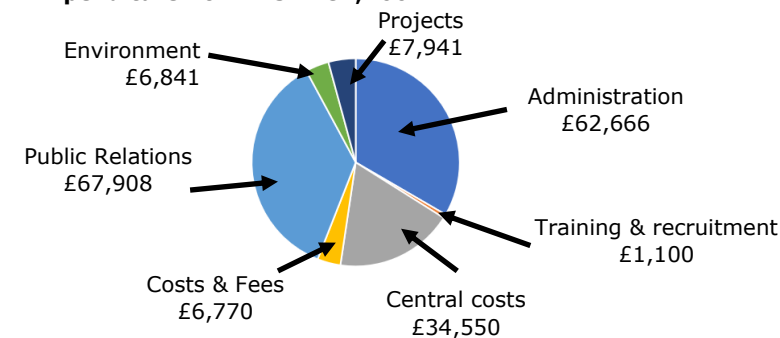


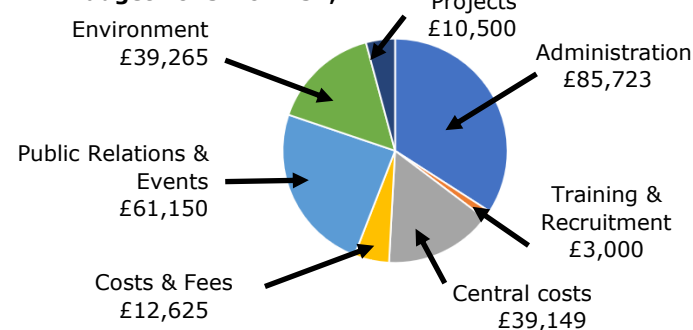
Financial Report

The Town Council's Precept for 2024-25 was £229,284 and for 2025-26 it has been set at £234,262 For a Band D property the amount is £23.85. This equates to a 1.92% increase (45p for a Band D)

Expenditure 2024-25 £187,766



Budget 2025-26 £251,412



Councillor Attendance at Meetings May 2024 to April 2025

Total number of meetings **37**

Council Meetings **7** Finance & Resources Committee meetings **5**

Environment & Leisure Committee meetings **6** Market Committee **6**

Planning & Infrastructure Committee meetings **10** Personnel Committee meetings **3**

Councillor A Ball	26	Councillor S Mott	22
Councillor G Bradley	20	Councillor A Neil	20
Councillor E Brockman	9	Councillor K Oakes	18
Councillor L Dodds	8	Councillor S Oakes	23
Councillor G Ellis	22	Councillor J Parmenter	1
Councillor L Gann	14	(from 31/3/2025)	
Councillor C Gregory	21	Councillor G Randall	21
Councillor David Harrison	3	Councillor A Read	3
Councillor Derek Harrison	37	(from 20/1/2025)	
Councillor N Hoad	17	Councillor J Speller	3
Councillor S Marshall	9	(from 25/11/2024)	
(from 30/9/2024)		Councillor G Whiter	23

Councillors can attend any meeting whether they are a Committee member or not. The above list is for all meetings. It does not include the Council's Working Party meetings.

Meet Your Town Councillor events are held once a 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.



Wickford Town Councillors

Chair of the Town Council 2023-25, Councillor Derek Harrison

Vice Chair of the Town Council 2024-25, Councillor Graham Bradley

Wickford Castledon Ward

Councillor Graham Bradley
Councillor Louise Gann
Councillor Stewart Mott
Councillor Andrew Neil
Councillor Geoff Randall
Councillor John Speller

Wickford North Ward

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

Wickford Park Ward

Councillor Alan Ball
Councillor Clare Gregory
Councillor Kim Oakes
Councillor Stephen Oakes
Councillor Jane Parmenter
Councillor Alun Read

Contact Us

Town Clerk - Tory Melhuish
01268 858979

Unit 1 Wych Elm House, Nevendon Road, Wickford SS12 9RZ
clerk@wickfordtowncouncil.gov.uk

www.wickfordtowncouncil.gov.uk



Wickford Town Council



Annual Report 2024-25

This is the Annual Report for Wickford Town Council and it provides information on the Town Council's activities and expenditure for 2024-25. Also provided, is the Town Council's aspiration and projects for future years.

The Town Council was formed in May 2022.

Twenty Councillors were elected to serve the 25,000 residents of Wickford and it employs a full time Town Clerk and a part time Admin Assistant.

In May 2024, Councillor Derek Harrison elected as Chair of the Town Council along with Councillor Graham Bradley appointed as Vice Chair.

Chair's Report by Councillor Derek Harrison

Welcome to the Wickford Town Council's report for the year 2024 – 2025.

Highlighted on the pages are some of the many and varied projects and events staged throughout the year.

One project you may have seen if you travelled to and from the A127 was the makeover of the roundabout at the junction of Nevendon Road/Golden Jubilee Way/Cranfield Park Road with new trees and planting. This along with other improvements will make Wickford more welcoming. We hope also in due course to be able to erect welcome to Wickford signs.

We again held a variety of events throughout the year from summer fun and Jazz in the Park to Senior Citizens Christmas lunch and the Christmas lights switch on. Many of these along with some additional events are planned for the next financial year.

After protracted negotiations we were pleased to finally open a Town Council office and community facility, this enables residents to speak to us face to face and is a place where we can hold Council and Committee meetings, open for members of the public to attend.

The Council was saddened to hear of the passing of Councillor David Harrison who had been a Town Councillor since formation, our thoughts are with his wife and family at this time.

On 8th May 2025, we mark the historic 80th anniversary of VE Day, with communities of our great nation coming together to unite and celebrate 80 years of peace since the end of World War II in Europe. We along with the nation will be taking part in the celebration, with events in the Memorial Park and will again be lighting the beacon that evening. We invite as many as possible to join with us to celebrate and remember those that paid the ultimate sacrifice.

My personal thanks to Councillors who along with the Town Clerk work hard throughout the year. A thank you also to members of the public who interact with us with suggestions of what they would like to see happen in Wickford.



LCAS Foundation Award

The Town Council achieved the Foundation Award in the Local Government Awards Scheme. This shows the Council has met the required criteria in the sector.



Christmas Lights Switch on

This year's Christmas lights switch on is being held on:

Saturday 22 November
at 4.30pm



Completed Projects & Events

Events 2024

The Town Council held a number of successful events in 2024. D Day celebrations, Jazz in the Park in June, Summer Fun throughout the school holidays, Switching on of the Christmas lights in the High Street, Senior Citizens Christmas buffet lunch, Best Dressed Christmas Shop Window Competition. In April 2025, the Easter Market and Easter Bunny Trail were also held.

Roundabout planting

New plants and trees have been planted at the roundabout junction Nevendon Road/Cranfield Park Road.



Tree planting

New trees were planted in Radwinter Avenue, St Andrews Church, Wickford station.



Market re-launch

The Town Council took over the running of Wickford Market and a re-launch was held in July.

Negotiations are underway to get the Market back in the High Street every week.

New Office

The Town Council office based at Halls Corner was opened in November. This is a great community facility and enables us to speak to residents face to face.

We are also able to provide battery recycling and collect donations for the Wickford Foodbank.



New Councillors

Four new Councillors were co-opted this year: Councillor Sarah Marshall, Councillor Jane Parmenter, Councillor John Speller and Councilor Alun Read.

New Litter bins

The Town Council has funded more replacement litter bins this year, some in the High Street and others in surrounding areas.

Community Speedwatch

We continue to support the Community Speedwatch Group who carry out speed monitoring around the town.



Grants Scheme

The Town Council has a 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 2024 included the following:

Wickford Community Assoc Over 55s £500
Friends of the Memorial Park £8,779
RBL Wickford £4,000
Essex Royals FC £1,900

New - Shop Frontage Scheme

For all businesses in Wickford

The schemes are open all year round and application forms are available on our website. Contact the Town Council for further information.



Neighbourhood Plan for Wickford

The Town Council is 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. If you would like to join the Steering Group - please get in touch.

A Scoping Report for Wickford has been produced and is available on the Town Council's website: <https://wickfordtowncouncil.gov.uk/neighbourhood-plan/>

The Town Council has set up a Steering Group to produce the Neighbourhood Plan and local residents and businesses are asked to join the group. Please register your interest with the Town Clerk, Tel 01268 858979 or email: wickfordnpsg@gmail.com



Town Council Events

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

VE Day 80 celebrations

Thursday 8th May, 8pm to 9.45pm

at Wickford Memorial Park

Beacon lighting, march, food & drink

Friday 9th May, 1pm to 3pm

at the Wick Community Centre

VE Day 80 afternoon tea



Punch and Judy

Wednesday 28 May 2pm to 4pm

at Wickford Memorial Park

Summer Fun in the Park

Wednesday 23 & 30 July

Wednesday 6, 13, 20, 27 August

at Wickford Memorial Park 2pm to 4pm

FREE entertainment for all the family.

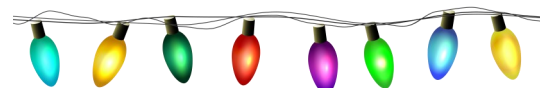
Bring along your own picnic & chairs

Don't forget the suncream and a hat!

Christmas Lights switch on

Saturday 22 November, 4.30pm

Wickford High Street



Senior Citizens Christmas buffet lunch

Friday 5 December, 2pm

Runwell Village Hall

Tickets on sale in October

Best Dressed Shop Window and Market Stall Competition

Judging Saturday 13 December

Keep an eye on our website, social media and noticeboards for other events.



www.wickfordtowncouncil.gov.uk

Other Projects

For 2025-26, the Town Council has agreed to fund the following (subject to approval from other Authorities):

Railway Bridge underpass art project - Town Signs - finger posts - replacement/repair of the High Street railings - additional street furniture - events - community speed watch - community special constables - Street Wardens - Neighbourhood Plan - community engagement days

Council and Committee Meetings

All Council meetings are held at The Wick Community Centre and start at 7pm.

All Committee meetings are held at the Town Council office and start at 7pm.

All meetings are held in public and members of the public have the right to attend, there is a section at the beginning of each meeting at which members of the public can address the meeting.

Dates of forthcoming meetings can be found on our noticeboards and website.

www.wickfordtowncouncil.gov.uk



Agendas, Draft and Approved Minutes are also available on our website.