



# Wixams News

Neighbourhood  
Watch

June 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



You can report fraud or cybercrime to Action Fraud any time of the day or night using our online reporting tool. Reporting online is quick and easy. The tool will guide you through simple questions to identify what has happened and our advisors are available twenty four hours to give you help and advice if you need it.

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See the website for more information:  
[www.actionfraud.police.uk/reporting-fraud-and-cyber-crime](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk/reporting-fraud-and-cyber-crime)

## Are Wixams residents about to choke on diesel fumes?

The beautiful Wixams garden villages era may be about to finish.

Everyone expects building a new town is going to generate dust. However we know that there is a day when building will finish.

But the massive new B&M warehouse that we can all see on the skyline have just put in an **application to use 130 vehicles and 450 trailers**. And, with the growth in the size of the commercial expansion zone, that is just the start! Unless an alternative route is found, all these diesel trucks and trailers will be filling up the Causeway, the 'harbour' area and the Retirement village with noise, fumes and heavy traffic.

See Cllr Graeme Coombes column on p3

Contact Bedford Borough Council and ask for an **alternative access route**.



### Bedford River Festival 2020 – scam warning

We have been made aware of a scam Facebook event and Eventbrite page promoting tickets for the 2020 Bedford River Festival.

Please be advised that Bedford River Festival is a free event and you don't need a ticket to attend. Therefore any attempt to promote ticket sales or ticket registration for the River Festival is an illicit one.

[www.facebook.com/bedspolice](http://www.facebook.com/bedspolice)

## Wixams Parish Council

### Annual Parish meeting

In May we held the Annual Parish meeting (your meeting) and our Annual Parish Council meeting. The council would like to thank those who attended these meetings. The Chairman's Annual Statement was presented as below.

### May 2019 elections

May was the end of a four-year term of office for councillors. Democratic Services at the Borough Council confirmed the election for Parish Councillors was uncontested. This means there was no election for Parish Councillors on 2nd May as we had fewer applicants than positions (7 out of 15).

The councillors remaining for the next four-year term of office are Chairman Tony Pedder, Charlotte Day, Saqhib Ali, Graeme Coombes, Samantha Mardel, Tracey Flower and Janine Alli-Balogun. Ashley Carr was coopted at the May meeting. We were sad that Laetitia Gamble and Chris Martin chose not to stand as councillors again and we thank them for the time they invested in the council.



### Silent Soldier

In November we installed the Silent Soldier silhouette in the centre of Wixams and at Wixams Academy. The Bedfordshire Royal British Legion 'Silent Soldier' marks the sacrifice of those who fell in the four years of war leading up to the Armistice in November 1918.

### Allotments

The Lakeview Allotment Association (LAA) are now very well established and continue to provide good support to their members. The LAA have this year secured funding from the Parish Council to fund equipment purchases, annual equipment maintenance costs on equipment previously purchased by the Parish Council, installation of security gates and other security items. Anyone interested in acquiring a plot should contact the Parish Clerk to be added to a short waiting list.

### Grants

Our Grants Committee was delighted to award a £1200 grant to Wixams 1st Scouts to cover camping equipment costs and £1100 to Lakeview Primary School PTA to cover the costs of 3 school laptops. We have increased our grant funding to a total of £10,000 each year to fund local groups. This can include spend on capital projects or a smaller amount to cover running costs. Please do contact the Clerk for further information.

### Planning

The Planning Committee has, as in previous years, had a large number of applications to consider this year. They have ranged from loft conversions, extensions and conservatories to larger developments such as Village 2, strategic infrastructure works and the erection of an 80-bedroom care home. If you have any comments regarding proposed applications, do contact the Clerk who will be able to advise the Planning Committee accordingly as your views will be taken into account.

### CCTV & Mobile Security Patrols

Currently the system consists of high definition cameras on the two road entrances/exits that serve Wixams, namely Southern Cross on the South side and Bedford Road between Brooklands Avenue and The Causeway to the North.

The Parish Council has approved the purchase of additional cameras to improve this setup and will expand the network of cameras as Wixams grows.

The Council also initiated the use of mobile security patrols around Wixams towards the end of 2018. Cannons Guard Security carry out the patrols and give patrol reports back to the council. It's early days, but the patrols appear to be effective at disrupting anti-social and criminal behaviour and in providing intelligence that can be used by Beds Police.

Cont.

## Reported crime

### Crimes reported in Wixams 2018

1/12/2017-4/02/2018 Sexual

#### January-April 2019

01/01 Sexual

10/01 Sexual communications

07/02 Brooklands Avenue

Assault without Injury

11/04 13:10-12/04 12:00 Green Lane

Theft of Mail

16/04 01:00-16/04 02:00 Kenneth Way  
Theft

23/04 00:01-27/04 00:01 Brooklands Ave

Theft from a motor vehicle

24/04 15:19 Brooklands Avenue

Theft from shops and stalls

#### May 2019

13/05 00:00 Nightingale Court

Assault occasioning actual bodily harm

13/05 00:30-00:50 Racially or religiously  
aggravated assault or ABH

14/05 00:00 Racially or religiously  
aggravated intentional harassment

13/05 00:01-14/05 00:01 Kenneth Way

Threats to destroy or damage property

15/05 00:00 Harassment - without  
violence (course of conduct)

16/05 00:00 A6

Possession with intent to supply - Class B  
- Cannabis

19/05 00:00 Harrier Leys

Having possession of Class B - Cannabis

20/05 00:00 Harrier Leys

Having possession of Class B - Cannabis

25/05 01:00-14:50 Millbrook Close

Assault without Injury

*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** - [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.

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## Opinion



If your children have access to devices connected to the internet, start educating them about staying safe online at an early age. Have regular conversations with them about who they are contacting and which games they are playing.

Remind them that not everyone is who they claim to be, and some people create fake accounts online for the purpose of exploitation.

It's important to remind them not to share any personal information on social media, like their home address or which school they go to.

You can find more information on how to teach your children to stay safe on the Safer Internet Day website.

The website is [www.saferinternet.org.uk](http://www.saferinternet.org.uk). It has games, quizzes, films and advice to help you get the most out of the internet while staying safe online. The Primary Zone for ages 3-11yrs and resources for 11-19yrs. Information from [www.saferinternet.org.uk](http://www.saferinternet.org.uk)

Thanks Alan



### Wixams News deadline - Friday

**28th June** 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 July.

## Wixams Parish Council cont.

### Average speed cameras

The Parish Council approached the Borough Council in 2018 with an interest in having average speed cameras installed on Green Lane and Bedford Road. The Parish Council has pledged funding of £15k from savings towards the cameras, to expedite the installation. Borough Highways have already added us to the waiting list for the cameras for when the next pot of Borough funding is allocated. This action is based on the results from the speed recording data boxes that were placed by the police on Bedford Road in September 2018, which evidenced a speed problem.

### Street Ranger & Annual Litterpick

The council recruited a Street Ranger to litterpick throughout the parish and she's been with us for over a year now,

carrying out a great job. In March of this year we had, in conjunction with Neighbourhood Watch and other organisations, a very successful village litterpick once again.

### 2019 Budget/Precept setting

The council this year increased the precept from £40,700 to £49,800 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, as mentioned above. We also need to plan forwards to another expected increase in the population of Wixams.

As the precept has increased in-line with the increase in properties, it shows only as a minor change to each household's tax bill.

Information on the Parish Action Plan (PAP), Tree initiative, and Lifebags is available in the full report at [www.wixamsparishcouncil.bedsparishes.gov.uk](http://www.wixamsparishcouncil.bedsparishes.gov.uk)

### Conclusion

Our new Clerk, Robbin Brough, has now been with us for a year and we thank her for carrying out a smooth handover from our outgoing Clerk, Diane Robins. Finally let me say a thank you to all my fellow councillors for their time and commitment during the past year.

Many thanks, Cllr Anthony P.J. Pedder  
Chairman - May 2019

Robbin Brough, Clerk to the Council  
Wixams Parish Council  
[wixamspc@gmail.com](mailto:wixamspc@gmail.com)  
Tel 07563 108666





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## Are you worried about your child?

Do they suffer from anxiety, stress or phobias? Are they at risk of being excluded from school? Do they have nightmares or disturbed sleep?

Play Therapy could help, it's a form of counselling where play is used to help children communicate their feelings, and to move forward from traumatic events or difficult periods in their lives. I work with children aged 4-16, both inside and out of school. Please call for an informal chat. Tel: **07485-101904**

Email: [vprice@soothingsoulsplaytherapy.com](mailto:vprice@soothingsoulsplaytherapy.com)  
[www.soothingsoulsplaytherapy.com](http://www.soothingsoulsplaytherapy.com) Mrs. V. Price


Bsc. Hons. PG Cert, PTUK. Certified Practitioner of Therapeutic Play Skills




The pollution rating at MK42 6DA is

# 1 out of 6

(good)



A rating of 1 means there is a **low chance** of average nitrogen dioxide levels exceeding the annual legal limit. The air in your area is generally clean, although there may still be some high concentrations of NO2 located close to major roads.

This is the same as the average for Bedford, which is 1 out of 6 (good).

Source: MappAir100 by EarthSense

If you cannot view the postcode search, please click [here](#) to reload the page.

Although dirty air doesn't kill people directly, it's estimated to contribute to shortening the lives of 40,000 people a year in the UK. Pollution is thought to undermine the health of people with heart or lung problems.

Current results for Wixams. Source and postcode search:  
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-42566393>

Diesel vehicles are a key source of NO2 gas, which has been linked to respiratory disease.  
Source: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-42571828>





# THE ELSTOW CRICKET WORLD CUP 2019



## 4 TEAMS

Elstow England sponsored by Flourish Financial Planning  
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Bedford India sponsored by Lall Engineering  
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## 2 DAYS

Friday 28th June (6PM-10PM) & Saturday 29th June (10AM-10PM)  
@ The Warren, Elstow Playing Fields. Wilstead Road, Elstow, Beds. MK42 9YD


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See <https://twitter.com/elstowcc> for details



**Councillor GRAEME COOMBES**  
Reporting to Wixams June 2019

This month there was an application made for a Goods Vehicle Operator Licence by B&M Stores for 130 vehicles and 450 trailers at their new depot in the Wixams Northern Expansion Zone.

Although I recognise that the Northern Expansion Zone was always going to result in commercial use, I have for some time expressed concern about large numbers of commercial vehicles entering Wixams via The Causeway and believe this will cause considerable disturbance to people living at the northern end of Wixams, around the roads off Brooklands Avenue facing towards the lake, as well as for those moving into the new ExtraCare home.

I contacted the Transport Commissioner's office, who are responsible for granting licences. They advised me that B&M already hold an operator's licence for 30 vehicles and 32 trailers at their Northampton Depot and this is an extension of that licence to cover their new depot at Wixams.

I have therefore submitted a formal objection to the licence application and will again raise the issue of commercial vehicle access with the Bedford Borough Highways team. The 2 depots planned for the Wixams Expansion Zone should bring job opportunities, but we don't want the quality of life for local residents worsened by endless streams of commercial traffic adding to the traffic problems we already experience at Wixams.

The Borough Highways team therefore need to find an alternative route for all the expected extra traffic.

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



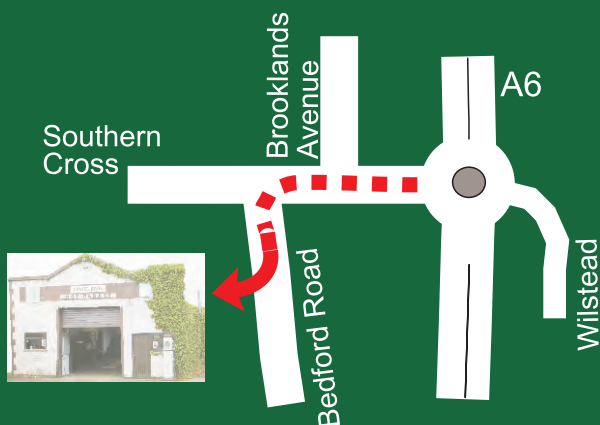
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every 2nd & 4th Sunday  
 everyone is  
 Welcome to  
**Christ the Word Wixams**  
**church service**  
**10.30-11.30am**  
 Munson Room, Lakeview Village Hall  
[www.wixams.org.uk/christtheword](http://www.wixams.org.uk/christtheword)

**Wixams Sunday Club**  
 ages 4-10, 3 to 4pm  
 every Sunday term time  
 Lakeview Village Hall

**IGNITE**  
 Ages 10-14, Tuesday  
 6.30-7.45pm  
 Alan & Anne Pibworth  
 Chris & Becca Clarke  
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# Lakeside Fish & Chips

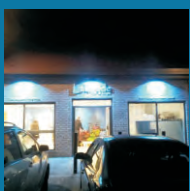
Lakeside offers a variety of fresh and homemade choices for all the family.

Fish wraps and fish tacos if you are in the mood for something different or mini meals for those who want a lighter option.

Do come in and give us a try if you haven't already.

We look forward to meeting and feeding you soon.

Mark & Helen



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## Wixams Turfing & Landscaping Services

Hi my name is Jason, I have lived in Wixams for 8 years and have been in the Turfing & Landscaping Business for 10 years

I would like to bring my experience to your outside space so that you can enjoy it throughout the year. If you would like a full or part transformation or simply a garden tidy or haven't the time for upkeep of your garden please give me a call or drop me an email and I will be pleased to give you a free quote.

E-mail [wixamsturf@gmail.com](mailto:wixamsturf@gmail.com)  
 Contact Jason 01234 743302, 07484651015

Wixams News delivered by 25 members of Wixams Neighbourhood Watch