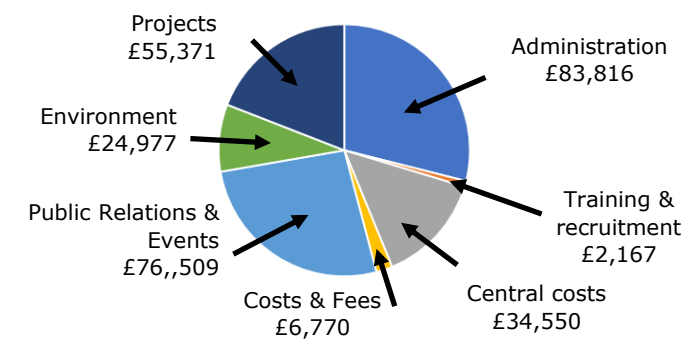


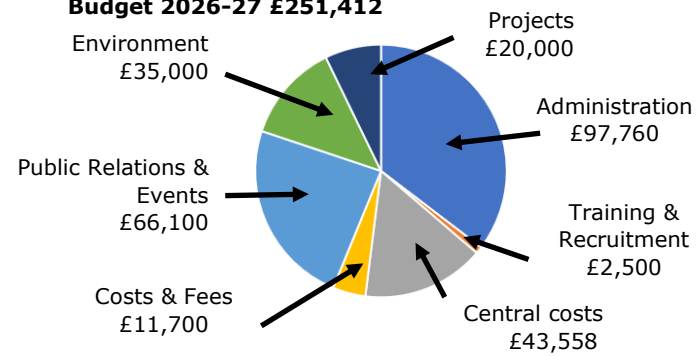
Financial Report

The Town Council's Precept for 2025-26 was £234,262 and for 2026-27 it has been set at £246,618 For a Band D property the amount is £25.11. This equates to a 5.28% increase (£1.26 for a Band D)

Expenditure 2025-26 £289,806



Budget 2026-27 £251,412



Councillor Attendance at Meetings May 2025 to April 2026

Total number of meetings **35**

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

Environment & Leisure Committee meetings **6** Market Committee **3**

Planning & Infrastructure Committee meetings **11** Personnel Committee meetings **3**

Councillor A Ball	23	Councillor K Oakes	19
Councillor G Bradley	29	Councillor S Oakes	17
Councillor G Ellis	20	Councillor J Parmenter	16
Councillor C Gregory	18	Councillor L Phillips (from 23/6/26)	11
Councillor D Harrison	34	Councillor G Randall	25
Councillor N Hoad	12	Councillor A Read	7
Councillor S Marshall	2	Councillor K Redhead (from 23/6/26)	2
Councillor W Merrin (from 23/6/25)	9	Councillor J Speller	10
Councillor S Mott	18	Councillor G Whiter	26
Councillor A Neil	22		

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 2025-26, Councillor Andrew Neil

Vice Chair of the Town Council 2025-26, Councillor Derek Harrison

Wickford Castledon Ward

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

Wickford North Ward

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 2025-26

This is the Annual Report for Wickford Town Council and it provides information on the Town Council's activities and expenditure for 2025-26. 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 2025, Councillor Andrew Neil was elected as Chair of the Town Council and Councillor Derek Harrison was appointed as Vice Chair.

Chair's Report by Councillor Andrew Neil



It has been a busy year for Wickford Town Council. We have opened new offices at Hall's Corner, strengthened our presence through Community Safety Officers and an Environmental Services Operative, and continued work with Borough Council Pride teams to improve the town's environment.

Discussions are ongoing with partners about the possible Saturday closure of the High Street to support the return of the Market. We have also taken over the Market Road allotments and will be improving these facilities for community use.

Congratulations to Wickford in Bloom on achieving a Gold Award and The Friends of Wickford Memorial Park who won a Silver Gilt Award for Public Parks at the 2025 Anglia in Bloom awards, we would like to thank all the volunteers of Wickford who help make our town a better place.

As we look ahead to spring, the Council remains committed to working in the best interests of Wickford and its residents.

Our Standards & Achievements

The Town Council achieved the Silver Award in the Local Government Awards Scheme. This shows the Council has met the required criteria in the sector and adds to the Foundation Award achieved last year.



The Town Council has signed the Civility and Respect Pledge, reinforcing our commitment to treating councillors, staff, and residents with respect and promoting positive standards in public life.



Wickford Market

In The Square, Market Lane every Saturday 9am to 3.30pm.
Regular High Street Markets also held in Wickford High Street.



Completed Projects & Events

Events 2025

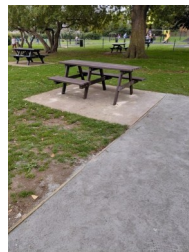
The Town Council held a number of successful events in 2025. VE Day 80 celebrations, Music event in the Park in June, Summer Fun throughout the school holidays, Switching on of the Christmas lights in the High Street and our Senior Citizens Christmas buffet lunch.

Tree planting

New trees were planted in Radwinter Avenue, St Andrews Church, Wickford station, The Wick Green, Riverside Walk and Nevendon Road/Cranfield Park roundabout.

Accessible Benches

Two new accessible benches have been installed at The Wickford Memorial Park and Nevendon Recreation Ground.



Wickford Market

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



New Councillors

Three new Councillors were co-opted this year: Councillors William Merrin, Laura Phillips and Kirk Redhead.



Community Speedwatch

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



Blue Plaques

We are pleased that our first two Blue Plaques have been installed.



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 2025/26 included the following:

Wickford Carnival £3,022

MyOTAS £1,990.66

ECFAEV £500

Parish of Wickford & Runwell £2,900

The scheme is open all year round and application forms are available on our website

www.wickfordtowncouncil.gov.uk

or contact the Town Council for further information.



Neighbourhood Plan for Wickford

The Town Council continues to progress the development of a Neighbourhood Plan for Wickford.

Introduced through the Localism Act 2011, Neighbourhood Planning provides communities with a valuable opportunity to shape future development in their local area. It enables residents and businesses to have a direct say in planning policies that will guide how Wickford evolves over the coming years.

A Neighbourhood Plan sets out a clear vision and a framework of policies for the area. It is developed by the community, reflecting local priorities, needs, and aspirations. Work is ongoing, and community involvement remains essential to ensuring the Plan represents a broad range of views. The Town Council welcomes participation from residents, businesses, and local stakeholders.

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

A dedicated Steering Group is leading the development of the Plan, and new members are always welcome. If you are interested in contributing, please register your interest with the Town Clerk by calling 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.

Kings Afternoon Tea

Friday 19 June, 12pm to 3pm

at the Wick Community Centre

Tickets on sale in May

Punch and Judy

Wednesday 27 May 2pm to 4pm

at Wickford Memorial Park

Music in The Park—Elton John

Saturday 11th July 7pm

at The Wickford Memorial Park

Summer Fun in the Park

Wednesday 22 & 29 July

Wednesday 5, 12, 19, 26 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!

Young Peoples Zone @ Wickford Carnival

Saturday 12 September 12pm

at Nevendon Recreation Ground

Christmas Lights Switch-On

Thursday 19th November 4pm onwards

Wickford High Street

Senior Citizens Christmas buffet lunch

Friday 4 December, 12pm to 3pm

at The Wick Community Centre

Tickets on sale in October

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



www.wickfordtowncouncil.gov.uk

Other Projects

For 2026-27, the Town Council has agreed to fund the following (subject to approval from other Authorities):

Town Boundary Signs - replacement/repair of the High Street railings - additional street furniture - community events - community speed watch - Community Safety Officers - Neighbourhood Plan - community engagement days, Market Road Allotments, new Town Council Office & Civic Centre in the former police station in London Road to support local services and community activity.

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.