



# Wixams News

Neighbourhood  
Watch

September 2015

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*Caring for the community - Without Prejudice*



**Councillor  
GRAEME  
COOMBES**

Reporting to Wixams  
September 2015

## Wixams Station Update

Dear Resident,

A briefing note on Wixams Station was published this month by the Borough Council. This confirms that:

The cost of delivering Wixams station is now estimated to be £20m, having originally been estimated at £9m, with additional significant costs expected in order to deliver the road infrastructure.

Network Rail has no objection to the provision of an additional station on the Midland Main Line suggesting that the business case for a station remains robust. The current operator, Govia Thameslink Railway (GTR) supports the principle of additional services.

Network Rail will not start the process of procuring the station until they have certainty that Gallagher will meet their financial contribution in a way which meets their organisational and procedural requirements.

Discussions have taken place between Network Rail, Gallagher and Central Government, via the Department for Transport (DfT), to explore other funding mechanisms in an effort to bring forward delivery of the station. One such mechanism was the £20m New Stations Fund, but to date no alternative funding model has been found.

Planning approval for the station lapsed in February 2015.

As a result of this, I asked council officers for an explanation as to why the cost has escalated so dramatically from £9m to £20m *Continued on page 3*

**Join**

**Wixams PC**

**community**

**litter pick**

**Meeting at:**  
Lakeview Village  
Hall

**Sunday 27**  
**September**  
**at Midday**

ALL EQUIPMENT PROVIDED. PLEASE WEAR SUITABLE  
CLOTHING & STURDY FOOTWEAR  
Call 01234 718276 for more details or visit  
[www.bedford.gov.uk](http://www.bedford.gov.uk)

The Royal British Legion are seeking volunteers to assist with the 2015 Poppy Appeal collection in Wixams. If you can help please email Anne Cox - [rblwilsteadbranch@gmail.com](mailto:rblwilsteadbranch@gmail.com)

## Wixams Parish Council

### UPDATE FROM RECENT COUNCIL MEETINGS –

The Parish Council discussed feedback from the informal meeting held with a representative from Gallagher's UK to understand their vision on the development of Wixams and the time scale of key infrastructure such as the train station and health provision.

The key items were: Village One - **all houses** are virtually built except for the Kier sites which it is hoped will commence shortly. It was confirmed that Kier will be building them to the original planning permission.

Following discussion with the local authority, the **secondary school** infrastructure and contributions from Gallaghers will be accelerated to see the site being delivered sooner following the local authority move to two tier. There is no set deadline/ timescale at present. It was confirmed there is no middle school allocation in Village One and the land has been reappportioned. The road to the secondary school will be built within a year; the earthworks work needed will take place usually outside of winter months then works on the actual road can commence.

**Village 2 Design Codes** have been approved and infrastructure agreed, so the road will be built within a year. Once the road is built then land sales are expected. In Village 2 there will be larger verges and front gardens to discourage street parking, with lower density housing. There will be 1200 units but over a larger parcel of land with more off-street parking allocation. Village 4 will have a similar design code to Village 2. Earthworks vehicles are using the B530 road to save them going through Village One.

The recently approved **change of residential site** to employment use will be taken forward; land sales will allow Gallagher to have money to invest back into Wixams. The Borough Council asked for the Causeway to be used initially as the access route. Gallagher will have to pay to monitor this and if it is not acceptable to the Borough Council then they will draw on Gallagher pot of monies to open up the old A6 route.

**The train station** funding gap is in the region of £28 million which is the Gallagher' share, and £40million from Network Rail.

It was confirmed it is within the franchise for the operator when the station is built, with four trains an hour from Bedford and two of these will start at Wixams.

Gallagher's will be **funding** £8-9 million for the secondary school and £5m for the new substation required.

The **meeting** was felt by all present to be useful so it was agreed quarterly meetings to be held between the Parish Council and Gallagher's with a further meeting arranged for November.

### MEETINGS FOR RESIDENTS

The Council have arranged a meeting for residents, that will be held in the Village Hall on **Wednesday 7th October** in the Munson Room at 7pm. Colin Foster, Bedford Borough Council Head of **School Organisation** will be in attendance to answer questions on the subject of school places for Wixams children.

The Council have also felt it would be useful to work in partnership with Elstow and Wilshamstead Parish Councils regarding **local policing**. A meeting has been arranged for Thursday **29th October** at 7pm at Elstow Playing Field Hall on Wilstead Road in Elstow. Police Crime Commissioner, Olly Martins, will be presenting to residents about the new model of policing. **Cont**