



Wixams News

Neighbourhood Watch

November 2018

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



Wixams NW National Award for Community Cohesion London June 2014

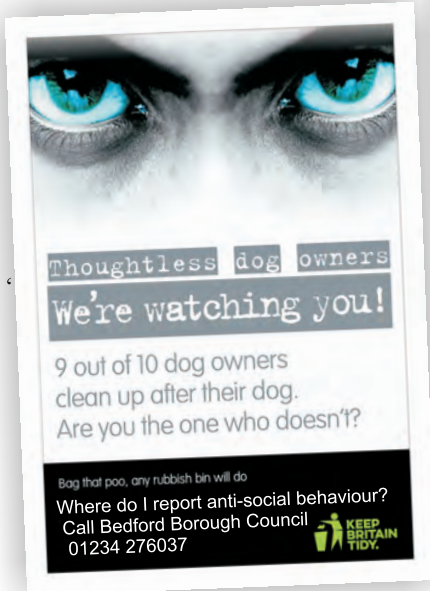
Caring for the community - Without Prejudice



Keep up-to-date on the Station



Bedford Borough Council has formally agreed to bridge the funding gap on the Wixams Station project, as part of the revised Capital Works programme
Cllr Graeme Coombes



See the Beds Police advice on stopping burglary, driving, alcohol, consent and also cyber crime -



www.bedfordshire.police.uk/information-and-services/Advice/Christmas



Wixams Parish Council

Lifebags

We have purchased two inflatable rescue lifebags as promoted by Bedford Fire Service: one for Dane Lane lake and one for the lake next to Budgens. These should be installed over the next few months. The lifebags are stored in a coded box; the code can be obtained by calling 999.



Security

We continue to look for quotes to improve CCTV provision. In addition, we are investigating the costs of providing a part time mobile security patrol for Wixams. I hadn't expected it to be so difficult to get security companies to quote for work, so would welcome contact from companies with an active interest in quoting...

Speeding

The council is investigating potential solutions to speeding in Wixams with Chris Pettifer (Head of Transport Operations Bedford Borough Council). Borough Highways have already added us to the waiting list for average speed cameras for when the next pot of funding is allocated, should we wish to take this up.

This action is based on the results from the speed recording data boxes that were placed by the police on Bedford Road in September, which evidenced that the road has a speed problem. The police have confirmed they will be carrying out manned speed checks, but do not see this as a permanent solution.

Grants

We are extending 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.

Parish Action Plan

We are acting on feedback gathered as part of the Parish Action Plan: to start with, ensuring borough council waste bins are being regularly emptied, adding new bins and targeting littering hotspots.

Reported crime

Crimes reported in Wixams

- 01/07-31/08** Harrier Leys
Harassment - without violence
- 09/09** Linnet Lane
Assault occasioning actual bodily harm
- 2016** (Eastcotts and Wilstead area)
Sexual
- 15/09** Bluebird Gardens
Assault occasioning actual bodily harm
- 21/09** Brooklands Avenue
Criminal damage to a vehicle
- 23/09** Brooklands Avenue
Assault occasioning actual bodily harm
- 27-28/09** Harlequin Crescent
Burglary - Business And Community
- 08/10** Brooklands Avenue
Assault occasioning actual bodily harm
- 10/10** Linnet Lane
Assault occasioning actual bodily harm
- 15/10** Brooklands Avenue
Theft if not classified elsewhere
- 16/10** Linnet Lane
Causing int. harassment, alarm or distress
- 22/10** Magpie Gardens
Criminal damage to a vehicle (<£5,000)
- 24/10** Brooklands Avenue
Theft from shops and stalls
- 27/10** Brooklands Avenue
Assault without Injury - Common assault and battery

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 Additional contact methods can be found at www.bedfordshire.police.uk/contact.aspx See also www.police.uk

Crimestoppers - 0800 555 111
crimestoppers-uk.org

For further information on **Wixams Neighbourhood Watch** see www.wixams.org.uk/wnw, facebook, or email Alan at wnw@wixams.org.uk

Bedford & District Neighbourhood Watch - 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

Litter litter ...

So why do we still have a litter problem in Wixams - and in the UK - in 2018?

The Parish Council have shown great initiative in employing Street Rangers to keep litter under control; they do a fantastic job.

But why is there litter in the first place? A bad place for litter is the unofficial lay-by used by vehicles leaving the Tarmac quarry near Elstow recycling centre. Another bad place is opposite, where construction workers for Galliford Try park their cars - see below.



Schools in the UK have gone to enormous lengths to educate people on how we should care for the environment. It seems - at least in part - to have failed. Why?

A few years ago a person got off the bus and then deliberately smashed their glass bottle on the road. They were identified and reported to the police. Nothing happened! I guess a bottle simply doesn't attract enough "points" to merit attention! There are less police, more violent crimes and we know the government hasn't funded the resources. (Kathryn Holloway, Beds Police and Crime Commissioner, has recently submitted an emergency bid of £4.571m). We need education. We also need enforcement. But more than anything, it is a 'heart' problem. Thanks - Alan



Wixams News deadline - Friday 30th November for any copy, news adverts or changes to existing adverts. Contact wnw@wixams.org.uk 47 Green Lane, Wixams, Bedford, MK42 6DA www.wixams.org.uk/wnw The next Wixams News will be published mid December.

Wixams Parish Council cont. Planning

The council has received a consultation letter for the development of an **80-bedroom older persons care home** to be built by Hamberley Development. The proposed site is on Bedford road, north of Brooklands roundabout. No formal planning application has yet been received. I can make the consultation letter available upon request.

How can you find information on local planning applications? It is very easy! Simply go to the Bedford Borough Council website - www.bedford.gov.uk and select Environment and Planning followed by Search Planning Applications. It helps if you know the Application Reference.

Next Parish Council Meeting

Our next meetings will be on **19th November 2018, 18th December 2018 and 15th January 2019** from 7:30pm at Lakeview Village Hall - members of the public are very welcome - we even provide refreshments! 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 (or just Google 'Wixams Parish Council')

Robbin Brough, Clerk to the Council
Wixams Parish Council
wixamspc@gmail.com Tel 07563 108666

Wixams Parish Councillors

- Anthony Pedder (Chair)
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- Saqhib Ali
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- Graeme Coombes
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- Caroline Johnson
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chris@beyondprofit.co.uk
- Tracey Flower
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- Janine Alli-Balogun
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Bedford Neighbourhood Watch has joined forces with the England Illegal Money Lending Team (IMLT) to raise awareness of loan sharks and where help can be found.



The IMLT is a government agency set up in 2004 that investigates and prosecutes loan sharks whilst providing support to victims and communities under the control of illegal money lenders.

Unlicensed illegal money lenders, or "loan sharks" as they are more commonly known, target individuals, charging exorbitant rates of interest and using fear and intimidation to recover monies 'owed'.

The team have secured more than 380 prosecutions for loan sharks, leading to nearly 330 years' worth of custodial sentences. £74,000,000 of illegal debt has been written off with over 28,000 people helped. Residents are encouraged to contact the IMLT if they have been the victim of a loan shark and advised of alternative affordable lending options.

How do I know if I'm a victim? If you can answer yes to one or more of these questions you might be borrowing from a loan shark:

- Did they offer you a cash loan without any paperwork?
- Did they add huge amounts of interest or APR to your loan?
- Have they threatened you?
- Are you scared of people finding out?
- Have they taken your bank card, post office card, passport, watch or other valuables from you?

You are not in trouble if you have borrowed cash or have been paying back a loan from an illegal money lender, the loan shark is. They are the people committing a crime, not you.

To report a loan shark, call the 24 hour confidential hotline on 0300 555 2222, email reportaloanshark@stoploansharks.gov.uk or visit www.stoploansharks.co.uk.

Who's Who? Wixxy the scarecrow



Year 4 pupils at **Wixams Tree Primary School** had great fun designing and making 'Wixxy the scarecrow' for a competition run by Frost Garden centre in Willington during their design and technology lessons. Throughout the project the children developed team building skills, sharing tasks and ideas so that every member of the class contributed in some way to creating 'Wixxy'. We are all delighted we came third in the competition with prizes including bulbs for our new planters.

wixamstreeprimary.co.uk



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panpdgels@outlook.com

Sarah



Councillor GRAEME COOMBES
Reporting to Wixams November 2018

1. Covanta incinerator

At the October meeting of Bedford Council, I proposed a motion on Covanta which requested:

- Bedford Borough Council provides financial support to BACI in relation to the Judicial Review
- That the Borough Council commits not to use the incinerator should it proceed and that it will seek to persuade other Councils not to use it either.

This is an important issue for Wixams residents and I therefore felt it appropriate that the Council should agree to these proposals.

After much discussion, these points were ultimately approved and the Mayor agreed a £500 contribution to BACI at the meeting.

Sadly, the legal challenge by BACI has just been dismissed. What we now need regarding Covanta is concrete, forward thinking action to prevent the incinerator from going ahead. Ultimately, weakening the business case for the incinerator, by refusing to use it and getting others to agree the same, is what will defeat Covanta.

2. A6 – temporary speed restrictions and repairs

Also in October, £2.75m was set aside for resurfacing the A6 between Wilstead and Wixams. A stretch of the A6 has been subject to speed restrictions and temporary repairs, since problems were spotted after the heatwave.

The resurfacing project should provide a long term solution to the ongoing maintenance issues associated with this strategic route. The Wilstead Bypass section of the A6 carries approximately 19,000 vehicles per day. The resurfacing work is expected to take place during the next municipal year, 2019/20.

Tel: 07815 302 318 E-mail: wilshamstead.ward@yahoo.co.uk
 Facebook: Cllr. Graeme Coombes

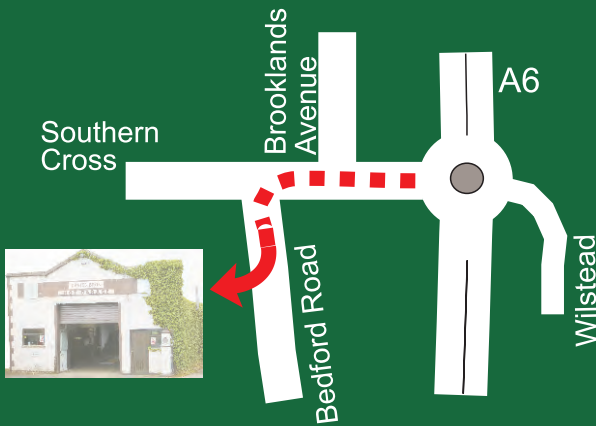
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Find us on Facebook

Tel: 01234 743 942
www.lakesidewixams.co.uk

Growing is fun at the Wixams allotments! (There is hard work as well!) Currently there are four empty plots. Contact Wixams Parish Council wixamspc@gmail.com and Michael, chairman Lakeview Allotment Association rollinsconsult@gmail.com

Thanks to Richard, Sarah and Al for the photos!

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Wixams News delivered by 25 members of Wixams Neighbourhood Watch