



Team that represented Wivenhoe at the Planning Appeal

I would like to say a huge 'thank you' to everyone who contributed to WTC's response on this planning application and appeal!

(Cllr. Kevin Read, Chair of Planning)

In 2019 Colchester Borough (now City) Council officially adopted the Wivenhoe Neighbourhood Plan (WNP). This detailed document was written by a dedicated group of volunteers to "guide planning decisions in our locality to 2032, based on the views, vision and wishes of the people living here."

The WNP was recently put to the test when we objected to development plans by Taylor Wimpey for land behind Broadfields at the top end of Wivenhoe. Following representation from WTC and our Borough Councillors, Colchester Council refused the application.

This resulted in an appeal by the developer, which as Chair of WTC's Planning Committee, I am delighted to say has also been rejected.

Our representatives ensured that the voices of Wivenhoe residents were heard. The decision by the Government Inspector to support us is a 'test case' for Neighbourhood Plans throughout the Country and we stand proud of their decision.

The WNP allocates areas in Wivenhoe that residents want developing with dwellings, a care home, cemetery, allotments, outside spaces and sports facilities. The plan allows for a minimum of 120 dwellings in the area behind Broadfields.

The developer wanted to expand beyond crucial boundaries set out in the plan. We demonstrated that 120 dwellings could fit in the allocated area by building smaller, more affordable one-bedroom properties as detailed in the plan.

Wivenhoe Elections

Local council elections will be held nationwide on 4th May 2023.

Wivenhoe Town Council, comprising up to 13 unpaid volunteers, operates at the most local level of government and is not controlled by any political party.

The council delivers numerous services to our community, provides indoor and outdoor facilities and amenities, and undertakes functions such as considering planning applications, facilitating community projects, hosting fund raisers and managing Wivenhoe's museum. Anyone interested in becoming a councillor should ask themselves:

- Do I want to make a difference in my community?
- Can I dedicate 5-10 hours a week to council work and meetings?
- Do I bring any particular skills, expertise or local knowledge to the council?
- Am I a team player who listens, engages constructively, and communicates effectively?

If you would like to know criteria for eligibility, please email Jo, the Town Clerk on townclerk@wivenhoe.gov.uk or call 01206 822864.

Nominations to be a candidate must be submitted to Colchester City Council by 4th April 2023. Further info: www.colchester.gov.uk/elections/upcoming-elections/

Voter ID: Change in Legislation

The Government now requires voters to show photo ID at UK polling stations. This will apply at local elections on Thursday 4 May 2023. You can use photo ID such as a passport, driving licence (including provisional) or a Blue Badge. For further options and information see www.colchester.gov.uk/elections/voterid/ or call the helpline on 0800 328 0280. Alternatively you can apply for a free Voter Authority Certificate at www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate. If you need help with getting an application form please email elections@colchester.gov.uk, call 01206 282820 or apply by post to:

**Electoral Services, Colchester City Council, Rowan House,
33 Sheepen Road, Colchester CO3 3WG**



Honorary Alderman Robert Needham

In September 2021 Wivenhoe Town Council voted to confer the title of Honorary Alderman or Alderwoman to persons who have rendered eminent services as past members of the Council.



At our Christmas gathering on the 16th of December, Mayor Tom Kane awarded the first Alderman title and badge to Robert Needham for his services not only to the Council (on which he served for twelve years, two as Mayor) but also for his services to Wivenhoe in general. We know that you would wish to join us in congratulating him.

Thank you Bob!

WTC Services During Office Redevelopment

Whilst council offices are closed for redevelopment from 6th March, WTC staff will have a reception desk at the William Loveless Hall on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9.30 to 12.30. We will also be contactable by email or phone, as usual.

Recycling supplies will still be available to collect from the William Loveless Hall car park, but please order your supplies from Colchester City Council's website in advance.

Council meetings will be held in the Wyvern Room at the William Loveless Hall. As we will not have a large screen on which to share documents please bring a device to view these materials and help us cut down on printing.

For all enquiries regarding the new arrangements, please email the Town Clerk on townclerk@wivenhoe.gov.uk or phone her on 01206 822864.

Mayor's Update

Mayor Tom Kane

In October we held our annual Civic Service at St. Mary's Church. The theme was 'Human Kindness', something I feel is particularly resonant for our local community...

Yet again we had a huge turnout for our Remembrance Service in November, for which thanks are due to the British Legion and WTC staff. In the same month I attended the very moving unveiling of beautiful new stained glass panels in the Congregational Church.

It was also lovely to see so many children turn out to welcome St Nicholas after his long sea voyage, a Low Countries tradition that has become a much loved Wivenhoe tradition.

December is a busy time in the Mayoral calendar, starting with the turning on of the Christmas lights and followed by the Christmas Market. Well done to Reverend Erwin Lammens and the many volunteers who made this event so successful. I also enjoyed the Women's Institute Christmas party, especially the surprise burlesque show!

Annual Budget & Council Tax Precept

Mayor Tom Kane

In January the Council agreed its budget for 2023/24, along with the Wivenhoe precept to be levied from Council Tax. It was agreed that the precept would be an increase of 10% to £400,057, equivalent to an increase of £12.91 per year for a Band D household.

We recognise that this increase is higher than in previous years, but it is below inflation (at time of setting). As well as the obvious inflation factor this was driven by the need to provide sufficient reserves for known and potential liabilities including the repair of the Old Cemetery wall and the potential costs for a new cemetery for the town.



WTC hosts a Christmas party for our hardworking staff and community volunteers, at which it was an honour to recognise Bob Needham as the very first Alderman of Wivenhoe. Then on Christmas Day, I visited the Reaching Out at Christmas Party to thank the volunteers for putting on such a splendid event.

Along with our City Councillors and the Wivenhoe Society, I spoke at the Planning Inquiry to oppose the Broadfields development (reported on page 1) which resulted in an exceptional victory for our Neighbourhood Plan. It is hoped that the developer will now come back with a revised plan for much needed housing which fully respects the wishes of Wivenhoe people.

Finally I would like to thank Mayoress, Phillipa Grimes for her unstinting support... and especially for agreeing to marry me this year!

Climate Change & the Environment

Cllr. Megan Maltby

A community meeting is being held to discuss actions our town can take to achieve net zero by 2030. WTC would like to work in partnership with local people to turn its words on climate change into actions. Councillors would like to meet anyone who has ideas or expertise to share and anyone who would like to be part of a working group focusing on environmental initiatives. Your contribution is welcomed, however big or small. Please do come along. Open to all ages. The meeting will be held on Thursday 23rd March 2023 from 7-9pm at The Royal British Legion, The Quay, Wivenhoe.

The Walking Bus

Cllr. Tim Multon

Wivenhoe's first Walking Bus, started by Charlotte Bernays in 2016, picked up around 20 passengers daily before Covid-19 halted proceedings.

The bus restarted in 2022, and it was always Charlotte's ambition to expand the scheme. WTC's Health & Wellbeing group share that ambition and are looking to partner with other groups or individuals interested in creating new Walking Bus routes.

WHO CAN CATCH THESE BUSES'?

Anyone! There are no restrictions to participation. If you want to build a bit more exercise into your day whilst enjoying a friendly chat, the Bus is just up your street!

WILL I BE ABLE TO KEEP UP?

People are free to walk around the circular route at their own pace, fast or slow.

HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE?

Starting from Brook Street (by Wivenhoe Business Centre) at 9am weekdays, the current Bus runs a 30 minute route. New routes can be started anywhere a small group can congregate, at any time, and take as long as you like!



I WANNA DRIVE THE BUS!!

WTC want to help people start up new routes. You should be able to commit to a regular time, frequency and route until your Bus becomes established and starts running itself! Wivenhoe resident Phil Long is already working on new routes for the top half of town, and consulting with schools over a chaperoned Walking School Bus. Phil is also seeking sponsorship for the junior versions of the bus, which will include additional safety features such as 'hi-vis' jackets.

WHERE CAN I JUMP ON BOARD...?

Email enquiries@wivenhoe.gov.uk if you are interested in starting a new route. Or alternatively

...JUST HOP ON AT BROOK STREET!

We don't do this very often but...

We want you to come and tell us what to do!

Here at Wivenhoe Town Council we want to make a plan to help nature in the town. It's part of our response to the climate emergency.

To get started, we're running a workshop on May 13th at the William Loveless Hall for you to tell us what you think should be done. It needs a really good cross section of Wivenhoe people to be a success. We need people from all walks of life, of all ages and from all over the Town to join in. You might be 'Old Wivenhoe' or have just moved here. You might agree nature needs help or you might not. It doesn't matter. We want to hear all points of view. And if you're someone who never does this sort of thing, you're probably the sort of person we need!

There are only 35 places available. If you are interested get in contact soon (see details on back page). We will then give you more information about it all and you can decide if you still want to be involved. We will make final decisions about who comes along based on getting a good mix of people. The workshop will be held in the William Loveless Hall. I hope you'll consider joining in.

Cllr. Glyn Evans

Coming soon to Wivenhoe foodbank!

Citizens Advice advisor to provide help and assistance to foodbank clients and Wivenhoe residents

**Wivenhoe Congregational Church
101 High Street Wivenhoe CO7 9AB
Third Thursday of every month
10 am - 12 noon**



Let us help

Our team are trained to help with a wide range of problems including:

- Money and credit problems
- Welfare Benefits
- and lots more

Contact us

Your local foodbank can refer you or join us at one of our drop in sessions.

Phone us
01206 244835

Email us
fbenquiries@colchestercab.org.uk
Use enquiry form on our website
www.citizensadvicecolchester.org.uk



Estates Update: Old Cemetery Wall

Cllr. Asa Aldis

One of our community assets managed by WTC's Estates Committee is the Old Cemetery, Belle Vue Road, which is enclosed by a retaining wall over 160 years old.

Despite decades of careful management this fabulous piece of Victorian engineering now requires a programme of managed works to retain its integrity even if some sections have to be replaced with more modern materials.

Preliminary surveys have now been undertaken and costs are estimated to be around £200,000.

These works need to be scheduled over several years in order to spread the cost and provide the time to secure grants and raise funds.

We must also secure the special skills required; a recent article in The Colchester Gazette has helped to attract interest from a specialist structural repair company.

Holidays Activities & Food Programme

Cllr. Denise Burke

As well as being a Wivenhoe Town Councillor I am also an adviser for the Department of Education and work on the Holidays Activities and Food programme (HAF) which provides activities and food during the Easter, Summer and Christmas holidays for those families in receipt of free school meals (FSM).

I am currently in communication with Active Essex, who deliver HAF for Essex County Council, to encourage them to offer HAF places in Wivenhoe this Easter.

Places could potentially be purchased by them at CHUMS holiday scheme based at the University. Eligible families could then be signposted to the places via our two local schools, Broomgrove and Millfields. I understand that Active Essex are currently liaising with CHUMS. Let's hope the holiday places are offered.

Health & Wellbeing

Cllr. Kathleen Wenaden

This winter we partnered with local hubs such as the Congregational Church and The Royal British Legion to offer 'Warm Spaces' every afternoon from Monday to Friday. Our warmest thanks go to all the volunteers who helped run these spaces!

With spring approaching we are working on a number of projects such as 'drop-in' community lunches, free exercise classes on the King George V field, and other sport and fitness projects we hope to announce later this year.

Please contact us if you have an idea for improving health and wellbeing; we are delighted to discuss new projects, and keen to partner with community organisations!

enquiries@wivenhoe.gov.uk

Transport

Cllr. Rik Andrew

WTC is now one of 33 councils supporting the Essex Association of Local Councils campaign to reduce the default speed limit in all Essex towns & villages from 30 to 20mph.

The risk of fatal injury if a pedestrian is hit at 30mph is seven times greater than if they are hit at 20mph.

Making 20mph the default limit is the quickest and most efficient way to improve pedestrian safety. Increasing the perception of safety also encourages people to walk (or cycle) more of the many short journeys we currently make by car.

The alternative (re-engineering roads to force drivers to slow down) is very expensive, takes too long to implement, and is often impractical.

Piecemeal speed reduction is known to be less effective whereas wide area limits achieve much higher levels of compliance.

So the best option is to normalise 20mph via a county-wide policy change, so that drivers develop the habit of slowing down and driving carefully in towns and villages.

Museum Matters

Cllr. Tim Multon

Wivenhoe Chapel Museum will be re-opening to visitors every Saturday and Sunday morning from the 13th of May until September. To enquire about volunteering please email us at: enquiries@wivenhoe.gov.uk.

Policing & Crime

Cllr. Shaun Boughton

Following the crime issues last summer, Cllr Glyn Evans and I met with PCSO Emma Wright to walk round local areas of concern and discuss ways to tackle antisocial behaviour.

Several years ago WTC ran a Neighbourhood Policing Committee (discontinued due to a lack of support) and now that Essex police have recruited more Officers and PCSOs, there is an opportunity to form a similar group that can work alongside Essex Police Active Community Citizen programmes to help to make Wivenhoe safer. Please contact me or the Town Clerk if you are interested in becoming part of the group.

We are also exploring how to help residents feel safer in the darker months, during which there has been a spike of car burglaries and vandalism. Essex police have ramped up their patrols in and around the town, and we again urge any residents who witness suspicious activity to report it to the police. Their call log enables the police to decide where to focus extra patrols.

My details are available on the council website; if anyone has any issues or is looking for advice, I will be more than happy to help.

Of course, it is reassuring to remember that statistically Wivenhoe remains one of the safest places to live.

Contact us...

Phone: 01206 822864

Email: enquiries@wivenhoe.gov.uk
townclerk@wivenhoe.gov.uk

Web: wivenhoe.gov.uk

facebook.com/TownCouncilWivenhoe

Reception during office refit
(06/03/2023 - 31/08/2023):
William Loveless Hall Lobby
Mon/Wed/Fri 9.30am to 12.30 midday