



Wixams News

September 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

The Wixams Station

Comments now

Comments in January

We bought in Wixams based on the promise of a station going in on the London bound line. We feel cheated ...

How many of us bought houses on the false premise of a station being built the following year? I was told this in 2009!

I looked to move here in 2013 and was told a station was imminent. I was suspicious of this and didn't buy. Thank goodness

There's a real problem with parking at Bedford station... it takes so long to get to Bedford station in the morning due to traffic

The traffic to either Flitwick station or Bedford is a nightmare ... it's only to get worse as Wixams expands... a new Wixams station is essential

a new station at Wixams ... such a scheme would dramatically cut traffic into the centre of Bedford

As an 8 year resident of Wixams who settled here with their family as a direct result of the intended train station, I am delighted it is back on the agenda and being supported by the Borough Council. Whilst long overdue, the benefit this will have to my daily commute is indescribable. Following a series of unfulfilled promises, one hopes we can now rely on the word of the council, that they can re-establish their credibility with Wixams residents and ensure the station is delivered. As always, 'Actions speak louder than words' so it will be very nice to see the building work commence in just 18 months time.

Kind Regards,

Sean

The train is essential for my job

for me this would be amazing. It would also be good to be able to go out and not have to pay for an expensive taxi home from Flitwick ...

See update inside



We are busy organising the sixth Macmillan Coffee morning to be held on the **28th September** at the **village hall**. If you would like to get involved more details will follow on the village hall notice board and via Facebook ASAP. We look forward to seeing lots of you again this year, from the team of helpers.

Wixams Parish Council

Welcome to Janine Alli-Balogun



We'd like to welcome Councillor Janine Alli-Balogun to the Parish Council. Janine was co-opted to the council in July to fill our

casual vacancy and will be a strong addition to the team. Janine says "I have lived in Wixams for nearly a year after moving from a small village in Hampshire. My husband and I have enjoyed living in the area so far and love the community feel and spirit; this was one of the deciding factors that we considered before moving to the village. I have two children: a boy and a girl. My son particularly loves visiting the local parks, so if you ever see us around then please do feel free to say hello."

Speed Watch and Speeding

The council is still looking for volunteers to create a Speed Watch team to try to curb speeding in Wixams.

Public Open Forum



Last summer the Parish Council sent out a questionnaire to all local residents seeking their views on life in Wixams and their priorities for future developments. The responses were analysed and a Parish Action Plan drawn up; this was circulated to residents in pamphlet form in July. Wixams Parish Council then hosted an Open Forum for members of the public on the 12th July 2018 in the Village Hall, with a panel formed of representatives from various organisations. Vice Chair Charlotte Day presented the Parish Action Plan and members of the public raised further issues and concerns. Highlights from the panel presentations included: Gallaghers on future development in Wixams; Chris Pettifer (BBC Head of Transport and Operations) on Wixams Station; Graeme Coombes (Borough Councillor) on the Local Plan 2035, and Clare Kelly (Chief of Staff Bedfordshire Police) on a number of topics.

The Parish Council would like to thank all those who attended and presented. Notes from the event, and the Parish Action Plan, can be found in the "Documents" section of our website under "Parish Action Plan".

Community tree planting

We have been offered free trees through a DEFRA initiative. Are there any areas in Wixams you feel would benefit from new trees being planted? If so, please email the clerk, if you have not already responded to previous requests. Please be specific with locations – a picture would help but is not essential. Tree types include: Oak, Rowan, Wild Cherry, Field Maple, Willow and others. Planting is expected to be carried out from October at the earliest, to give the trees the greatest chance of survival.

Village ponds

New signs have been installed around the two large ponds in Wixams, alerting people to the risks of elevated bacteria levels. It had previously been brought to the Parish Council's attention that children and adults were swimming there. The Borough Council's Environmental Health team provided the advice, which the Parish Council has acted on.

Cont.

Reported crime

Crimes reported in Wixams

May

27/05 Harassment - without violence

June

01/06 00:01 to 21:30 Harassment - without violence

30/06 16:40 Harassment - without violence

30/06 12:00 to 18:52 Causing intentional harassment, alarm or distress

July

01/07 11:07 Assault occasioning actual bodily harm (ABH)

01/07 18:30 to 16:10 Other criminal damage, other (Under £5,000)

11/07 Threats to kill

16/07 00:30 Having possession of a controlled drug - Class B - Cannabis

17/07 Sending letters etc with intent to cause distress or anxiety

27/07 21:25 to 22:00 Assault occasioning actual bodily harm (ABH)

28/07 02:20 Other criminal damage to a vehicle (Under £5,000)

29/07 22:00 to 07:00 Theft

August

01/08 19:00 Other criminal damage, other (Under £5,000)

22/08 19:02 Harassment - without violence

27/08 16:30 Assault without Injury - Common assault and battery

The crime report is provided by Bedfordshire Police with volunteer help from Bedford & District Neighbourhood Watch. Because of IT changes street names are not available this month.

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.bedsfordshire.police.uk/report

Additional contact methods can be found at www.bedsfordshire.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.

Experienced Accountant available to prepare Accounts, support Self-Assessment submissions (paper deadline 31st October, online 31st January 2019), help small businesses grow and act as a Part Time Finance Director. Initial review free, call me now Saqhib Ali on 07758 157051 or saconsultingservicesltd@gmail.com

Grants

Calling all local clubs and societies! We have up to £5,000 of grants available each year to fund your 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 are usually offered on a one-off basis to support a particular project, event, activity or the purchase of equipment. They are also open to new groups wishing to start up and receive a small contribution towards their running costs. The Council particularly welcomes applications from small or newly formed groups and those that have not applied to us before. Please contact the Clerk for further details.

Wixams News

Perseverance



One of the great qualities to have in life is perseverance. Winston Churchill made a speech on 29th October 1941, in the dark days of WWII, when he said "never give in, never give in, never, never, never ..." It is one of his most famous speeches. Because of that attitude the nation overcame Nazi tyranny.

We admire perseverance in sport, as seen when Geraint Thomas triumphed in the Tour de France last July, or when Federer amazingly won the Australian Open at the age of 37 - his twentieth major.

Thanks to the perseverance of the bedsagainstinccinerator.com we may be able to breath clean air in the future - see their advert on page 5 - they urgently need your support.

In the Wixams we ought to be grateful for the perseverance of Graeme Coombes. It is because of his work, together with Mayor Dave Hodgson, Ian Hardwick (Gallagher) and Chris Pettifer (Head of Transport Operations - Borough) that the Wixams Station may at long last become a reality.

Be someone who perseveres!

Thanks - Alan



Wixams News deadline - Friday

28th September 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 October.

Wixams Parish Council cont.

Next Parish Council Meeting

Our next meetings will be on **Monday, 17th September 2018** and **Tuesday 16th October** from 7:30pm at Lakeview Village Hall in the Munson room - 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

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Could we make Wixams a hedgehog friendly village? According to Amanda Norman, face behind Wixams Hedgehog Support Page on FB, the answer is "YES" easily! Sadly the number of hedgehogs in the UK is decreasing rapidly. Why? Roads, modern farming, housing, litter, and more besides, yet the biggest threat of all is habitat loss. Inaccessibility to gardens!!

So what can we do to help? Create hedgehog highways, 13cm x 13cm gaps under or through fences. If all of Wixams linked their gardens it would increase the area massively for the hedgehogs to forage, mate, hibernate, have young. A Hedgehog needs six gardens as a minimum.

We can also support feed our visitors, Cat/kitten kibble, dog food, fresh water. Please never give Milk or Bread, Hedgehogs are lactose intolerant. And Please no Mealworms!!

If you see a Hedgehog out in the day, more than likely it's in trouble! Please put in a high sided box with water and call your nearest Wildlife Vet or Hedgehog Rescue. For more information, Join Wixams Hedgehog Support Page on Facebook.

Who's Who? Wixams Events Team



l-r -Nathan Sutters, Lee Colyer, Kate O'hare, Sarah Stephens, Barbara Matthews, Rachel Cox, Nathan Milton, David Owens (also not present at time of photo Chris & Christine Johnson, Claire-Alden Slater, Sheila Menses & Sally Wilkin)

The most recent activity organised by the Events Team was the Summer Party last June. The team has been going for around seven years and was started by Tim Jackson and a small dedicated group. When Tim left the village I started helping by delivering leaflets and then took over as chair person.

We are looking at a new project - putting Christmas lights on the lampposts in Brooklands avenue (some form of grant or donation is needed). We will be putting some details out via social media in the coming weeks.

We are also looking for more volunteers to help out. If you can help please email wixamsevents@gmail.com

We have a great event lined up for Christmas - please look out for the flyers nearer the time. *Nathan Sutters*

See www.facebook.com/groups/LakeviewEventsCommittee

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10am–12pm, Wilstead Village Hall
For all children, aged 4–11

Run by Wilstead Evangelical Church www.wilstead.org



Councillor GRAEME COOMBES

Reporting to Wixams September 2018

Wixams Joint Development Committee met at the end of July and Councillors from both Bedford Borough and Central Beds Councils agreed to revise some of the planning obligations contained in the original **Wixams planning agreement with Gallagher**.

There were many loopholes in the original agreement, allowing commitments to slide and deadlines to be missed - Wixams station being the most obvious example. The Wixams JDC meeting tightened things up and provided greater clarity, particularly in relation to delivery deadlines for much needed infrastructure. So, with the revised agreement in place, Gallagher have now agreed to:

- Extend their commitment to fund Wixams Station by 5 years until 2024, where previously their £13.4m commitment was due to expire in 2019
- Deliver key through roads earlier than planned, to allow traffic access from the B530, instead of just the current A6 access
- Hand over land on the Wilstead side of the A6, along with £289,000 for maintenance, to Wilstead Parish Council, for an area of community open space and woodland, managed in conjunction with the Forest of Marston Vale
- Provide land in Village 3, in the proposed Town Centre, for a Primary Healthcare site.

This is all good news and at last moves us further along the road to getting long delayed infrastructure at Wixams. It's also the result of much pressure locally as we have collectively tried to hold Gallagher and the Borough Council to account for the long promised facilities. We need to continue this pressure, to ensure that all the stakeholders, Council officers, Gallagher and the BCCG, deliver as promised, and on time.

Tel: 07815 302 318 E-mail: wilshamstead.ward@yahoo.co.uk

Facebook: Cllr. Graeme Coombes

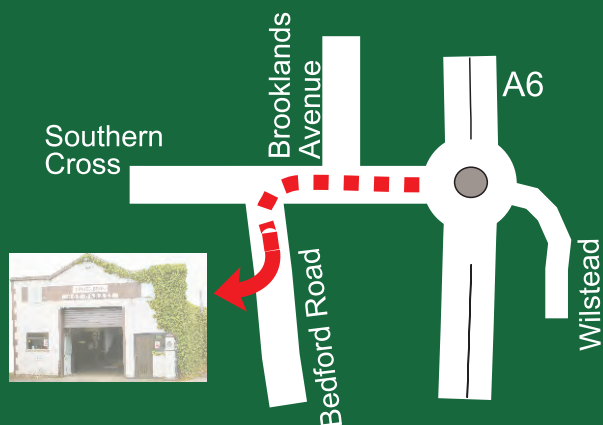
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Mondays - Fridays 8.30am - 5.30pm
 Saturdays 8.30am - 1pm (March-Sept)

133 Bedford Road, West Wilstead
(Wixams) Telephone: 01234 740252



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

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
word@wixams.org.uk

Shine Theatre School
www.shinetheatreschool.co.uk

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Mark & Helen



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Wixams News delivered by 25 members of
 Wixams Neighbourhood Watch

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Royal Courts of Justice
10th - 11th October

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WIXAMS VIXENS WI

JUMBLE TRAIL
SUNDAY 30 SEPTEMBER 2018
11 AM – 3 PM
Get on the Jumble Trail map
£6.00 a pitch

E-mail: wixams.vixens@mail.com to book your place

Have a clear out and sell outside your house

The Wixams Station Comments now

I'd like to express my support for this project as a recent arrival in the Wixams (Village 2) community. Before buying we researched the overall vision for Wixams and the surrounding area and a convenient local station, as documented in the original plans, was an attraction. Hopefully this much needed facility will soon be on track as promised.

Terrible pun not intended. Regards,

Steve

Having a station in walking distance (as promised) is going to take a lot of trips like mine away from Bedford and Flitwick station.

By early summer over 1,000 people had signed the Wixams station petition

Great food to help you slim

Holly Snoxell, who runs a Slimming World group in Wixams, says: "On warm summer and autumn days, staying on track with your weight loss might be even more challenging than usual. However, losing weight doesn't mean you have to miss out and barbecues are brilliant if you're trying to be healthy."

Recipe: Rice and mixed bean salad

Serves 4

Ready in 25 minutes

Ingredients:

250g dried basmati and wild rice
400g can mixed beans, drained and rinsed
400g can chickpeas, drained and rinsed
8 spring onions, finely sliced
2 tomatoes, roughly chopped
1 red chilli, deseeded and finely chopped
Large handful of fresh coriander, finely chopped
Juice of 2 large lemons, plus wedges to serve
100g reduced-fat feta

Method

Cook the rice according to the packet instructions, adding the mixed beans and chickpeas for the final 2 minutes. Drain and transfer to a large bowl. Add the spring onions, tomatoes, chilli and coriander and stir well. Drizzle the lemon juice, crumble over the feta and season to taste. Cool, cover and chill until you're ready to eat. Serve with lemon wedges.

The Wixams Slimming World group is held every Tuesday at 5.30 & 7.30pm at Lakeview Village Hall. For further information please contact Holly Snoxell on 07968719951. All recipes are taken from Slimming World's collection

ADVICE SUPPORT HELP

Signpost

supporting you every step of the way

Supporting those affected by crime in Bedfordshire

To access support contact the Signpost Hub
Freephone: 0800 0282 887 (calls are free from landlines and mobiles)
Email: info@signpostforbedfordshire.com
Opening hours: Monday to Friday: 8am - 8pm, Saturday: 9am - 5pm
Out of hours you can leave a voicemail and we will call you back.
Closed bank holidays.

Car security - how to stop thieves



In 2017, figures obtained by the RAC showed that there had been a 30% rise in car thefts

The 30% rise in car thefts in England and Wales between 2013 and 2016 - here's how to stay safe.

www.rac.co.uk/drive/advice/road-safety/car-security

Ever Wondered Where A 999 Call Is Answered?

The Police are inviting members of the public to see how the force's Contact Centre operates. The event is on Sunday 14th October, 10am-12pm, and is suitable for adults and children. Places are limited, so if you are interested, please reserve your place as soon as possible by contacting the customer services team at customer.services@bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk

Dog fouling - Environmental Criminal Offence

It is an offence to allow a dog, which you are responsible for, to foul and not clear it up immediately when in a public place. The penalty for committing an offence contained in a Dog Control Order is a maximum fine of £1,000. You can report a crime by using the Bedford Borough Online Form or calling: Environmental Helpdesk on 01234 718060.

WIXAMS STATION

Mayor Dave Hodgson: Statement for Wixams News on Wixams Station



The case for a new station was made and won years ago, and it should have been made a condition of the development back when planning permission was awarded for Wixams all those years ago. It wasn't, and we are dealing with the legacy of that failure. I am working on this as a priority and a matter of urgency, and hope to make a major announcement soon on the issue.

It is quite simply a disgrace that the Wixams community is still without a train station, so many years after it was promised. Wixams residents have been sorely let down, in particular by those who drew up and approved the deal whereby there was no compulsion for the station to be built as a condition of planning permission.

Gallagher Estates were required merely to make a contribution which amounts to less than half of the total cost of providing a station. This was clearly utterly inadequate and unsatisfactory, and the obligation should have been nothing less than the provision of a complete, fully-functioning station with services to and from London.

The original plan never envisaged or intended at any stage that the council(s) would be involved in the delivery of the station at all, beyond their regulatory planning roles. While it isn't the job of councils to be involved in train stations being built, I am stepping in to make it our business in the absence of progress on this previously.

We have brought people around the table and are doing all we can to ensure that the station will be built. We are engaging with all parties, including Gallagher Estates, Network Rail and Central Bedfordshire Council, and I expect them all to show genuine commitment to making the station a reality.

Until it is in place and serving this community, I will keep working to make sure we find a solution which will deliver the station that Wixams residents deserve and which they are owed.

Mayor Dave Hodgson



The Borough Council officer responsible for Wixams Station, Chris Pettifer (3rd left), was invited to the Wixams Open Forum on Thursday 12th July. Alongside Ian Hardwick from Gallagher (2nd left), he provided an update on how things currently stood. Approval still needs to be given by Network Rail once all finances are in place. The Borough has estimated 18 months to get everything in place before any building work can start.



I am delighted at the recent decision to extend the timeframe for Wixams Station and proactively seek the additional funding.

I believe that the station project has new impetus and I am more positive about it than I have been for some time.

It's a great example of how we can work together collectively, to hold the Mayor, Local Councils and Developers to account.

I will continue to keep up the pressure on all of them to deliver a station at Wixams and I am grateful to the residents of Wixams for also making those in power aware of how strongly we feel.

Cllr Graeme Coombes, representing Wixams & Wilstead



I have followed this critical matter very closely as a longstanding Councillor for adjacent wards, and as a member of the Environment Scrutiny Committee on Bedford Borough Council.

I am both appalled by the failure to secure a station through the planning process all those years ago, but also encouraged by the current progress. There is now more momentum than ever, thanks to the Council going above and beyond its intended role to kick-start and lead a project to get the station built.

I can confirm that a large amount of work has already taken place behind the scenes, and at the time of writing I hope an announcement will be forthcoming soon.

Cllr Tim Hill, representing Elstow, Stewartby and Kempston Hardwick

Seven reasons why a Wixams train station is important

- Trains are greener than travelling by road.
We should back the environment.
- Saves you 45 minutes a day in travel to station time.
Spend more time with your family.
- Less stress, rather than battling the local rush hour
- Avoid parking problems. You will be able to walk or cycle.
- Safer/easier for young/old people travelling on their own
- Trains mean you can read, study, or work
- It will demonstrate whether borough councils and the government have the ability to create new towns