

Wickham Market Partnership

ANNUAL REPORT & ACCOUNTS

Year ended 5th April 2022

Charity Registration No. 1096332
Company Registration No. 4555122

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 5th April 2022

The Trustees, who are also Directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act, submit their annual report and the audited financial statements for the year ended 5th April 2022. The Trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" issued in October 2006 in preparing the annual report and financial statements of the charity.

The charity is a company limited by guarantee and was set up on 7th October 2002. It is governed by a Memorandum and Articles of Association, which were last amended on 7th October 2002. The company achieved charitable status on 4th March 2003.

The Trustees of the charity are:

Mrs C Caudwell
Mr G Hering
Ms J Hopps
Mr R Jenkinson
Mr R Lewis
Mr C Owens

The trustees are appointed for a three-year term and a third retire by rotation at the Annual General Meeting and may be reappointed. Additional trustees can be appointed by ordinary resolution.

Company Secretary is Mrs C J Caudwell and the registered office of the company is:

Wickham Market Resource Centre,
Chapel Lane,
Wickham Market,
Woodbridge,
IP13 0SB

Bankers for the charity are:

The Co-operative Bank plc, P.O. Box 101, 1 Balloon Street, Manchester M60 4EP

Solicitors for the charity are:

Greenland Houchen Pomeroy, 38 Prince of Wales Road, Norwich, NR1 1HZ

Independent Examiner for the charity is:

Mr N Bestow, CGMA,

The Wickham Market Partnership's Vision for Wickham Market is:

To be a community that values and supports all of its people

That serves the surrounding villages with pride

That works hard to sustain and improve its remarkable quality of life

Objects

Its objects are to secure and improve the economic and social framework of Wickham Market and the surrounding parishes by encouraging the development of recreational and leisure activities; offering opportunities for education and training and improving and enhancing the town and surrounding communities.

People

Trustees have met on a regular basis to make decisions on the work of the charity. Their voluntary commitment has been substantial.

Ms Amy Drayson is the charity's part-time Administrative Assistant. The charity has no relationships with either related parties or any other charities or organisations.

Funding

The Partnership developed out of the Market Towns Initiative (MTI), a government scheme aimed at promoting the key role of market towns in rural communities and managed by the East of England Development Agency (EEDA). This funding finished in March 2004. The Partnership continues to attract grant funding to support the development of local initiatives, including the Peoples Millions Lottery Fund, Local Authority grants (including business support funding), local charities and local businesses.

The Community Rooms are the base for the Partnership with regular lettings contributing to the running of them and enabling us to continue to employ an Administrative Assistant.

Membership of the Partnership demonstrates the wide range of local and statutory organisations, businesses and individuals actively supporting the work of the charity. Subscriptions provide revenue funding for the Partnership managed website.



The Resource Centre

Community Rooms

The Library and Community Rooms are a local focal point for residents and visitors. The Partnership leases the Community Rooms from Suffolk County Council with Suffolk Libraries IPS managing the building on their behalf. A joint Management Committee deals with issues of maintenance and statutory obligations.

The Treatment Room and an associated office continue to be hired by a private chiropractor. The meeting rooms are normally used to provide Retinal Screening Clinics for patients with diabetes, the Citizens Advice Bureau, counsellors, therapists as well as the Clerk to Wickham Market Parish Council. Services are gradually returning to using the rooms following the Covid pandemic in 2020-2021, but uptake has been slow. Trustees began meeting in person after using 'Zoom' for several months.

A request for a volunteer team to look after the gardens has met with little response since reopening so trustee involvement has continued.

Library

The Partnership is a member of Suffolk's Libraries IPS Ltd, an Industrial Provident Society, providing library services for Suffolk County Council.

Following the reopening of the library after a long period of closure due to Covid, the Partnership has been supporting the new Library Manager, Theo Clarke, to help re-establish the library as a key benefit for Wickham and the surrounding villages. The Partnership is also helping by giving a donation towards the refurbishment of the children's area in the library.

The library is open 5 days a week but relies on volunteers to work with library staff to keep the library fully open each day. In recent months the library has had to close on occasion due to not having enough volunteers, partly due to the post-Covid effect, so the recruiting of new volunteers and their training remains a key priority.

Website

The Partnership launched a more interactive visitor website for Wickham Market, www.visitwickhammarket.co.uk, which now provides access to extended information on local businesses and organisations. This was funded with grants from East Suffolk



District Council and the East Suffolk Partnership, as well as Wickham Market Parish Council, with the Partnership matching this from its own resources. Attracting new membership is a key priority for the future to enable the hosting and management of the website to be self-funding using the services of Attain

Solutions Ltd. The website provides an important advertising tool for local businesses, organisations and events. Events are advertised in chronological order to improve the visitor experience to Wickham Market.



The Administrative Assistant manages a weekly Round Robin email to 240 recipients, giving information on a wide range of events, clubs and activities.

Tennis

Following the installation of three hard tennis courts, funded by the Peoples Millions of the National Lottery in 2008, tennis activities continue to be managed by a Tennis Club, including sessions with a dedicated coach. The maintenance of the courts remains the responsibility of the Partnership. Pay and play sessions are also available by booking through a local business outlet, R & S Hardware. Post-Covid the pay and play sessions have lessened but are still popular. Framlingham Tennis Club used the courts whilst its own were being refurbished, offering a contribution to their upkeep.

Inspirations opened in May 2016 and quickly became a destination store, not only for residents but also for visitors from neighbouring villages and towns, some from quite far afield. Negotiations with the East of England Co-operative Society by the Shops and Facilities group of the then Town Team led to a Community Interest Company being formed to develop the empty store on The Hill into a shared retail space for small entrepreneurs.



Inspirations (Wickham Market) CIC presented the project to the community in February 2016 and received a tremendous response, with 210 shares being taken by local people to finance the set-up costs of the project, together with a number of substantial private donations. A 10 year lease is in place. The Directors of the CIC, all members of the Partnership or former Town Team, continue to manage the company, promoting it with a range of marketing and attracting new retailers. Retailers themselves staff the shop, dependent on space occupied, supporting each other co-operatively. Post-Covid the retailers have been keen to continue, although two of the larger retailers have moved to commission only to give themselves a better work-life balance. This has meant extra hours being covered by a new retailer enabling the rota to be balanced.



The George. The Planning Application and Listed Building Consent for the restoration of the building were granted in July 2021. This allowed the application to National Lottery Heritage Fund for the Delivery Phase element of their grant and the group was notified of their Permission to Start on 23rd February. The Professional Team were mobilised and started a 16-week period to prepare the detailed designs for inclusion in the tender documentation for the Main Building Contractor.

On completion of these designs the Quantity Surveyor will prepare a detailed cost report to show what the final projected costs are expected to be. This report will then be reviewed by the Society Management Committee with support from the Professional Team to determine if there are any areas where costs can be reduced without impacting on the design intent. This is a 'Value Engineering' exercise.

In parallel with the design development, work is in hand to complete the funding for the project. A Funding Strategy is in place and is being implemented. There are several strands to this, one of which is to conduct a second Community Share Campaign including following up Pledges. The total number of shareholders and applicants for shares now exceeds 400.

Arts Project

During 2021 Covid continued to restrict the Arts Project Group and consequently The Big Draw and Arts Festival did not take place.

A programme of smaller events is planned for 2022 with participation in the Jubilee Picnic on the Pightle where children will be able to make their own Jubilee Crown. Secondly a heritage project with Wickham Market Primary School is also planned to highlight the heritage buildings in the High Street and the positive difference and contribution they have made to Wickham Market over the years. This will culminate in paintings and drawings made by the school children and displayed on the hoardings of the George Public House for everyone to see.





The **Wickham Market Shed** project held its introductory meeting in January 2020, at which 16 attended to listen to a presentation from an ambassador from the UK Men's Shed Association. Following this, fortnightly meetings ensued where options for the siting of a Shed were explored, other Shed projects were visited and ideas for the type of Shed shared. The Covid pandemic curtailed these until late 2021.

It then transpired that the Wickham Market Area Archive Centre (WMAAC) wished to find a new home and discussions led to the rear garden of the Resource Centre being put forward, leaving two portacabins and two sheds to potentially being released for the Shed project.

'Shedders' have been sorting tools, tidying the site and repairing the two wooden sheds, prior to occupying the two portacabins once a new lease for WMAAC is in place at the Resource Centre. Support for the project from the Parish Council has been sought as it will be the landlord for the site in the future.

Future Plans

The Partnership is a key player in many village developments, with trustees being represented on other major committees. These include the Parish Council, the Neighbourhood Plan (led by the Parish Council); the Arts Project group (including our Administrative Assistant, Amy Drayson); Inspirations (Wickham Market) CIC and the George Public House.

The Partnership has pledged £5,000 to both The George project and the Village Hall Rebuild Fund (later changed to the Refurbishment Fund); important for matched funding applications.

It is encouraging to note that new volunteers are also coming forward to offer their help and expertise with new projects and demonstrates the community values that Wickham Market is regularly recognised for.