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Hello, I hope you are all keeping safe and well.

The trees have coloured up, the nights are drawing in – winter is coming!

Thanks go out to Mary Jolland for organising the November Litter pick, and Barbara Merritt and the Wickhambrook Memorial Social Centre for their welcome refreshments. Thank you too for such a strong turn out. Ten adults and two children collected nine bags of rubbish, a wooden board and the bottom of a cone! We'll be setting some dates for litter picks in the new year and hope to see you again soon.

Thanks also go out to Alan and Kathryn Cordy and their volunteers who did such a lovely job cleaning and decorating the Memorial and the gates into the cemetery leading up to it in preparation for the the Service of Remembrance on Sunday 12th November. Dorothy Anderson, Village Recorder, and two pupils from Wickhambrook Primary Academy laid the wreath on behalf of the parish council.



Saturday 4th November marked the launch of our consultation on the [Draft Neighbourhood Plan](#) with an event at the WI Hall. Thanks go out to the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group, who have put so much time and work into getting us this far, and the ladies of the WI for the hall space and refreshments. Thank you too to everyone who dropped in that day to look at the plan, ask questions and raise concerns, particularly about recent flooding and ongoing road safety issues. Please be assured that the parish council has listened to your views and is looking into how it can work with both volunteers and statutory bodies to address these concerns. You'll also see in the Draft Plan how some of the concerns that you've raised in the past (which touch on those issues) will be addressed through Community Actions.

WICKHAMBROOK NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Your village - your voice -
your chance to comment

Public Consultation

4 November - 22 December 2023



You should already have received a Neighbourhood Plan [information leaflet](#) which was delivered to all homes in the parish, explaining where and how you can look through the plan and comment on it. If you haven't received a leaflet, please contact either the [clerk](#) or one of your [councillors](#). You can also view our summary of the draft plan on this [short video](#).

Your comments are really important to us! Please read our [Draft Neighbourhood Plan](#) and then go to our [on-line survey](#) to tell us what you think (or [download a form](#)).

Don't forget if you don't have access to the internet, paper copies will be available to borrow from the following locations:

- Wickhambrook Stores
- Greyhound pub
- Phone box at Thorns Corner
- Memorial Social Centre

You can also borrow a paper copy from any of your Parish Councillors or email: neighbourhoodplan@wickhambrook.org.uk. You can submit your completed comments form by posting it in the post box in the phone box at Thorns Corner.

This is your chance to help create a vision for development in Wickhambrook for the next 20 years. To make sure the Neighbourhood Plan reflects your views, please send in your comments – even if you support everything in the draft Plan.

Follow this link for more information on the [Draft Neighbourhood Plan](#).

Although the cutting season is drawing to a close, the grounds contractors have been out and about completing some of the projects the Estates Committee has been working to bring about this summer, including:



A new gate into the Memorial Garden from Footpath 26



New posts at the Tennis Courts



A new parish noticeboard

The cold damp weather in October caused condensation problems with our defibrillator box at the Memorial Social Centre and it had to be taken out of service until this could be resolved. With thanks to both Cllr Paul Couzens, who has fitted new seals, checked electrics and sealed the cabinet, and advice from Peter Vince, the defibrillator is now back in commission.

With thanks to our Suffolk County Councillor, Bobby Bennett, who approved a grant of £1000 from her locality fund, the Public Rights of Way team have now extended the planings to create an improved surface on Footpath 25, from Coltsfoot Green all the way to the bottom of the steps up to Six Acres. Thanks also go to Roger Medley, our lay footpaths officer, who worked so hard to bring this about.



We've also just had confirmation from Suffolk County Council Highways that the new bus shelter will be installed at Cemetery Road in the week commencing 4th December.

The storms and very wet weather have resulted in a lot of flooding issues in the parish recently. You can sign up for flood alerts and warnings for your property or business here:

<https://www.gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings>

and you can also check for flooding in Suffolk here: <https://check-for-flooding.service.gov.uk/location?location=suffolk> – this one includes a map

You can also call the floodline for advice:

Telephone: 0345 988 1188

Textphone: 0345 602 6340

Open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

Suffolk County Council is asking affected residents to report significant flooding to individual properties using the [Highways Reporting Tool](#), or if you don't have access to the internet, to call SCC Customer Service 0345 606 6171. If you would like to volunteer with the parish council to help with activities that could help to reduce the impact of flooding, please contact the clerk.

Parish Council Meetings are open to the public so why not come along? We hope that you will find it interesting and we would like to increase our community engagement. This helps to ensure that the decisions that are reached have the support of local residents. You never know, you may wish to get more involved – there are lots of ways to contribute, from attending meetings and asking questions, to joining in with volunteer events, becoming a lay member on our Estates Committee, or becoming a Councillor! We currently have four vacancies for parish councillors, and are also looking to recruit a lay member to the Estates Committee. If you would like to find out more, please do call me or one of our councillors, or come along to one of our meetings. If you would like to be considered as a councillor, please take a look at the [website](#), and complete and return a co-option application and eligibility form to Hilary. We look forward to hearing from you! You can find draft minutes of our recent meetings here:

- [Estates Committee](#) – 2nd November
- [Parish Council meeting](#) – 28th September

Our next meeting takes place on Thursday November 30th at 7:00pm, in the Dulcie Smith Room of the Memorial Social Centre. Please do join us, particularly if you have any issues you wish to raise or questions you would like to ask. The [Agenda](#) includes:

- The Parish Council's Draft Budget
- A Grant application to cover costs of repairs to the Memorial Clock
- Transfer of land at Bury Road pocket park to the parish council

The parish council's meeting in January will consider any revisions to the draft

budget, and set the precept for the next financial year.

We'll also be considering nominations for the [Alf Hicks Crystal Biscuit Barrel](#), to be presented at the next Annual Parish Meeting. If you would like to nominate an individual for their outstanding service to the parish, please drop a line to the clerk not later than 31st December.

If there is anything you would like the parish council to consider at a future meeting, [please do get in touch with me](#).

Do feel free to forward this message on to neighbours, friends and family in the parish and ask them to get in touch with me at parishclerk@wickhambrook.org.uk if they would like to be included in our e-newsletter mailing list!

Thank you once again to everyone who has supported the parish council in its work this year. Wishing you all the best for Christmas and the New Year, keep safe and well.

Hilary Workman

Clerk for Wickhambrook Parish Council