



# Wixams News

Neighbourhood  
Watch

February 2020

Published by Wixams Neighbourhood Watch, part of Bedford & District NW Association



Wixams NW National Award  
for Community Cohesion  
London June 2014

Caring for the community - Without Prejudice



## Fuse Community Meeting

The Wixams Community Group have invited Wrenbridge, the developers of the planned **Fuse Business Park**, to come and discuss their plans with the Wixams community.

They will deliver a short presentation and then the floor will be open for questions from the audience.

The meeting will be held in the Munson room of the village hall at **8pm** on **Wednesday 26th February**. Please come along if you'd like to stay informed about planning and developments in Wixams.



Come along, even for half-an-hour. For last year's photos, see [wixams.org.uk/wnw/March19/WixamsNewsMarch19.pdf](http://wixams.org.uk/wnw/March19/WixamsNewsMarch19.pdf)

## Wixams Station - update

**The Wixams train station is closer to happening!**

The new East-West line station will now be in Bedford, rather than near the Wixams. This means the new East-West project will not delay the building of the Wixams station. The Wixams train station is supported and part-funded by L&Q Estates, Bedford Borough Council. See [eastwestrail.co.uk](http://eastwestrail.co.uk)

## Progress from Garden village to Warehouse village

When Gallagher/L&Q Estates (Barton Willmore) consulted people in Wixams, June 2017, they said the land north of Watson Road would be for houses. See for yourself - [www.wixams.org.uk/wnw/masterplan](http://www.wixams.org.uk/wnw/masterplan)

Questions: 1) Did their application for warehouse planning permission state they had consulted the people? 2) Did the application reference the June consultation? 3) What happened to all the feedback people provided? 4) Can we see the feedback or was it binned? 5) How legitimate is this warehouse planning? Answers in March edition of News!

## Wixams Parish Council

StreetWatch volunteers needed!



**"LOOK, LISTEN and REPORT"**

Juliet Wright the StreetWatch Scheme Coordinator for Bedfordshire Police attended the January council meeting to provide details of how the StreetWatch scheme works.

StreetWatch patrols are run by local residents, with the support of the police, to promote good citizenship and to support the community.

StreetWatch is about going for a walk in areas where crime and anti-social behaviour has been identified, getting to know people, and building up the sense of a community spirit. The physical presence of volunteers acts to deter crime and anti-social behaviour.

Training is very simple and will be provided. Volunteers commit to 2 hours a month to patrol in a group, wearing the high-vis jackets provided. Each patrol is registered with Force Control: what time and where you are going. It's entirely your choice where you want to go; you can even take the dog for a walk. After the patrol you feed back to Force Control anything they need to be aware of and to confirm you have finished the patrol. If you would like to volunteer then please either contact the clerk ([wixamspc@gmail.com](mailto:wixamspc@gmail.com)) or Juliet.Wright@bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk

### Precept 2020/21

The council has approved an increase to the precept (tax levy for the parish council) in-line with the increase in the number of Band D properties in Wixams. This corresponds to an increase in total precept from £49,830 to £60,800. Individual properties should see no increase in their tax towards the parish council. A band D household's individual tax bill should therefore remain at £42.14 per year. The increase will cover the costs for the implementation of new CCTV and Speed Feedback Signs.

### Planning



credit: [www.wixams.org/g-park](http://www.wixams.org/g-park)

You will no doubt be aware of a planning application for three warehouse-style employment units for the land north of Watson Road (19/02724/MAR). The Parish Council has objected to this application on a number of grounds:

- The overbearing impact and intrusion on privacy, noise and impact on green spaces,
- Traffic and road condition,
- Road safety and
- Requests consideration of broader employment opportunities.

You can find the full planning objection in the January Planning Committee meeting minutes on our website.

### CCTV and speed feedback signs

The parish council has exhausted all options to be allowed by the borough council to mount the new CCTV cameras, and the speed feedback signs, on streetlights. Installing new columns is therefore the only option; quotes are being sourced.

Cont.

## Reported crime

### Crimes reported in Wixams

**20/12** 17:00-21/12 09:00 Brooklands Ave Theft  
**24/12** 10:30-11:30 Nightingale Court Arson endangering life  
**27/12** 09:00 Robins Heath Other criminal damage to a vehicle  
**28/12** 00:00 Malicious Communications  
**31/12** 20:10 Breach of non-molestation order  
**01/01** 19:50 Brooklands Avenue Assault without Injury  
**02/01** 08:07-19:00 Stalking involving fear of violence  
**02/01** 17:51 Brooklands Avenue Theft from shops  
**03/01** 00:00 Bluebird Gardens Assault (ABH)  
**03/01** 00:00 Bluebird Gardens Assault (ABH)  
**04/01** 14:10 Green Lane Malicious Communications  
**13/01** 00:00 Green Lane Theft of a Cycle  
**13/01** 00:00 Green Lane Theft of a Cycle  
**15/01** 17:00- 19:15 Malicious Comms  
**16/01** 16:03 Malicious Communications  
**21/01** 10:10 Green Lane Theft of a Cycle  
**22/01** 20:59 Harassment - Putting people in fear of violence  
**22/01** 20:59 Malicious Communications  
**24/01** 19:00- 19:10 Harlequin Crescent Assault (ABH)  
**26/01** 18:07- 18:45 Brooklands Ave Theft from shops  
**27/01** 09:00- 15:00 Green Lane Theft of a Cycle

The crime report is provided by Bedfordshire Police with volunteer help from Bedford & District Neighbourhood Watch.

**CCTV is in operation in the Wixams.** Bedfordshire Police, in collaboration with Wixams Parish Council, are able to view footage if crimes have been committed. Note: the Police need a location and a time.

### 999 - Emergency

where there is a risk of:

- personal injury
- loss of life
- crime in action

### 101 - Non emergency

- Reporting a crime that is no longer in progress
- Giving information about a crime
- Reporting theft of property
- Contacting local police officer
- Getting update reported crime
- Suspicious incidents

To **report online** non-emergency crimes, incidents or give the police information, go to [www.bedfordshire.police.uk/report](http://www.bedfordshire.police.uk/report)

Additional contact methods can be found at [www.bedfordshire.police.uk/contact.aspx](http://www.bedfordshire.police.uk/contact.aspx) See also [www.police.uk](http://www.police.uk)

**Crimestoppers - 0800 555 111**  
[crimestoppers-uk.org](http://crimestoppers-uk.org)

For further information on **Wixams Neighbourhood Watch** see [www.wixams.org.uk/wnw](http://www.wixams.org.uk/wnw), facebook, or email Alan at [wnw@wixams.org.uk](mailto:wnw@wixams.org.uk)

**Bedford & District Neighbourhood Watch** - [bedfordnwh.ourwatch.org.uk](http://bedfordnwh.ourwatch.org.uk)

The aim of Wixams Neighbourhood Watch (WNW) is to help develop safer local communities and improve the quality of life. Members of WNW deliver the Wixams News in Wixams.

See LakeviewEvents on fb



**Saturday, 9th, May, 1-6 PM**  
**Lakeview Village Hall**

## Opinion

### Independence 31 January 2020

Let us follow the wise advice of Maajid Nawaz @MaajidNawaz  
 "Let us not dwell on the negative, rather let us transcend. On this eve of #BrexitDay, let us all now come together to build a positive, outward facing vision for a new chapter. For our children. For Britain"

To bring everyone back together instead of continuing to further polarise our country means that you do not enforce your ideology on other people. This requires toleration and respect for people and their freedom of speech, however much you disagree with them. A tolerant person respects the rights of others even when they disagree with them. And that requires a degree of humility.

### Future of Wixams News

At Easter I plan to step down from producing Wixams News. Each year as more houses are built the job of collecting information, advertising, invoicing, graphics layout and delivery gets bigger!

The Wixams Neighbourhood Watch will discuss future options with interested parties. If you feel able to contribute in the future please get in touch (you can express interest without committing).

The Wixams News in its current form has been produced for 5 years. Adverts cover the costs and there is no shortage of advertisers.

Thanks - Alan



**Wixams News deadline - Friday 6th March 2020** for any copy, news adverts or changes to existing adverts. Contact [wnw@wixams.org.uk](mailto:wnw@wixams.org.uk) 47 Green Lane, Wixams, Bedford, MK42 6DA [www.wixams.org.uk/wnw](http://www.wixams.org.uk/wnw) So as to include litterpick, the next Wixams News will be published late March.

### Wixams Parish Council cont.

#### Next Parish Council Meetings

Our next meetings will be on **17th February, 16th March and 20th April** at Lakeview Village Hall – members of the public are very welcome.

Look out for our agenda for the next Parish Council meeting which will always be published on our website at least 3 working days before each meeting. You can also view past minutes and find out who your councillors are, how you can contact them and what they look like!

Our website is: [www.wixamsparishcouncil.bedsparishes.gov.uk](http://www.wixamsparishcouncil.bedsparishes.gov.uk) (or just Google 'Wixams Parish Council')

Robbin Brough, Clerk to the Council  
 Wixams Parish Council

[wixamspc@gmail.com](mailto:wixamspc@gmail.com)

Tel 07554443800

#### Benches and a noticeboard...

Installing new benches around Wixams, and a noticeboard for village 2, is taking time due to the complexities of varying land ownership with the developers; especially where land is in the middle of the legal process of adoption by the Borough Council. This will continue to be pursued.

#### Wixams Parish Councillors

Anthony Pedder (Chair)  
[anthonypedder@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:anthonypedder@hotmail.co.uk)

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[saqhib.pc@gmail.com](mailto:saqhib.pc@gmail.com)

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 Sergio Fowles

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Anthony Musgrove  
[347musgrove@gmail.com](mailto:347musgrove@gmail.com)



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## DAWNUNTILDUSK CHILDCARE Lakeview Pre-School Chinese New Year 2020



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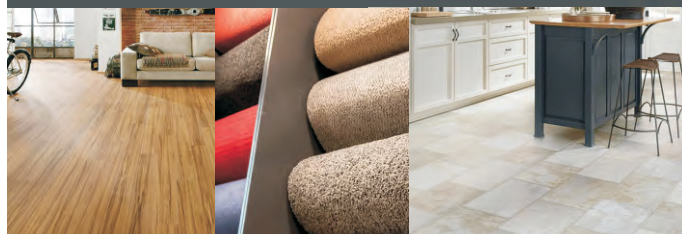
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**Councillor GRAEME COOMBES**

Reporting to Wixams February 2020

**G-Park Warehouse Development  
– Land North of Watson Road**

Along with other Wixams residents, I have sent in my comments opposing G-Park warehouse development. When the B&M and Aldi depots were considered, they were on land meant for housing. The Borough Council therefore agreed to change the area by Watson Road from employment use to housing instead, to offset the potential loss of 1000 houses. The Council failed both to follow up on this promise and to find an alternative route for vehicle access, as I had requested them to do. I have now insisted this application be decided by Planning Committee in public, rather than by Planning Officers behind closed doors.

**Potholes** - Considerable damage has been done to the roads around Wixams by lorries entering from the A6 to travel to existing warehouse depots. The Causeway and Bedford Road are full of cracks and parts of the roads resemble the surface of the Moon. I have reported this to the Borough Highways team, who have been out and patched things up, but I have requested they return and do a proper resurfacing job and remark the white lines around the road junctions.

**Wixams Station – East West Rail** - The route chosen for East West Rail has been announced and trains on the new line from Oxford to Cambridge will travel through Bedford town centre. This is good news for Wixams, as it means that Wixams Station will be a standalone project on the north/south Midland Mainline, rather than a crossover station incorporating East West Rail, which would have delayed delivery of the station until the end of the decade. As things stand, Borough Council officers advise me we are on track for delivering Wixams Station by 2024.

Tel: 07815 302 318

E-mail: wilshamstead.ward@yahoo.co.uk

Facebook: Cllr. Graeme Coombes



## WIXAMS TURFING & LANDSCAPING SERVICES.



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and have been in the Turfing & Landscaping  
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E-mail - [wixamsturf@gmail.com](mailto:wixamsturf@gmail.com)



Contact Jason  
01234 743302  
07484651015



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Wixams News delivered by 25 members of  
Wixams Neighbourhood Watch