

Wickham Market Partnership

ANNUAL REPORT & ACCOUNTS

Year ended 5th April 2021

Charity Registration No. 1096332
Company Registration No. 4555122

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 5th April 2021

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 2021. 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. Due to the Covid pandemic this year there was no use of the meeting and interview rooms, though the Chiropractor was able to continue his health-related services but at a very much reduced level due to clients not wishing to attend.

Unfortunately the volunteer gardening team has been unable to look after the rear garden again due to the pandemic and this has resulted in most members not wanting to resume. However, a good tidy up of hedges and borders was paid for by the Partnership, with added voluntary help from one of the trustees.

Library

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

The Covid pandemic saw the library close as soon as the first national lockdown was announced, whilst later in the year services were very limited and volunteers unable to assist. Having led the library team on the Management Committee and the Friends group since inception, John Sculpher decided to retire from these roles when the library re-opened after several months' break. A new Library Manager was also welcomed on re-opening, Theo Clarke.

Many people used the electronic book services, Libby and Overdrive, through the pandemic and going back to using books may be difficult to encourage.

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.



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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. During the Covid pandemic such bookings increased as people wished to exercise more and it is hoped the Tennis Club will benefit with new memberships.

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. 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. With the advent of Covid-19 in March 2020 the shop was closed for three months, re-opening with reduced hours in late June. It was forced to close again in November 2020 and for three months in early 2021 but has remained a viable business, with the Directors taking appropriate decisions to ensure its continuity.



The George. Following the incorporation of The George (Wickham Market) Ltd as a Society for Community Benefit the organisation sold shares to 321 people, which funded the purchase of The George with the vision of rebuilding and restoring it as a Community Pub. An application for a grant of £1m from the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) was made in May 2018 but initially this was unsuccessful. However a re-submission made in May 2019 was later accepted.

Following Permission to Start granted by the NLHF the first step was to appoint the Professional Team. The Project Manager has been appointed and is in place. Selection and appointment is in hand for the Cost manager, the Design team lead and the Heritage Interpretation Planning, Activities Consultant.

With the appointment of the Cost manager, the Design Team Lead and the Heritage Interpretation Planning, Activities Consultant, the Professional Team was completed and a Project Start up meeting held in May. The architect then advanced the designs towards submitting a Planning Application and Listed Buildings Consent in the summer of 2021. They were supported by the rest of the Professional Team and the Management Committee in the preparation of the many supporting and detailed documents. Consultation over the period included an on-line questionnaire, a paper-based questionnaire delivered to all the households in the village, a two-day open public display of the RIBA 2 designs for review and comments and presenting the RIBA 3 designs to the immediate neighbours for review and comment.

Arts Project

Due to COVID restrictions the Big Draw and Arts Festival was unable to take place during 2020. As soon as things become possible the team will once again bring a programme of arts events and participation to the village.



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 Mens 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. Sadly Covid 19 curtailed these meetings until mid-2021. However, Trustees continued to investigate potential sites for a unit over this period.

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 Village Hall refurbishment committee; 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; important for matched funding applications.

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