

# Wivenhoe Town Council Newsletter



## A message from the Mayor - Cllr Luxford Vaughan

It's been a busy year at the town council with a fresh new line up. We welcome our three co-opted Cllrs that have brought an energy and passion to new and existing projects, and we also welcome back two old hands via the election that was called earlier this year.

New initiatives that we have delivered, or are looking to shortly are:- a skate park, pump track and youth hub for the KGV. Electric car charging points at the WLH, a new community fund and free community hire of the hall, a refurbished town hall, new exhibits at in Museum, a sensory garden and additional rewilding areas around the town. We have been in discussions with developers and officers at CBC about 4 large planning applications as well as fed into the local plan consultations. We have also kept up with the council's regular day jobs like; litter picking, burials and interments and keeping our green spaces and buildings looking good.



It's been a pleasure and a privilege to be Wivenhoe's Mayor this year, but it will soon be time to step aside for a new mayor and so I wish Tom Kane all the best come May.

## Financial Update – Cllr Tom Kane

Your Town Council is currently finalising the 2021/22 accounts. We have also recently set the budget for 2022/23 and the precept for Wivenhoe amounts to £363,688. This involved an increase to the Council's band D share of Council Tax of 2.9%, below the current inflation rate, an increase from £122.06 per household last year to £125.60 this year, made possible by local economic recovery, following the Covid 19 pandemic. All Council financial accounts are publicly available on our website, detailing all Council income and expenditure. Please contact Councillor Tom Kane, Chair of the Finance Committee, who is happy to answer any further questions you might have.

## Community Fund and Community Days – Cllr Tom Kane

Wivenhoe Town Council have recently launched two new schemes to assist local third party community organisations, as part of our commitment to work in partnership with the community, provide seed funding and drive improved provision of services in Wivenhoe. These initiatives have proved very popular so far. 1% of our budget is now committed to provide grants of up to £400 under the Community Fund. To date the following have benefited from this funding;

Over 60's Group, Wivenhoe, Fingringhoe and Rowhedge Ferry Community Interest Company, Monday Club, Bumps and Babies, Wivenhoe Printworks

In addition, we have committed one day a month free use of the William Loveless Hall to similar community groups. To date, the following have been allocated Community Days;

- Charity life drawing event for the Colchester Night Shelter on 2 April
- Wivenhoe Over 60's Club quiz night on 2 April
- Millfields Primary School 3 April- an Easter Fun day
- Woodcraft Folk on 7 May- A ceilidh and fundraiser
- Transition Town Wivenhoe awareness event on 10 July
- Wivenhoe memories Exhibition on 28 August
- Art Show on 26 November

If your organisation is interested in benefitting from these schemes, details of eligibility and how to apply are available on our website or please contact the Town Clerk on [townclerk@wivenhoe.gov.uk](mailto:townclerk@wivenhoe.gov.uk)

## Ferry Marsh – the jewel in our crown of biodiversity - Cllr Glyn Evans

Plans for its long-term future...

Strange, isn't it, that when nature is given time and space, that it produces the goods! Until the water level got to a stage where we had to stop it flooding Wivenhoe trail, the marsh had significantly increased the number and diversity of its cast, including some charismatic species such as Water Rail, Cetti's Warbler and latterly, Bearded Reedling. These are schedule I breeding birds and have special protection under the Countryside and Wildlife act, so we are privileged to have them here.

I attended a meeting this week with Colchester Borough Council officers along with Mark Cory, with a view to establishing long-term ownership and a management plan for the reserve. This was a very constructive meeting and we very much hope that the previous owners of the marsh will want to relieve themselves of the responsibility. It is hoped that we can maintain, over time, the conditions that have attracted the rare species and also provide better accessibility to the perimeter of the marsh – possibly even with an elevated hide for prime viewing.

With thanks for your support of all our environmental work

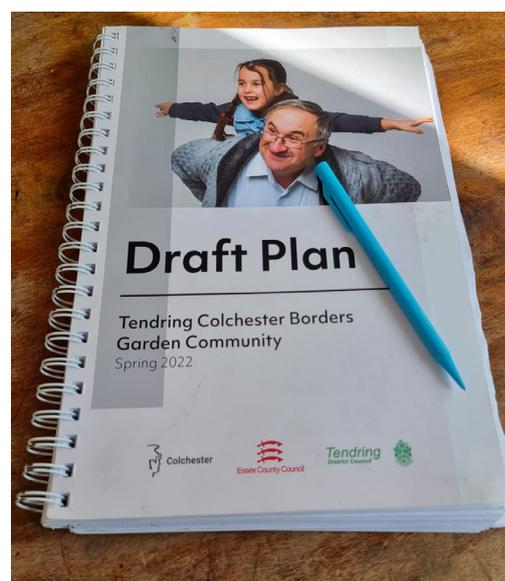


## **New Town Update – Cllr Andrea Vaughan**

We are very disappointed to see that these plans are not developing as we were promised. We now have a traditional development route where money for infrastructure can only be agreed via negotiations with the developers. Therefore, the pledge to deliver infrastructure first is likely to be broken. The link road is currently running £21 million over budget and is at least a year behind schedule already. It's looking like houses will be built on the site without it. As for the rapid transport system, (which will be a regular bus) there is no route confirmed and no detail of how it will be delivered or paid for.

There is an ongoing public consultation at <https://tcbgardencommunity.co.uk> of the draft development plan (DPD) document that includes two master planning options within the spatial options section. Both are unpalatable to all surrounding communities that have commented previously. The draft DPD is lacking an up-to-date viability assessment and infrastructure will not be funded by the land value uplift model government recommends in the garden community guidelines. Given that the interest rate is going up and the cost of materials has escalated post Brexit and COVID this is very concerning. This viability work also needs to link to an infrastructure phasing report which is absent from the DPD.

It is also silent on the detail of the stewardship model and details of the classification, ownership, management, and funding for any green buffers. Wivenhoe Town Council remains unhappy that the local authorities are continuing with this promise breaking plan.



## **Museum Update – Cllr Tim Multon**

Wivenhoe's only museum, located in the cemetery between Ernest Road and Belle Vue Road, opens its doors on Saturday 14th of May. The museum subcommittee, made up of councillors and volunteers from Wivenhoe History Group, is busy creating a new look for the new season, following a successful application for funding from Essex Heritage Trust (<http://www.essexheritagetrust.co.uk/>).

We are using the grant to refresh our display infrastructure, allowing a more flexible approach to curating the hundreds of exhibits, documents and photos that have been donated to the museum over the years. The new displays will make it easier for people of all ages to enjoy Wivenhoe's rich history.

We shall also be unveiling the museum's newest acquisition, the most complete Marjorie Barton Wivenhoe Collection we believe to be in existence. Generously purchased for the museum by an anonymous donor, these hand-painted and varnished porcelain miniatures capture over fifty of the town's historic buildings in intricate detail. So why not come along and see whether your property is in the collection...

The museum's opening hours are 10:00 – 13:00 Saturdays and Sundays.

## Electric Vehicle Chargers – Cllr Megan Maltby

Wivenhoe Town Council is working in partnership with Charge My Street to provide Wivenhoe residents who do not have access to off-street parking, the infrastructure to switch to an electric vehicle. It will generally take a minimum of 4 hours to charge an electric car with these chargers. The car park will be open for electric vehicle charging 24 hours a day, making overnight charging convenient.

Payment for charging is made via a subscription scheme, as well as pay as you go, from 27p kWh. You'll need to download the Fuuse app to make payments. Charge My Street is a community benefit society which installs and operates community electric vehicle charge points, raising money through community shares and grant applications. Working within a Community Benefit Society model brings nationwide as well as local benefits, as well as keeping cost to resident's low, profits made are channelled back into installing local

ev-charge points across the country. This installation has taken place as part of WTC's acknowledgement of the need to reduce fossil fuel use, reduce Wivenhoe's carbon footprint, build resilience to climate change and improve air quality. It enables us to play our part in beginning to address the urgent need for sustainable transport systems. The car park at The William Loveless Hall is for public electric vehicle charging and hall users only.

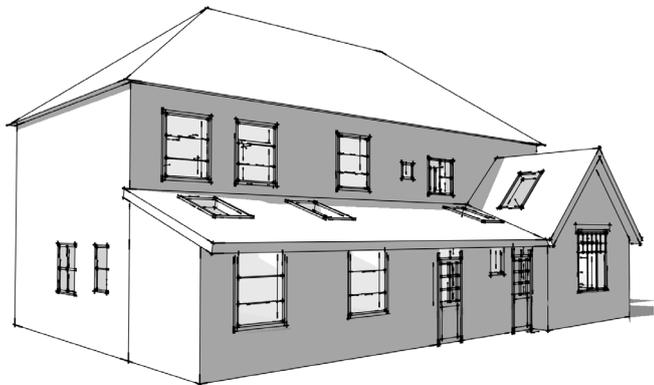


## Skate Park – Cllr Tom Kane

Tenders have now been received and a preferred contractor chosen for the replacement skate park in the KGV, which will be delivered later this year. This was committed to by the Council following a consultation exercise and we are very pleased to see it delivered.

## Town Hall Project – Cllr Andrea Luxford-Vaughan

The plans for the town hall are now with CBC as a current planning application. The refurbishment of the town hall will see additional public space, disabled access, a hearing loop, and live stream capacity for meetings. It will also mean the council can start to meet our climate emergency declaration by bringing the building up to date with building standards and make it more cost effective in terms of heating electric and insulation.



The redesign will also mean we are able to help residents access CBC services online, provide a private space to discuss burials and distribute recycling equipment. We will also now be able to provide a fit for purpose working environment for our staff, improved disabled access to the scout and guide hall and youth hub while creating a safer yard with electric charging points.

The loan needed to finance the works will be paid for via other property investments we have made in the last few years including a refurbished office space on the first floor. Therefore there will be no impact on the precept. All works are expected to be complete next Autumn.



## The Green Spaces project is back! And it's bigger than ever! Cllr Glyn Evans

Last summer the Town and Borough Councils left 15 verges and green spaces around the town unmown from March to September. The result? We found 141 different wildflower species, up to 30 times more flowers in the unmown verges and lots of positive comments from people. From last year's sites we know the wildflowers and the insects love it. But many of the sites were in more "out of the way" places – only a few were in the town's main residential areas. So this year we have chosen more prominent sites. The new sites this year are - at the top of the town - on Feedhams Close, Leys Road, Lammas Way, Almond Close and the corner of Richard Ave and Mede Way (this includes the verges and an area toward the back of the open space there). In mid town, the sites included are: the stretch of Ernest Rd between Harvey Rd and the Cut, the triangle on Stanley/Ernest junction, Rosabelle between the Britannia Crescent junctions, Parkwood at its junction with Rosabelle and the straight stretch to Woodland Way, and the junction of Woodland Way and Beech Ave.

At the bottom, the High St verges opposite Queens Road and those on Valley Road and the Nook are included, as is the open space at Milford Close. We've still got last year's spaces too. The Green Spaces team will survey those again, and the Scouts and Guides are going to help us survey the new sites. Watch this space (and the verges!)

The Green spaces project is part of the work of the town's Biodiversity Group. The name sounds a bit technical but in fact it's just a group of enthusiastic residents who want to do their bit for nature in the town.

This year we asked the Town Council to support No Mow May. Plantlife, the wildflower charity (the equivalent of the RSPB for wild plants), run this every year. They ask that people leave their lawns uncut for May. This gives the wild flowers and insects a real boost just when they need it. The frontages at the Town Hall and the William Loveless Hall will be left unmown for May, as will the green at Sandford Close and Smiths Corner on the Avenue. Why not join in? And if it works for you, then you can leave part of your lawn unmown all summer or just cut it every 4 weeks. Both approaches are good for different species of wildflowers. And when you do cut, always remove the mown grass to give the wildflowers more of a chance to re-grow.

And we've launched Gardening for Nature too. This is a project to support and encourage wildlife gardening. There's a Facebook page with tips to get started and where you can post your own favourite ideas and share what you are doing. Just search Facebook for Wivenhoe Gardening for Nature.

We're also inviting people to put up a We're Gardening for Nature sign to encourage people to join in. It doesn't matter what are doing for nature, if you're feeding the birds or leaving the grass to grow or have planted your entire garden with plants for insects, you qualify! Just email Mandy at [enquiries@wivenhoe.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@wivenhoe.gov.uk) to get your sign. If you do, you'll automatically go in to a draw for a year's free entry to Beth Chatto's gardens.

And finally, the Wivenhoe Wildlife Garden celebrates an anniversary this year. It was set up by Wild About Wivenhoe, the Biodiversity Group's predecessor group, 10 years ago.

If you'd like to join the Biodiversity Group or know more about any of the projects, please contact co-Chair:

Mark Halladay [markhalladay@rocketmail.com](mailto:markhalladay@rocketmail.com),

## **We're Gardening for Nature!**

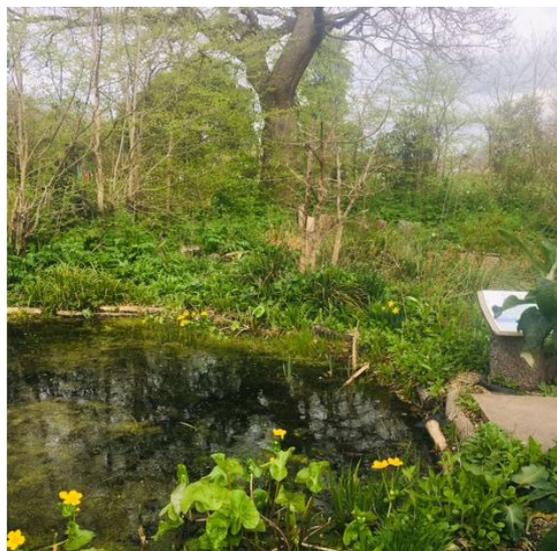
**We're losing birds and insects, animals and flowers, fast.**

**In this garden we're doing our bit to help nature recover.**

**You can do the same. You could let your grass grow longer, make a bug refuge, leave a corner of the garden wild – whatever you do you can join in.**

**Together we can make a difference.**

**Let's help nature recover!**



## Youth Hub by Cllr Andrea Luxford Vaughan



We are making good progress on setting up a youth hub for our young people. We have secured all funding and are going through the planning process to place a converted shipping container at the end of the council yard overlooking the King George the 5th playing fields. Working alongside youth workers and a strong group of volunteers we have started outreach work with young people in order for them to have a say in what they want and how they want the hub to operate.



The plan is to create a safe place to hang out with friends, have access to wi-fi, watch films, listen to music with snacks and drinks, with an indoor and outdoor space. If you'd like to get involved, please email [thewivhub@gmail.com](mailto:thewivhub@gmail.com)

## Estates Committee – Cllr Asa Aldis

The summer maintenance programme is underway and the KGV is looking fabulous. The committee is working on projects including relaying the car park, general tree works and maintaining our allotments, cemeteries and public buildings. A public right of way has been agreed for Smith's Corner which will see Cherry trees planted there.

## Jubilee Weekend – June 2 to June 5

Like all communities nationwide, Wivenhoe is taking part in the long weekend of celebrations for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Come along, join in, have fun! The following events are planned;

### **Thursday June 2** – Concert & Beacon Lighting

There will be a concert in the evening on the KGV Playing Field with food and drinks available. This will be followed by the lighting of our beacon, in line with the national beacon lighting across the country as it gets dark, to mark this special day. Bands on from 6pm, followed by Lighting of the Beacon at 9.45.

**Friday June 3** – The Reaching Out at Christmas group are holding an afternoon tea- 'Ritz in Wivenhoe'. Invitation only.

### **Saturday June 4** – Jubilee Fete

Wivenhoe Town Council are holding a Jubilee fete from 12-6pm on the King George V Playing Field. There will be stalls, activities, food, drinks and live music. If you are a local group, charity or business and you would like to have a stall, please contact the Town Clerk on [townclerk@wivenhoe.gov.uk](mailto:townclerk@wivenhoe.gov.uk)

### **Sunday June 5** – The Big Jubilee Lunch Picnic in the Park and Street Parties

You can get information on holding a street party where you live, with advice on street closures and tips, on the government website [www.platinumjubilee.gov.uk](http://www.platinumjubilee.gov.uk) or [www.streetparty.org.uk](http://www.streetparty.org.uk).

If you are unable to hold your own street party, residents are welcome to have a Jubilee picnic on the King George V Playing Field. All you need to do is contact the council and let them know your plans so that we can work with you to make sure that your event will be held safely. To book your space please contact the Town Clerk on [townclerk@wivenhoe.gov.uk](mailto:townclerk@wivenhoe.gov.uk) – you will be expected to provide tables, chairs, gazebos and so on and clear away afterwards.



If you wish to advertise in future newsletters please email the Town Council at [enquiries@wivenhoe.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@wivenhoe.gov.uk)