



ANNUAL PARISH MEETING, CHAIRMANS REPORT

Monday
27th April 2026

Introductions

Good evening everyone, and thank you for attending the Annual Parish Meeting.

It is my pleasure to present this report summarising the work of Wroughton & Wichelstowe Parish Council over the past year, covering the period since our last meeting in 2025.

Looking Back

Over the past 12 months, the Parish Council has continued its commitment to ensuring Wroughton and Wichelstowe remain vibrant, safe, and well-supported communities. Our work has focused on improving local facilities, maintaining high-quality public spaces, supporting community initiatives, and ensuring that residents' voices remain at the heart of every decision.

Community Services & Facilities

We have continued to invest in the upkeep and enhancement of parish facilities, including open spaces, play areas, and community buildings. Routine maintenance and planned improvements have been undertaken to ensure these assets remain accessible and welcoming to residents.

Highways, Footpaths & Environment

The Parish Council has worked closely with partners to monitor and report highways issues, support environmental improvements, and promote responsible use of green spaces. Efforts to address littering, improve pathways, and protect local biodiversity have all been a priority.

Events & Community Support

A range of community initiatives and events have been supported or facilitated by the Parish Council over the year. These activities help to strengthen community cohesion and ensure that local traditions and shared spaces continue to be valued.

Planning & Local Representation

We have continued to represent residents' views on planning matters, ensuring that development proposals are carefully considered with regard to sustainability, infrastructure, and character. Engagement with external authorities and organisations has remained essential to ensuring the best outcomes for both Wroughton and Wichelstowe.

Flooding, Highways Safety and Partnership Work

This year the Parish Council has taken a particularly proactive role in addressing two major concerns raised by residents: Flooding in Wroughton and speeding issues across the parish.

The Council has continued to highlight the need for improved drainage maintenance, better communication around flood risk, and stronger long-term infrastructure planning. We have worked to ensure that problem areas are properly logged, inspected, and escalated to the appropriate authorities. We have also been proactive in bringing together the main agencies to deal with the flooding, Thames Water, SBC, The Environment Agency, The Science Museum and The Wiltshire Wildlife Trust. Together with a group of residents affected by the flooding, the meetings so far have been encouraging, with the agencies working together to solve the issues instead of blaming each other.

Speeding & Road Safety

In response to concerns about speeding through the village and surrounding areas, we have collaborated with Swindon Borough Council and Wiltshire Police representatives to monitor hotspots, support enforcement, and advocate for further traffic-calming measures where necessary. Resident feedback has been essential in guiding this work, and we will continue to press for improvements, the parish council has agreed to move forward with the purchasing of speed signs,

We have engaged regularly with a wide range of partners, including Swindon Borough Council, our local MP, Thames Water, the Environment Agency, Wiltshire Wildlife Trust and local police representatives, to push for both short-term responses and longer-term solutions.

Thanks and Acknowledgements

This year has once again highlighted the dedication of many individuals who contribute to the effective running and wellbeing of our parish.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to:

- **Our Parish Council staff**, whose professionalism and hard work ensure that day-to-day operations, facilities, and services run smoothly.
- **My fellow Parish Councillors**, for their commitment, time, and thoughtful contributions throughout the year.
- **Our Ward Councillors**, who continue to provide invaluable support, assistance, and partnership in addressing issues affecting our communities.
- **The many volunteers**, from community groups to event organisers and residents who give their time to improve our parish. Their contributions—often unseen—make an enormous difference and are greatly appreciated.

As this marks the completion of my term of service this year as Chairman, I would like to express what a privilege it has been to serve in this role. The past year has demonstrated once again the strength, resilience, and community spirit of Wroughton and Wichelstowe. I am proud of what we have achieved together.

With parish elections taking place this year, I look forward with interest to seeing the outcome and to welcoming the next Council as it continues the work of representing and supporting our growing communities. All of us would appreciate voting for us.

Please remember to take your ID to the Polling stations to enable you to vote.

The Parish count is not taking place until Saturday at 9am, so the result will not be until later that day

Thank you once again for your support over the past year, and for joining us this evening.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Hewer'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'J'.

Chair to Wroughton & Wichelstowe Parish Council
Cllr John Hewer