



Foot Ferry Sets Sail!

A new season started this April for the Wivenhoe, Fingringhoe and Rowhedge Ferry.

Most weekends from now to the end of October the Foot Ferry runs between Wivenhoe, Fingringhoe and Rowhedge.

The stops can be found on the floating pontoon at Lion's Quay in Rowhedge, opposite the Royal British Legion in Wivenhoe and at the end of Ferry Road in Fingringhoe. The Fingringhoe stop is by request only (give the ferry a shout from the riverbank).

The fares are £1.50 each way with under 5's and dogs travelling free. Bikes travel for £2 each way. The Foot Ferry is a lovely way to visit these charming villages on the Colne. It operates roughly an hour and a half either side of high tide. For full details, safety information and timetables please visit the website:

<https://wivenhoerowhedgeferry.co.uk>



The Community Engagement Group and BigRedWebDesign have been working hard to modernise our website...

The overall aim is for a site that loads quickly, looks good and is intuitive and consistent so visitors can find what they're looking for, navigate without getting lost and have a good user experience. Town Councillors representing residents and the community have included photographs and biographies to share their individual interests and specialisms and illustrate which committees and working groups they sit on. There is also a new event submission service where residents can complete an online form and advertise an event on the 'What's On' website calendar.



Community Day Saturday 16th September 2023

Wivenhoe Town Council are holding a Community Day on the KGV Playing Field on Saturday 16 September 2023 from 1pm to 5pm.

There will be live music, comedy, food and drinks, children's activities, and stalls. The councillors will be holding a surgery too so please come and have your say!

If you would like to have a stall for your local business, charity or group or would like to hold an activity please contact the Town Clerk on townclerk@wivenhoe.gov.uk

Safer Streets

Making our town streets safer for everyone is on the radar of the Town Council's Transport & Travel Working Group led by Cllr Rik Andrew.

Wivenhoe is now registered with '20's Plenty for Us' and along with dozens of other Essex and Suffolk communities is asking the County Council for lower speed limits.

The proven multiple benefits of slower speeds where people live include: supporting vulnerable people, more walking and cycling, fewer accidents, reduced CO2 and particulate emissions. The resident-led campaign also wants to raise awareness of the impact of pavement parking on pedestrians. Residents and organisations wanting to get involved contact Jo on 07926 463 568 or email:

20splenty.wivenhoe@gmail.com



High Street, Wivenhoe
© Hamish Griffin - geograph.org.uk/p/3984478 CC-BY-SA/2.0

Grant Officer

WTC is looking to appoint a Grant Officer who will coordinate the council's efforts to access grant funding for a range of current and future initiatives.

This will be a part time, contracted role, and provides the opportunity for the successful applicant to play a key role in the council's efforts to deliver new services and facilities for Wivenhoe.

Some experience would be desirable. If you are self-motivated and keen to be part of the team please contact the Town Clerk Jo Beighton-Emms: townclerk@wivenhoe.gov.uk

Car Park Charges

Wivenhoe Town Council owns three car parks in the town, one adjacent to the KGV playing field and two on the Cooks estate.

The car parks are managed on behalf of WTC by NEPP.

Car park charges have not been reviewed for some time and currently the car parks are not financially viable. Therefore, WTC is considering a parking machine in the KGV car park, introducing parking charges for non-residents and increasing the cost of business permits.

The first 30 minutes of parking will be free to enable short trips to the local shops, pick up/drop off at the local nursery and to the play park.

WTC RESERVES

WTC hold earmarked reserves of approximately £365k in addition to a general reserve of £160k.

Why do we need these reserves?

For the general reserve, Government guidance is that between 3 and 12 months of estimated expenditure should be held. Our general reserve equates to 4 months of estimated expenditure next year.

For the earmarked reserves, we regularly review what we hold to ensure we meet as much of our anticipated liabilities. The Council own, manage and have to maintain many physical assets, including the Council Offices, the William Loveless Hall, the KGV Park, the car parks, the old police houses and a range of smaller assets and equipment. Some of the reserves are earmarked to cover any potential shortfall on the planned office refurbishment. Repairs to the old cemetery wall account for the Council's biggest potential liability with quotes ranging up to more than £200,000. We also need to prepare and reserve for any costs associated with the proposed new cemetery. There are also ongoing concerns about the car park and the pavilion. In addition, the Council are aiming to be carbon neutral by 2030 and any acquisition of new equipment needs to take this into account. There is also the potential for additional inflationary impacts, as the budget only covers a pay rise of 5%.

Mayor's Update

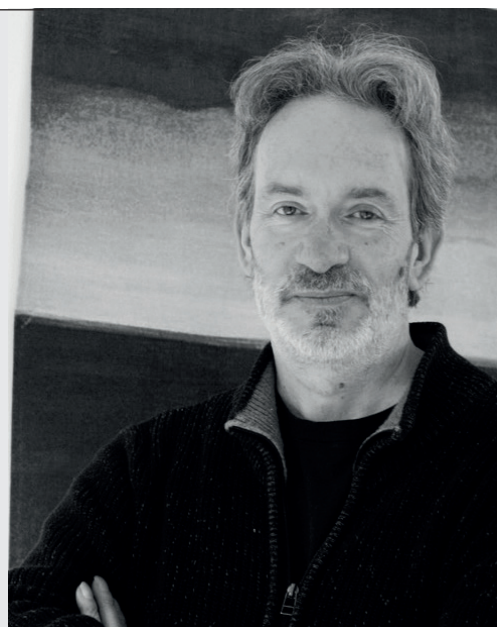
Mayor *Tim Multon*

'My first month in office, following a productive year from Cllr. Tom Kane has been a busy one. Firstly I welcomed people to the Involve Wivenhoe Community Workshop that aims to kick-start a Local Nature Plan.'

Later that weekend I enjoyed the mellow sounds of 'The Oxley-Meier Guitar Project' at The Music Mix in the Loveless Hall. This is a regular event that is attracting some serious jazz talent.

Next I got to don the hi-viz jacket for the Essex University Parkside topping off ceremony - then on to Colchester for an historic first city Mayor Making ceremony.

Back in Wivenhoe, I was delighted to attend the opening of our new Youth Hub, and offer thanks to Ann Lucking and team for creating this fine new facility.



Tim Multon (Photo © Sydney Bayley)

There was much good cheer at Brightlingsea's 'Blessing of the Waters', then back to business, joining our three ward councillors to discuss with a 'Safer Streets' expert the possibility of lighting the path through the KGV.

This is just one of the projects WTC plan to consult residents about at 'pop-up' surgeries planned at both ends of town over the summer (details TBC). Air your views and share your vision for Wivenhoe with your town councillors...

We hope to see you there!

Finance and Budget

Cllr. Tom Kane

Your Town Council is pleased to report that it has come in under budget for the recent financial year, which ended on 31st March. The 2022/2023 accounts show an excess of income over expenditure of £70,400.

This is mainly due to an underspend on the repairs and renewals budget due in part to late quotes (£18k), £16k less in loan repayments as the office development loan came later, and more income from WLH hire being received than originally budgeted for (£10k). In addition, there was a net release from earmarked reserves of £24k due to the office redevelopment.

The underspend has been allocated towards reserves for future liabilities in line with the Council's loan term

prudent financial management commitment, including for cemetery repairs, future town developments, commitments to our climate pledge, planning and repairs and renewals.

The Budget has been set for 2023/2024 and the precept is £400,057. The Band D figure increased from £125.60 last year to £138.41. This is a 10.2% or £12.81 per year increase, which was less than the inflation rate when the precept was set.

All council accounts are available publicly on our website, detailing all income and expenditure. Please contact Councillor Tom Kane, Chair of Finance who will be happy to answer any questions you might have.

WIVENHOE Local Nature Plan

A trendsetter for the
County as a whole?

Wivenhoe's Wonderful Habitat

Wivenhoe has been chosen as a pilot area for the County Council's plans to boost nature across the county. Why?

Because we do things like this...

Members of the public have been encouraged to take part in Green League of the Patchwork Challenge - a competition to find as many bird species as possible in a locality that is no more than 3 square kilometres. The idea is to encourage birders not to use their cars at all in their pursuit - it is encouraging that many have responded to the challenge. This will generate some valuable data from local "patches" that may not have had much coverage to date and may even result in some new finds of important wildlife species; not just birds.

This is just one of the initiatives that has made Wivenhoe a pilot site for the County Council's big plans for nature. That starts with putting together a Local Nature Plan for the Town. And we are keen to involve you in what that plan should look like. If you want to help, please respond to our advert for people to make up a workshop to start the planning process. And you don't need to know anything about nature to put your name forward.

An information board has been installed by the Sailing Club to illustrate the value of the estuarine habitat and all that thrives on it. It is illustrated by internationally renowned wildlife artist, Richard Allen, a Wivenhoe resident.

It is by no means an exhaustive list of all the species we can enjoy here in Wivenhoe. Many of you will have seen clouds of shorebirds on the mud or in the air, particularly in the autumn and winter months, but that is not the only valuable habitat we have here in Wivenhoe. Lakes, streams, farm land and woodland, meadows and marshes; we have a lot of diverse habitat within a few minutes' walk.



Godwits (Photo © Glyn Evans)



Brent Geese (Photo © Glyn Evans)

Men's Group delivers safe space for support

A few years ago, I was struggling very badly. I lost tons of weight, was crying regularly, was very anxious and found it hard to focus on anything important. I started to face challenges that I never dreamed that I would face. I questioned how I managed to end up in this place in my life. I did many many things to help myself out of the slump I found myself in: therapy, coaching, courses, books. One day I connected with men who had faced similar challenges, and it was a great relief to hear other men's stories and perspectives. I eventually found a men's group, where men were dealing with all sorts of issues relating to relationships, parenting, work/life balance, purpose, midlife struggle, amongst others.

These were men in their thirties, forties, fifties and sixties, mainly. It was very refreshing to be part of a group where men were sharing what was going on in their lives, and how they were feeling about it. The men's group, for me, was a safe space where I could go to talk and listen to other men talking about their lives, in a safe and non-judgmental environment. Hearing from other men and how they had dealt with challenges in their life helped me gain perspective on what I faced. I would ask all men in our community to join us on this journey. **Jamil Jivanjee**

For information call 07950 100611 or e-mail jamilkj@hotmail.com

Can the Community Fund help your organisation?

The Wivenhoe Town Council Community Fund can provide grants to a maximum of £350 for initiatives and projects which benefit the people of the town.

Three community funds are available to be allocated every three months with the Town Council allocating the grants aligned to the community fund criteria. Local groups and organisations are welcome to apply for a grant if they feel they have a project which we can support. The application form and policy can be found on our website.

All applications should be submitted to the Town Council.

Should Wivenhoe have a Local Plan for Nature?

This research is to inform the debate and gather views and ideas on the restoration and protection of nature in Wivenhoe. The data gathered will assist in the creation of a Local Nature Plan for Wivenhoe, which will guide Wivenhoe Town Council on actions for nature recovery for the next five years and be an addendum to the Wivenhoe Neighbourhood Plan.

Snap our Nature Plan QR code for further details:



Survey Questions

Do you think Wivenhoe should have a Local Nature Plan? Yes No

What, if anything, do you love about nature in Wivenhoe?

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What, if anything, would you miss if it disappeared?

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.....

Imagine it is 2050 and nature in Wivenhoe is thriving. What is different from now?

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.....

Have you recently seen examples of people working together to restore and protect nature in Wivenhoe? Yes No

Do you have any other ideas for conservation volunteering in Wivenhoe?

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Do you think Wivenhoe Town Council could work with the community more to restore and protect nature in Wivenhoe? Yes No

Would you like to work with the Council? Yes No

Do you have any further comments regarding nature conservation in Wivenhoe (use separate sheet if necessary)?

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Contact Details (if you are happy to be interviewed)

Name

Email address

Telephone number

(tick your preference for how to be contacted)



This survey should take no longer than 30 minutes to complete. All responses will be in confidence.

If you are willing to be interviewed please provide your contact details. A Research Participant Information Sheet is available on our website or in hardcopy on request.

Please reply by 25th August 2023 and bring your response to the William Loveless Hall. There is a postbox at the entrance.

If you have mobility issues contact: **townclerk@wivenhoe.gov.uk**

Please use a separate sheet of paper if necessary.

Thank you for your contribution...!



Contact WTC

Phone: 01206 822864

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

Web: wivenhoe.gov.uk

[facebook.com/TownCouncilWivenhoe](https://www.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