



# Wixams News

Neighbourhood Watch

January 2019

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

## Parking...



Leave space for children, buggies and wheelchairs that are using the pavement.

## Action Fraud

National Fraud & Cyber Crime Reporting Centre

0300 123 2040

Action Fraud has experienced an increase in the reporting of malicious calls, voicemails, text messages or emails to members of the public purporting to be from HMRC.

The fraudsters state that as a result of their non-payment of tax or other duty, the victim is liable to prosecution or other legal proceedings such as repossession of belongings to settle the balance but can avoid this by arranging for payment to be made immediately by method such as bank transfer or by iTunes gift cards.

- Always question unsolicited requests for your personal or financial information.
- Instead, contact the company directly using trusted methods such as a known email address or phone number.
- Listen to your instincts. If something feels wrong then it is usually right to question it.
- Don't be pressured into making a decision.
- Report Phishing attempts.

HM Revenue and Customs Alert



New year message from Cllr Graeme Coombes

My very best wishes for a happy, healthy and prosperous 2019 to all Wixams residents. As our village continues to expand, let's make Wixams a welcoming place for all who choose to make this their home.

## "Crime cannot flourish in a Community that Cares"

It is not just about reducing burglary figures – it's about creating communities who care and brings local people together to make a real contribution to improving their lives.

[bedfordnhw.ourwatch.org.uk](http://bedfordnhw.ourwatch.org.uk)

## Wixams Parish Council

### Precept

Although final approval has not yet been given (vote to be held in the January meeting), it is likely that the precept will rise this year from £40,735 to £50,000 to provide for a sharp increase in the number of people living in Wixams, the provision of mobile security, and an increase in the amount of grant funding available for local voluntary groups.

We also need to plan forwards to another expected increase in the population of Wixams.

### Mobile security patrols and CCTV

During the month of December we piloted the use of mobile security patrols around Wixams. Cannons Guard Security carried out the patrols and gave patrol reports back to the council. It is likely that the patrols will mainly take place during the summer months, when they are most needed.

We are still in the final stages of receiving quotes for improvements to the CCTV; we have now taken four CCTV companies on a tour around Wixams, but have struggled to get the quotes through afterwards... we are now fairly close to finalising this.

### Thank you to Councillor

#### Caroline Johnson

Caroline is unfortunately leaving the council as she's moving away from the area. The councillors wish to express their thanks for all her hard work and diligence, especially around the area of the Parish Action Plan/Public Open Forum.

### Councillor vacancy

Due to Caroline's resignation, we have an open position on the council. Council meetings are monthly. The councillor positions are unpaid, but if you're interested in the inner workings of Wixams then you will find the role enlightening and you have the opportunity to steer the focus and progress of the parish council.

### May 2019 elections

Every four years elections are held so that you can choose your parish councillors. The next elections are in May this year. If there are fewer applicants than positions (as is currently the case) then it's unlikely a vote will happen and the present councillors will stay in their roles. We await full details of the election from the Borough Council, who manage the process.

### Grants

A reminder: We have extended our grant funding from £5,000 to £10,000 each year to fund local groups. To apply for a grant you must be a charity, community group or local voluntary organisation with a dedicated bank account, operating or providing a service to the community of Wixams. The Council defines a voluntary group as a not-for-profit organisation, set up and run by a voluntary, unpaid management committee.

Grants can be offered on a one-off basis to support a particular project or the purchase of equipment, to new groups wishing to start up, or as a contribution towards running costs. Please contact the Clerk for further details.

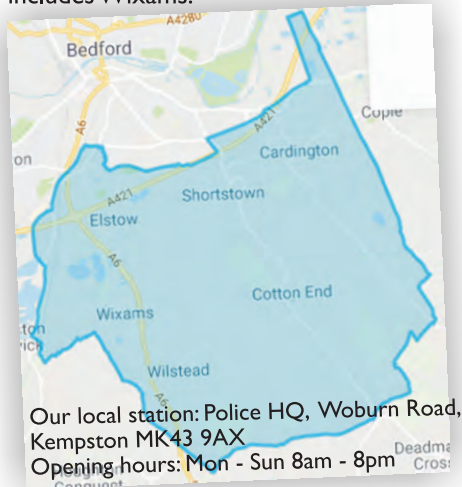
### Entrance walls/planters

We received the required three quotes for the planters/walls at the two entrances to Wixams and are in the process of agreeing the exact locations with the landowners. These will be the same style as the ones you see at the entrances to Wilstead. We have not yet chosen which of the three contractors will carry out the work.

# Reported crime

## Crimes reported in Wixams

A 'glitch in the system' means that this month we cannot identify the street/village for reported crimes in the area 'Eastcotts and Wilstead 709', which is the area that includes Wixams.



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

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## Wixams Parish Council cont. Clerk to the Parish Council

We are pleased to say that Robbin Brough will move from her shorter-term position as Interim Clerk to the Council, to take up the Clerk position on an ongoing basis.

Previously, Robbin had taken on the role just to cover the gap between clerks. The position will remain part 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**-[bedfordnhw.ourwatch.org.uk](http://bedfordnhw.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.

**Whether it is you, a friend, relative or colleague who has been a victim of crime**  
Signpost is the right way for you to find the right help  
[www.signpostforbedfordshire.com](http://www.signpostforbedfordshire.com)

**From Keech hospice**  
Thank you to a brilliant team of collectors in Wixams on 15th December. It was great seeing all the children outside the school and lots of others around the village. The collection came to an excellent £495.90.

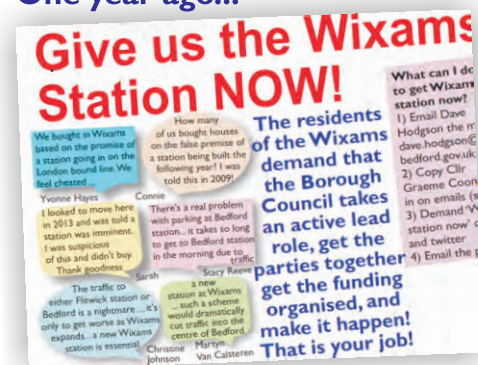
## Next Parish Council Meetings

Our next meetings will be on **15th January 2019, 18th February 2019 and 19th March from 7:30pm** 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 07563 108666

# Opinion

One year ago...



Sometimes it is very tempting to 'give-up!' 'It won't happen!'. 'No one will listen!'. 'It can't change!'.

Well, it did happen! Your protests one year ago in January 2018 have meant that the Wixams station funding is now in place and we are waiting for the results of the feasibility study at the end of this year.

Communities do not just happen! A community is created by everyone contributing in many, many small ways. On page 3 are just some ways in which you can contribute.

We need a volunteer to **deliver Wixams News** in Lakeside Close, Millbrook Close, Little Quay, Brooklands Ave (60 houses). Please contact us if you can help.

*"Passionate people are always ready to stand for their dreams even if no one stands with them"*  
- Israelmore Ayivor

*"Stand up for what you believe in, even if you stand alone."*  
— Suzy Kassem

Thanks Alan



**Wixams News deadline - Friday 1st February** 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) The next Wixams News will be published mid February.

## Wixams Parish Councillors

- Anthony Pedder (Chair) [anthonypedder@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:anthonypedder@hotmail.co.uk)
- Saqhib Ali [saqhib.pc@gmail.com](mailto:saqhib.pc@gmail.com)
- Graeme Coombes [wilshamstead.ward@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:wilshamstead.ward@yahoo.co.uk)
- Charlotte Day [lottie\\_day@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:lottie_day@yahoo.co.uk)
- Laetitia Gamble [laetitiarw@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:laetitiarw@hotmail.co.uk)
- Chris Martin [chris@beyondprofit.co.uk](mailto:chris@beyondprofit.co.uk)
- Tracey Flower [tarnaud68@icloud.com](mailto:tarnaud68@icloud.com)
- Janine Alli-Balogun [janine.allibalogun1@gmail.com](mailto:janine.allibalogun1@gmail.com)



## Get Involved in Your Community

There are lots of people working behind the scenes to keep Wixams moving forward and we have lots of opportunities for you to take part in.



There is an excellent **Village Hall** – Lakeview Village Hall – which is run by a Management Committee of Directors and Committee Members and we are always looking for new

blood to take part. It can be very rewarding so, if you feel you could offer some of your time, please contact the Chairman, Colin West, on 01234 743752 or email [colinjohnwest4@gmail.com](mailto:colinjohnwest4@gmail.com) for further details.



Within our village we have people who need a little extra help to do the things we all take for granted. By joining the **Wixams Good Neighbour Group**, you could make a difference to their lives. If you are interested, please telephone 07929 656674 for further details.

There is an open position on the **Parish Council**. The meetings are monthly. The councillor positions are unpaid, but allow someone to make a valuable contribution to the development of the community.

## Who's Who? The 1st Wixams cubs



The **1st Wixams cubs** are in full swing now and we have enjoyed many fun activities in the lead up to Christmas. As part of our community care, we decided to start a collection for the Bedford Foodbank. This is a great charity which collects food and toiletries for local families who are in need of some extra help. We decided that at this special time of year it was time to give something back. I'm very pleased to say that the Wixams community really stepped up and we managed to deliver two large boxes and multiple bags to the food bank in December.

We are also planning a trip to the Foodbank to learn even more about the charity and how our donations help others.

1st Wixams Cub leaders wish to extend a huge thank you to all who donated, including the Budgens Wixams store, who also donated a Christmas hamper.

If you are interested in your child joining the Beavers, Cubs or Scouts groups please contact us on [1stwixamsscouts.org.uk](http://1stwixamsscouts.org.uk) or find us on facebook.

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### Councillor GRAEME COOMBES

Reporting to Wixams January 2019

First of all a **very Happy New Year** to all Wixams residents. As we turn the page on 2018 and look forward to 2019, the growth of Wixams looks set to continue, as village 2 is moving forward and new roads are being put in place to connect us with the communities in villages 3 and 4, towards the B530 and Stewartby.

I have recently given some thought to the current lack of a town centre at Wixams. On a recent visit to Great Denham, another new development site similar to Wixams, I noticed how their town centre has become a focal point for their town, with a post office, health centre, café, off-licence, supermarket and a small community of shops (with plenty of parking!) at the heart of the development.

Whilst it has always been intended that Wixams should also have a town centre – the Wixams Master Plan clearly states "there will be a town centre" – it has been a long time coming. This is yet one more thing to add to the long delayed station and lack of a promised local health centre.

Whilst each of the 4 Wixams villages is meant to have its own local facilities, the town centre would provide Wixams with the ability to make this a much more sustainable community, with GP services and other facilities available locally, rather than having to travel distances.

Developers and planners need to up their game and give details of how the town centre will look and when we can expect it to take shape.

Tel: 07815 302 318 E-mail: [wilshamstead.ward@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:wilshamstead.ward@yahoo.co.uk)  
Facebook: Cllr. Graeme Coombes

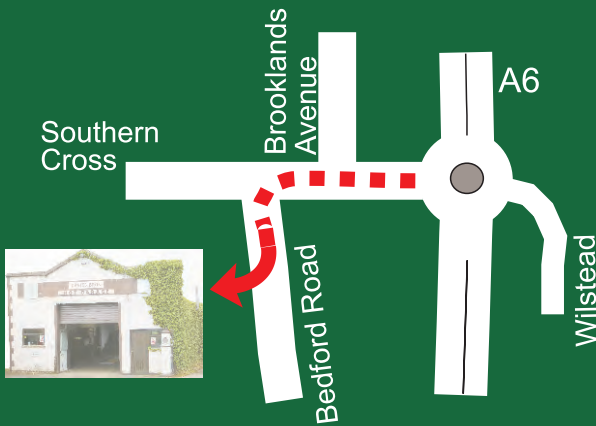
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 ages 4-10, 3 to 4pm  
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Wixams News delivered by 25 members of Wixams Neighbourhood Watch