

Wixams News

Summer 2026

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FREE

WIXAMS RESIDENTS SURVEY – THE RESULTS

SAVE THE WIXAMS MASTERPLAN

**LAKEVIEW VILLAGE HALL –
RENAMING OF THE SWAN ROOM**

WIXAMS TOWN CENTRE PLANS

WIXAMS COMMUNITY EVENTS

NEW ADDITIONS

STORY CORNER – STORYTIME FOR CHILDREN

KATS KORNER – PET ADVICE

Wixams News

Welcome to the Summer edition of the Wixams News. There's no getting around it, this is a bumper edition! As the team, we sat and considered various options such as maybe including some of the resident survey results and then having a link to a digital full copy, but we recognise that not everyone uses IT and also if it's in front of you, you are more likely to flick through it than to go online.

As always there is lots happening past and future in Wixams and we are pleased to be sharing activities for you to do or updating you on information impacting the village.

It's been mentioned throughout, but please do remember, if you feel strongly about something, take the time to comment through official channels, whether it be a planning application, a crime or maybe something that needs repairing or addressing. Together we can keep Wixams a place we are all proud of.

But for now, make yourself comfy and enjoy the read.

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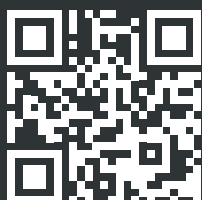
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Wixams Town Council Update

Summer is shaping up to be an important period for Wixams, with a number of long awaited projects moving forward.



Many residents continue to ask about Wixams Station. The project now sits directly with Central Government and Network Rail and is no longer being delivered by Bedford Borough Council. We understand some early works have experienced minor delays due to environmental considerations, however the overall programme remains unchanged. The target remains for the station to open ahead of Universal's grand opening.

Residents will also start to see a number of Reserved Matters planning applications coming forward across Wixams. These applications will include detailed proposals for parts of the development, including the long awaited town centre and GP surgery. Once applications have been validated and published, residents will be able to review the plans and submit comments through the planning process.

Traffic and parking continue to be among the most common issues raised with the Town Council. Barbara Matthews is leading work on a comprehensive review of these challenges across Wixams. We will be holding a public meeting in the coming months to discuss possible solutions and gather resident feedback before any recommendations are finalised. Details will be published once a date has been agreed.

Residents have also contacted me regarding the unauthorised traveller development on land between Wixams and Wilstead. Whilst planning enforcement sits with Bedford Borough Council, the Town Council continues to monitor developments closely and represent the concerns raised by local residents regarding highway safety, planning policy and the wider impact on the community.

As a Town Council, we are increasingly focused on ensuring that Wixams develops as a complete community. New homes are important, but so are the facilities, services, transport links and public spaces that make a town a great place to live. The next few years will see significant change and it is important that residents continue to engage with consultations and local discussions so that your views help shape Wixams' future.

Residents are always welcome to attend Town Council meetings, which are held in public and provide an opportunity to hear about local issues, understand how decisions are made and raise matters of concern with councillors.

Finally, thank you to everyone who supports local events, community groups and volunteer organisations. Strong communities are built by people who give up their time to help others, and Wixams is fortunate to have so many residents who do exactly that.

Marc Frost,
Chair – Wixams Town Council
marc.frost@wixams-pc.gov.uk

Wixams 2040 – Why We Need to Start Planning for the Future Today



Walk around Wixams today and it's clear that the town is entering a completely new chapter.

Construction is about to begin on the new **four-platform Wixams Station**, the long-awaited town centre planning applications have now been submitted, thousands of new homes are planned immediately around the town, and Universal UK Resort is set to transform the wider area.

Taken together, these changes mean Wixams is no longer simply a new housing development. It is becoming an important transport hub and the centre of a much larger community.

For many years, the debate has focused on what has been removed from the original masterplan. That history remains important, but we believe there is now an even bigger question to ask:

Are we planning for the Wixams of the past, or the Wixams of the future?

The Context Has Changed

When Wixams was originally planned, it was designed as a self-contained community of around 4,500 homes with the facilities needed to support everyday life.

Today, that context has changed dramatically.

1. Significant Housing Growth

In addition to the homes within Wixams itself, developments at Wixams East (Medbury), Wixams Park and South of Wixams are expected to add between 3,375 and 4,575 additional homes immediately around the town.

Many of those new residents are likely to rely on Wixams for healthcare, shopping, community facilities, leisure and rail services. Together with the original Wixams development, the town centre could ultimately be serving the equivalent of more than 9,000 homes.



2. A New Four-Platform Station

Construction is about to begin on the new four-platform Wixams Station.

This is far more than simply providing a railway station for existing residents.

The station will become a key transport hub connecting Wixams with the wider region and supporting significant future growth. It will attract commuters, visitors and businesses, fundamentally changing the role of Wixams within Bedfordshire.

Combined with the arrival of Universal UK Resort, the station creates an opportunity for Wixams Town Centre to become much more than a local shopping destination.

As we have said throughout the campaign:

Visitors arriving at Wixams Station will turn left for Universal UK Resort and right for Wixams Town Centre.

Our challenge is to ensure that, when they turn right, they discover

a thriving town centre capable of supporting residents, businesses and visitors for decades to come.

3. Universal UK Resort

The arrival of Universal UK Resort will bring millions of visitors and thousands of jobs to the region.

While many visitors will spend most of their time within the resort itself, Wixams is ideally placed to benefit from increased demand for accommodation, hospitality, local services and rail connections.

Hotels within the Station Quarter, Airbnb accommodation throughout Wixams, and visitor spending all have the potential to become an important part of the local economy. These opportunities also create additional pressure on local infrastructure, healthcare, leisure facilities and the town centre.

Together, these three changes mean Wixams is likely to serve a much larger population and play a much bigger role than originally envisaged.

The question is whether we are planning for that future today.

Our Three Priorities

The campaign is not about stopping the town centre from being built. We welcome the current planning applications and want to see the long-promised facilities delivered.

However, we believe they should be viewed as Phase One, not the finished product.

1. Deliver the Town Centre as Phase One

The proposed GP surgery, community facilities, retail units and public spaces represent important progress and should be delivered.

However, they should be seen as the first stage of a town centre that can evolve as Wixams grows, rather than the final solution.

2. Safeguard Land for the Future

This is perhaps the most important decision we can make.

Once land is allocated for housing, the opportunity to expand the town centre in the future may be lost forever.

If Wixams needs a larger GP surgery, a leisure centre with swimming pool, additional restaurants, more retail space, facilities to support local businesses or visitor infrastructure in years to come, suitable land must still be available.

Protecting that land today will preserve options for future generations.

3. Plan for the Wixams of 2040

Rather than making decisions based solely on assumptions made more than 25 years ago, we believe it is time for a shared vision for the future.

That conversation should involve residents, Urban & Civic, Bedford Borough Council, Central Bedfordshire Council, Universal UK Resort and our MP, Blake Stephenson.

Together, we should be asking one simple question:

What should Wixams look like in 2040?

Join the Conversation

Our aim is not to oppose progress, but to ensure that progress is planned with the future in mind.

The decisions made over the next few years will shape Wixams for generations. By delivering the current town centre, safeguarding land for future expansion and creating a shared vision for 2040, we have the opportunity to create a town that continues to grow alongside its community.

Let's not simply build the Wixams that was planned in 1999.

Let's create the Wixams that will be needed in 2040.

Find out more and join the conversation at:

www.savethewixamsmasterplan.org

POLICE & CRIME

CRIME STATS

Date	Offence	Street
01-May	Public Fear Alarm or Distress	School Lane
03-May	Assault without Injury	Meadow Road
03-May	Stalking	Undisclosed
04-May	Other Theft	Southern Cross
09-May	Assault without Injury	Dunlin Grove
09-May	Assault without Injury	Dunlin Grove
11-May	Harrassment	Undisclosed
14-May	Harrassment	Undisclosed
17-May	Assault With Injury	Goldfinch Gardens
18-May	Sexual	Undisclosed
19-May	Harrassment	Undisclosed
20-May	Public Fear Alarm or Distress	Brooklands Avenue
22-May	Assault With Injury	Sepia Way
22-May	Sexual	Undisclosed
22-May	Threat Intent to commit Criminal Damage	Brooklands Avenue
24-May	Assault without Injury	Copper Close
24-May	Assault without injury on a Constable	Copper Close
24-May	Other Criminal Damage	Copper Close
25-May	Assault With Injury	Lakeside Drive
27-May	Assault without Injury	Southern Cross
29-May	Assault with Injury	Daffodil Drive
29-May	Assault With Injury	Maple Close
30-May	Harrassment	Undisclosed
01-Jun	Assault without injury	Parkview Terrace
03-Jun	Harassment	Undisclosed
03-Jun	Stalking	Undisclosed
04-Jun	Public Fear Alarm or Distress	Lavender Lane
06-Jun	Criminal Damage to a Vehicle	Green Lane
08-Jun	Assault with Injury	Teal Close
08-Jun	Assault without injury	Hummingbird Way
08-Jun	Harassment	Undisclosed
08-Jun	Malicious Communications	Undisclosed
09-Jun	Assault without injury	Emmer Drive
09-Jun	Robbery of Personal Property	Fisherswood Road
10-Jun	Other Criminal Damage	Fisherswood Road
10-Jun	Stalking	Undisclosed
11-Jun	Assault With Injury	Sparrow Close
15 Jun	Assault With Injury	Brooklands Avenue
16 Jun	Assault Without Injury	Harrier Leys
21 Jun	Residential Burglary of home	Daffodil Drive
21 Jun	Sexual	Undisclosed
23 Jun	Harrassment	Undisclosed
27 Jun	Public Fear Alarm or Distress	Nightingale Court
28 Jun	Assault With Injury	Bedford Road
28 Jun	Dangerous Driving	Fisherswood Road
30 Jun	Theft or unauthorised taking of a pedal cycle	School Lane

BORING JOB? NOT AT BEDFORDSHIRE POLICE

Bedfordshire Police offers a career that gives you the opportunity to make a real difference within the community.



Every day is different. We are a small and busy force that offers a lot of experience due to the wide range of crimes we see compared to other forces in the UK. You are not just a number at Bedfordshire Police. You will develop with close-knit teams and there will always be someone to support you through the ups and downs of policing.

As a police officer, you will handle things most people never experience in their lives. Your mental, emotional, and physical capabilities will be tested and you must maintain a professional approach throughout, no matter what the situation.

It's a challenging 24/7 service and you will work a range of shifts, including nights. You might miss celebrations, birthdays, or holidays, but you will get the satisfaction of working in a job like no other.

You'll be part of a unique organisation, working with inspiring colleagues who understand the risks and rewards of the job.

You'll be highly trained and well-supported throughout your service as you help people through some of the most difficult situations in their life.

You will support victims and witnesses and provide reassurance in your community.

Everyone at Bedfordshire Police takes personal responsibility to help create an inclusive workplace, where police officers and staff respect one another, feel valued for their differences and can be themselves. We are committed to providing reasonable adjustments, wherever needed so everyone feels welcome and can flourish.

As a frontline officer you could make the difference to someone every day.

If you think being part of a team that helps to keep the public safe and tackles crime day-to-day is for you, then a role with Bedfordshire Police could be your next career step.

We're recruiting now. To find out about the different routes into policing and apply to join, visit our website: www.beds.police.uk

You can also follow us on Facebook by searching Bedfordshire Police for more news and recruitment updates.

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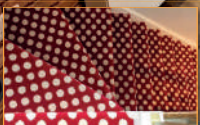
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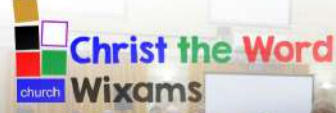
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EMERGENCY SMALL GRANTS

ZeroPA Madad CIC, is a new Wixams based community interest company. We can issue grants of up to £50 to adults in urgent need of food, utilities, or clothing.

Terms and Conditions at:
www.zeropa.co.uk

CONTACT US
E-mail: grants@zeropa.co.uk
Telephone: 07758157051

Every Sunday 10:30am you are welcome at our Sunday Services in the village hall

10:30-11:30am. Activity bag for young children
Please stay for tea, coffee & cake afterwards 😊

www.christthewordwixams.org.uk, 07879716958



MAYOR TOM WOOTTON

Delivering for Wixams while celebrating the best of Bedford Borough

There are moments when years of hard work finally come together, and for Wixams this is one of them.

For many years, local families have quite rightly asked when the town would have the GP surgery it was promised. As Wixams has grown, access to local healthcare has become increasingly important. That is why securing the funding needed to move this project forward has remained one of my highest priorities. Working closely with NHS partners, councillors and officers, we have now secured the investment needed to turn long-standing plans into reality. It is a major milestone for Wixams and one that will make a real difference to local people for generations to come. My thanks also go to all the residents that have also worked hard and continually lobbied for a GP in Wixams.

While delivering essential infrastructure is vital, so too is supporting the events that bring our communities together. This month Bedford welcomes back the River Festival, one of the highlights of our borough's calendar. For almost fifty years it has celebrated everything that makes Bedford special, from our beautiful riverside and independent businesses to the hundreds of volunteers, performers and community groups who give up their time to make it such a success.

Whether it is delivering the services our growing communities need or celebrating the events that bring us together, my focus remains the same: making Bedford Borough an even better place to live. I hope many of you will enjoy the River Festival this summer, and I look forward to seeing the continued progress on the new GP surgery in the months ahead.

Find the contact information for the Mayor at the Bedford Borough Council Website at the QR code:



UPDATE FROM BLAKE STEPHENSON MP

I want to focus this month's column on the tragic train collision near Bedford last month. My thoughts are with all those impacted by the incident, and their family and friends. The response from the emergency services on the day was nothing short of outstanding, and I want to thank them for their hard work and professionalism in dealing with an incredibly difficult set of circumstances.

As we often see, tragedy can bring out the best in people and we really saw our local communities step up. There will be countless examples, but I want to mention the leaders from 1st Wixams Scout Group who worked with other volunteers to collect



donations of water and snacks from supermarkets in the area to distribute people impacted by the collision and to the emergency services personnel attending. Thank you to everybody who did anything at all to support those in need.

Elsewhere, I am continuing to work

closely with the local Wixams campaign group to make sure infrastructure is at the heart of future plans for the area. For too long you have been let down by a failure to deliver the services needed, but progress is finally being made and I will continue to work closely with residents and stakeholders.

Stay updated on the work I'm doing for Wixams by signing up for my regular newsletters on my website (www.blakestephenson.uk), where you can also find the dates of my upcoming advice surgeries. You can also email me on blake.stephenson.mp@parliament.uk.



TOWN CENTRE PLANS SUBMITTED

Urban & Civic has submitted Reserved Matters Applications (RMAs) to Bedford Borough Council and Central Bedfordshire Council, setting out detailed proposals for the Wixams town centre and open spaces.

The applications cover a wide range of facilities the community has long been waiting for, including a GP surgery, supermarket, retail units, a community building, nursery and public square. Sports and open space proposals include football pitches, 3G pitches, a cricket pitch, pavilions with changing rooms and bar areas, new play parks, a skate park, tennis courts, multi-use games areas, outdoor gym equipment and allotments. A second community building in Village 2 is also included.

Earlier this year, Urban & Civic consulted on the

proposals, with an exhibition attended by over 400 residents and viewed online by more than 2,000 people, alongside a questionnaire that received over 200 responses. In response to feedback, Urban & Civic has committed to delivering a food and beverage unit within the town centre, which will be designed and consulted on separately.

Both councils are now holding a statutory consultation period, during which residents can formally comment on the proposals. Applications can be found by visiting the Wixams Facebook group (QR code in the story below).

For more information, visit wixams.co.uk or email wixamsinfo@urbanandcivic.com

Urban&Civic

NEW NETBALL CLUB FOR WIXAMS IS ON THE HUNT FOR PLAYERS

New netball club for Wixams is on the hunt for players

Wixams now has its own youth and junior netball club supported by Urban&Civic.

Wixams Phoenix Netball Club, the first of its type for the area, aims to build a positive, supportive and ambitious netball club for young players to learn, grow and thrive together – both on and off the court.

The club, which will train at Wixams Academy and play games at Bedford Academy, is looking for girls aged eight to 12 to make up its junior teams.

The sponsorship by Urban&Civic is part of our ongoing support for local clubs and community groups, including the Wixams Storm U15 team – part of Wixams Wanderers FC.

To contact the club, email wixamsphoenixnetball@gmail.com or follow them on social media at [instagram.com/wixamsphoenixnetball/](https://www.instagram.com/wixamsphoenixnetball/)





Willow Grove Primary School – Growing Together at the Heart of Wixams

Less than two years after opening our doors, Willow Grove Primary School has become a thriving part of the Wixams community – and we are incredibly proud of what has been achieved together.

This September marks another exciting milestone for our school. Due to unprecedented demand, our Reception intake was oversubscribed, and we have now expanded to two Reception classes, welcoming a full cohort of 60 children. It is wonderful to know that so many local families have chosen Willow Grove as the start of their child's educational journey.

At Willow Grove, we believe children deserve an education that develops the whole child. Alongside the highest academic expectations, we place creativity, the arts, music, outdoor learning and personal development at the very heart of school life. Our vision is simple: every child should leave us not only achieving excellent outcomes, but also confident, compassionate, resilient and ready for whatever comes next. This philosophy sits at the centre of our "Be Creative. Be Authentic. Be Your Best." ethos and our THRIVE values of Teamwork, Hope, Respect, Integrity, Value and Excellence.

Over the past year our children have enjoyed an incredible range of opportunities that go far beyond the classroom. From working with professional arts organisations and performing music, to outdoor learning, local history projects, school camping experiences, educational visits and even creating a time capsule with the Mayor of Bedford, every experience has been designed to inspire curiosity, creativity and a lifelong love of learning. As a growing school, we are creating traditions that our pupils will remember for years to come while building strong links with the wider Wixams community. (willowgrove.school)

We firmly believe that educating a child is a partnership. Parents entrust us with the most important people in their lives, and we never take that responsibility lightly. Our aim is for Willow Grove to be much more than a school. We want it to be a place where families know they are valued, where children feel they belong, and where the whole community works together to help every child flourish. It really does take a village to raise a child, and we are proud to be part of that village.

If your child is due to start school in September 2027, keep an eye out for our Autumn Term Open Events and school tours. There is no better way to experience Willow Grove than by seeing the school in action, meeting our wonderful children and staff, and discovering what makes our school such a special place to learn and grow.

We look forward to welcoming many more families into the Willow Grove community in the years ahead.

The Pedder Room – Lakeview Village Hall

The Village Hall now has the honour of commemorating the inaugural Chair of Wixams Council.

I am delighted to formally announce that the ground floor room, formerly known as the Swan Room, has been renamed The Pedder Room in honour of the late Tony Pedder.

Tony was a true pillar of the Wixams community. He joined the Village Hall Committee when it was first established in 2013 and dedicated countless hours to helping shape the community we enjoy today.

I was incredibly fortunate to serve on the Council under Tony's leadership. He took me under his wing, became my mentor, and inspired me in so many ways. I remain on the Council today because I want to continue the vision he had for Wixams and the community he cared so deeply about.

When I spoke with Tony's family at the unveiling, I spent time learning even more about the man behind the role. I was genuinely humbled by the scale of his commitment and the number of projects and achievements delivered during his time as Chair. While there are far too many to list here, one story particularly touched me.

Tony cared deeply about the lake and its wildlife. At a time when the developer showed little concern, he fought tirelessly to ensure the area was made safe for both wildlife and residents. He successfully persuaded the developers to redesign parts of the lake to better protect the swans' nesting areas and, throughout his tenure as Chair, ensured that protective fencing was installed each year during nesting season.

That story perfectly reflects the kind of person Tony was—someone who cared about every aspect of our community, no matter how big or small.

Thank you, Tony, for everything you did for Wixams. We could not have wished for a better inaugural Chair. Your footsteps were never going to be easy to follow, but it was an absolute privilege to serve on the Council under your leadership.

Finally, I would like to thank the Village Hall Committee, Wixams Council, and, most importantly, Tony's family for allowing us to honour his legacy in this way. I hope everyone who uses The Pedder Room appreciates the significance of the name and remembers the remarkable man whose dedication helped build the community we are all proud to call home.

Sam Mardel



Graeme Coombes – Bedford Borough Councillor – July Update

At every meeting of Wixams Town Council, there is an item where we look at crime figures for Wixams. The data is provided by the police and looks at actual crimes reported during the previous weeks. Last month, it appeared that the number of crimes reported was thankfully low, but it didn't seem to match with the large number of incidents that people often speak about on local Facebook pages.

Whilst 'things reported on Facebook' is probably not the best yardstick with which to measure the true nature of crime here at Wixams, the higher volume of incidents does match with what residents tell me when I am out speaking to you. There does appear to be a clear disconnect between what people in the community say is happening locally and what gets reported in the police crime figures.

This suggests that what people do see and witness is not being reported to the police. Again, speaking to people, there is a sense of "What's the point? Nothing will get done about it." However, this has consequences. The police can only direct resources to where they believe crime is taking place. Likewise, the Council's ASB officers only get sent to areas where it is believed that ASB is taking place.

Therefore, I'm asking residents to make sure that you report crimes when you witness them. I know the

police online reporting is considered too lengthy, with lots of drop-down menus, so the other, possibly quicker, option is to phone them:

- Call 101 (if it's an emergency, call 999)
- If 101 is taking a while to respond, use the ring back option to get them to call you back
- Report the crime and make sure to ask for a crime reference number so you know it has definitely been recorded



Let's do what we can to ensure that the Police and Borough Council are aware of the issues here at Wixams and direct resources here. Please report and record crime when you see it.

Contact: Graeme Coombes
Email: wilshamstead.ward@yahoo.co.uk
Phone: 07815 302 318

Wixams Residents Survey 2026 - *RESULTS*

It had been 5 years since the last Wixams Residents' Survey back in 2021. With our town growing so rapidly and where the town centre plans were being put together by the developers, it was time to run another survey and get some more useful data. The last survey was put together by members of the Wixams Newsletter. This time it was organised by the Wixams Community Group and Wixams News.

We started with the survey from 2021 and we made some improvements. For example we reviewed the answers given in the 2021 results to improve the set of available answers on the multi choice questions for this round. We also liaised with Wixams Town Council and Houghton Conquest Parish Council to further improve the existing questions, and they made some suggestions for new questions we hadn't considered. We also shared our draft questions with Urban&Civic, they provided some useful feedback and asked us to include a question about how they should best share news with the Wixams community.

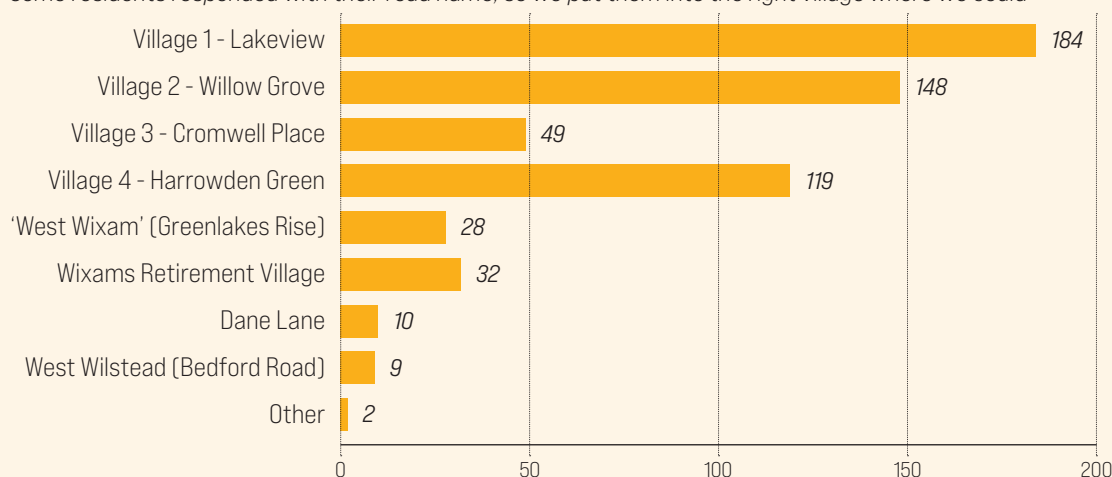
We're very pleased that in total 584 households took part in our survey, both online and by returning the printed surveys we posted through letterboxes. That's a fantastic response, and with so much feedback we're confident that the results below paint a genuine picture of life in Wixams and can help councils, elected representatives and other organisations to appreciate the needs of residents and make informed decisions.

Your Feedback
Matters!

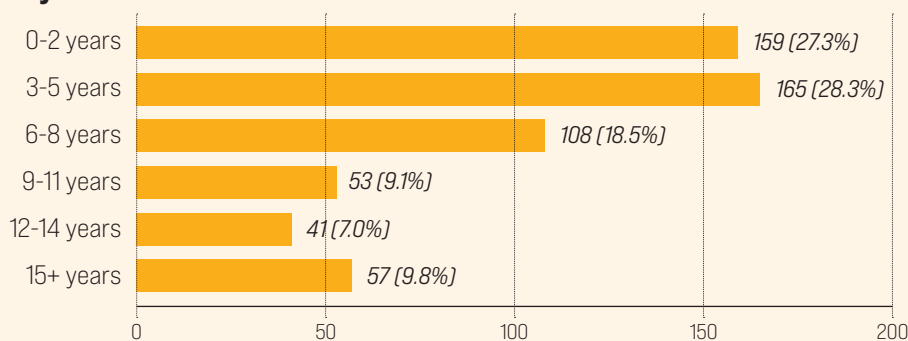


Q1. Where do you live in Wixams?

Some residents responded with their road name, so we put them into the right village where we could

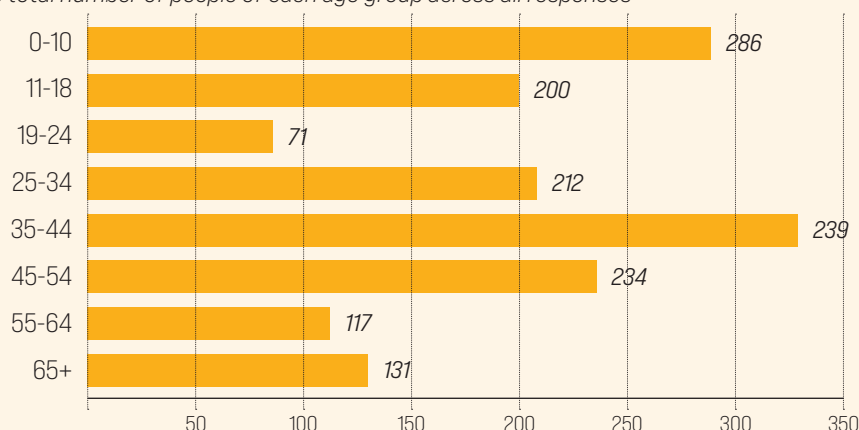


Q2. How long have you lived in Wixams?



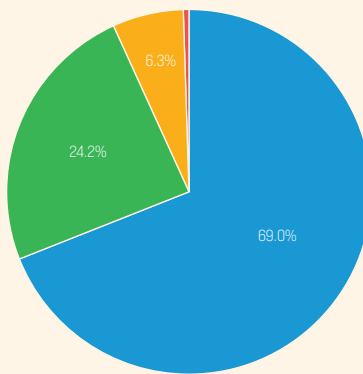
Q3. How many people of the below age groups live in your household?

Here we have shown the total number of people of each age group across all responses



Q4. How many dogs do you have at home?

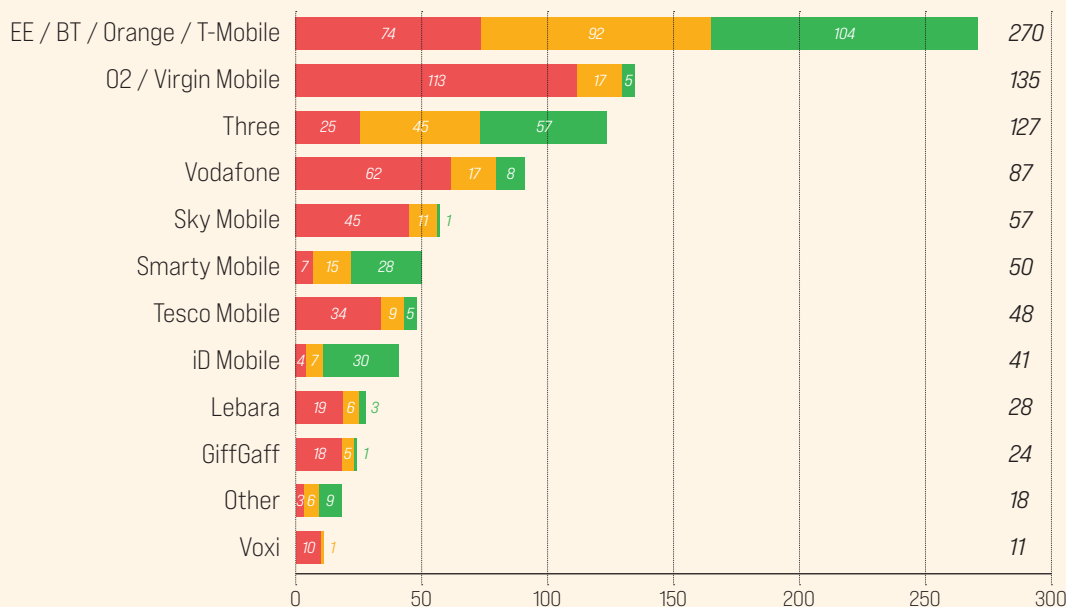
- 0 dogs - 69.0% [362 responses] ●
- 1 dog - 24.2% [127 responses] ●
- 2 dogs - 6.3% [33 responses] ●
- 3 dogs - 0.6% [3 responses] ●



Total responses: 525

Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding

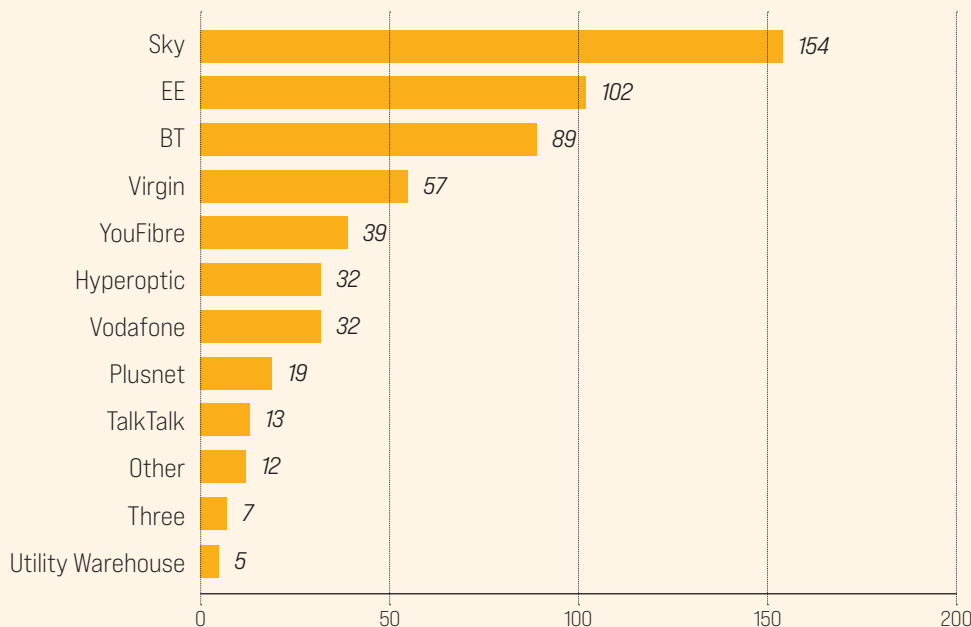
Q5. If you have a mobile phone from any of the providers below, how good is the mobile reception in your house?



- Bad reception
- Fair reception
- Good reception

Total responses: 581

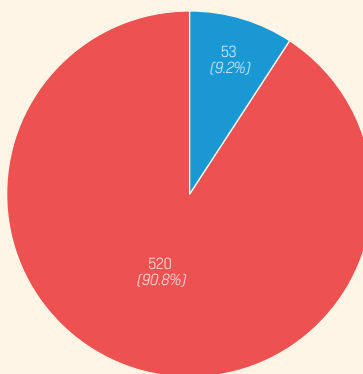
Q6. Which broadband provider do you use?



Total responses: 565

Q7. Do you run a business from home?

- Yes ●
- No ●

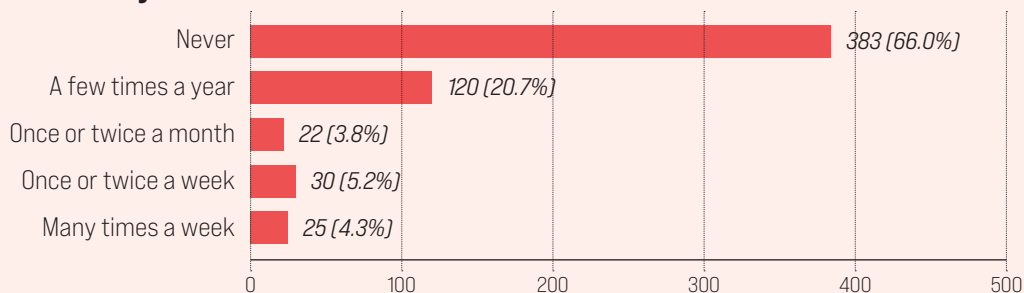


Total responses: 573

Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding

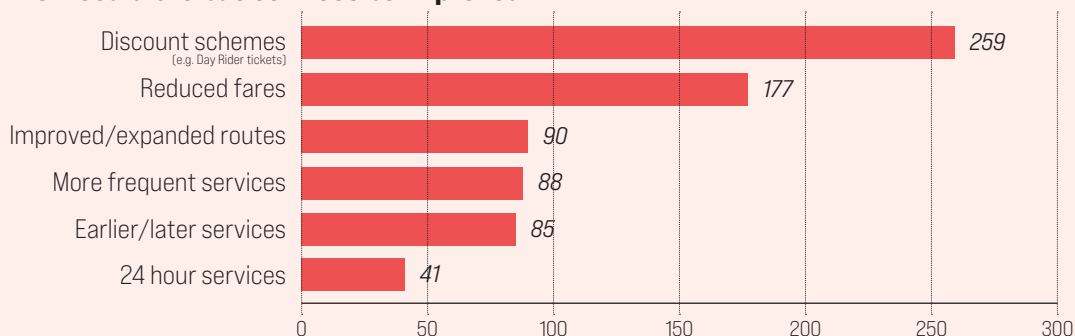
PUBLIC TRANSPORT & COMMUTING

Q8. How often do you use the bus services in Wixams?



Total responses: 580

Q9. How could the bus services be improved?

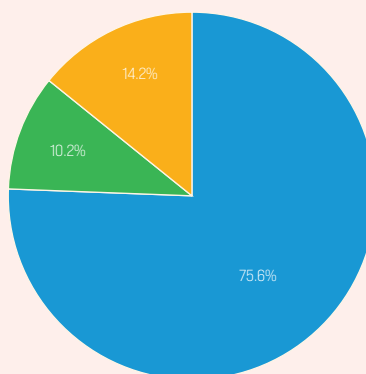


Other: Residents mainly asked for a more reliable and punctual bus service, with fewer cancellations and better coordinated timetables. Many also asked for more frequent buses, wider route coverage, improved bus stop facilities such as shelters and proper waiting areas, reduced fares, clearer ticketing policies, and better service reliability. Other concerns included overcrowding, high fares, inconsistent ticket prices, and poor driver behaviour.

Total responses: 408

Q10. When completed, will you use rail services from the Wixams station to commute (incl. to Bedford)?

- Yes - 430 responses (75.6%) ●
- No - 58 responses (10.2%) ●
- Not sure - 81 responses (14.2%) ●

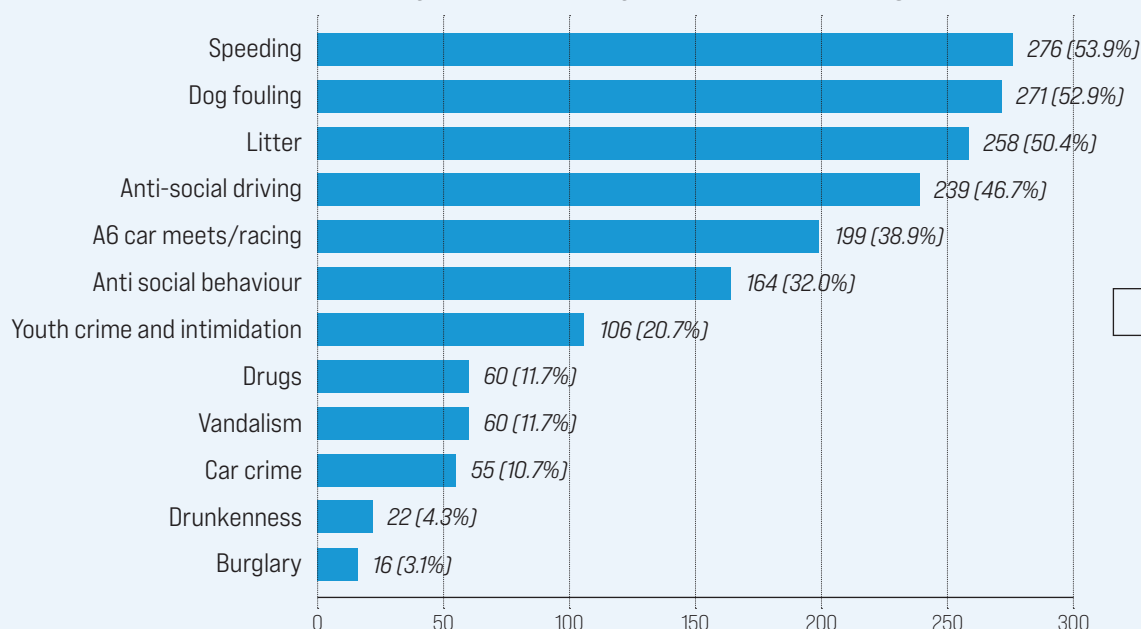


Total responses: 569

Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding

CRIME & ROAD SAFETY

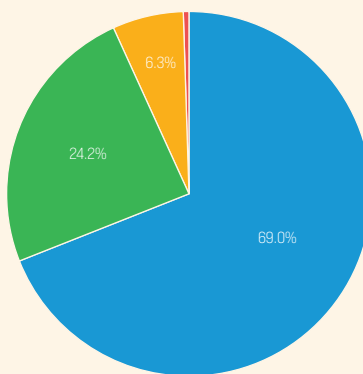
Q11. Which of these have affected you in the last 5 years (or since moving to Wixams)?



Total responses: 512

Q4. How many dogs do you have at home?

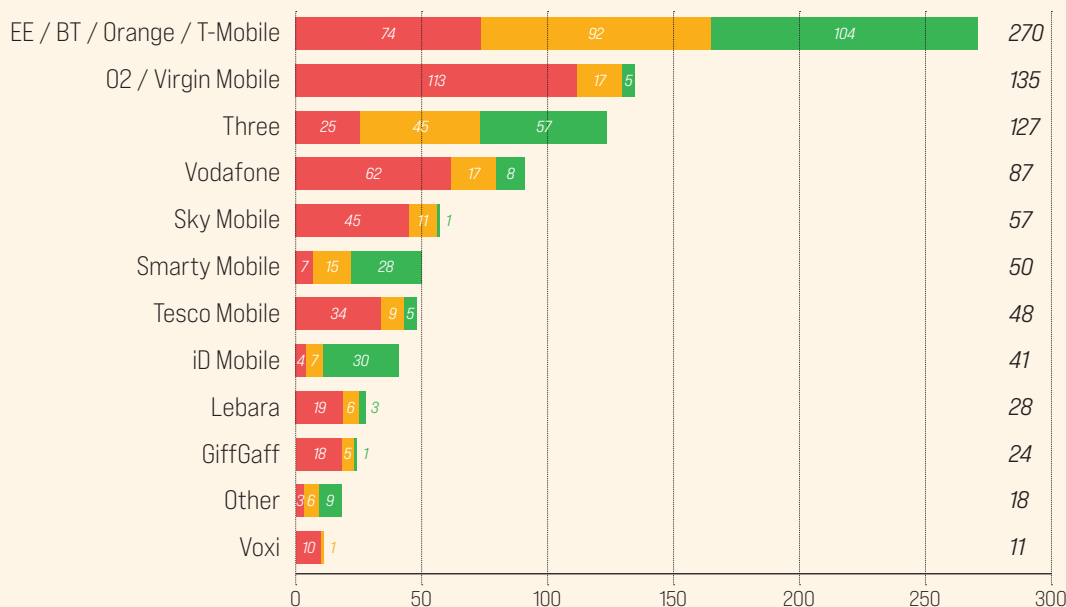
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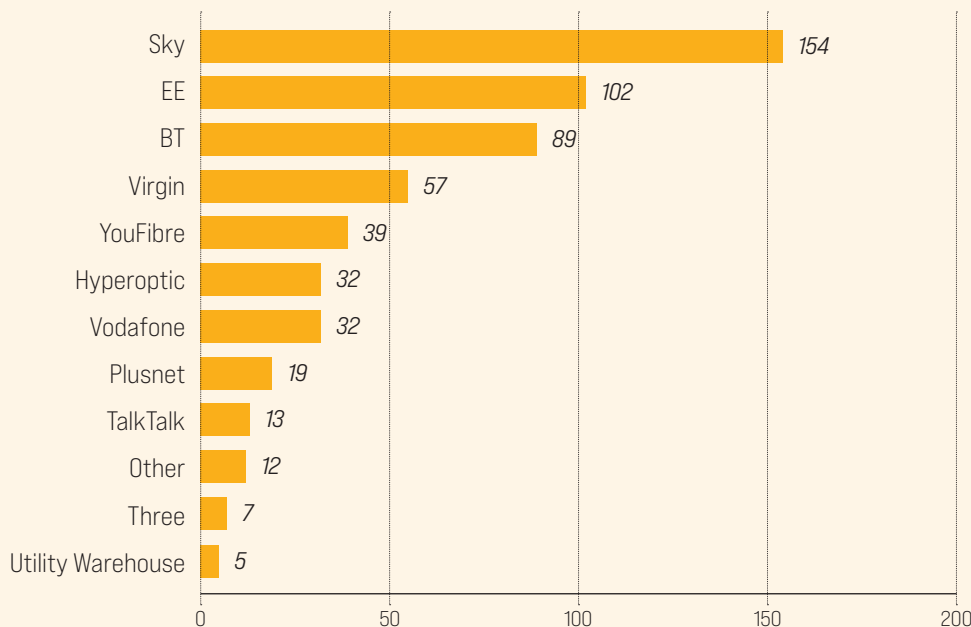
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Fair reception

Good reception

Total responses: 581

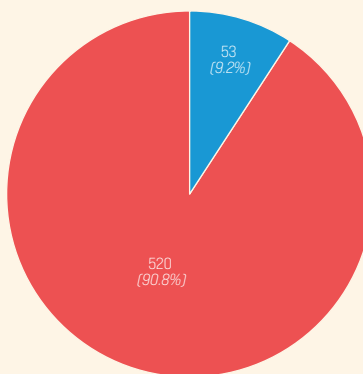
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Total responses: 565

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- Yes ●
- No ●

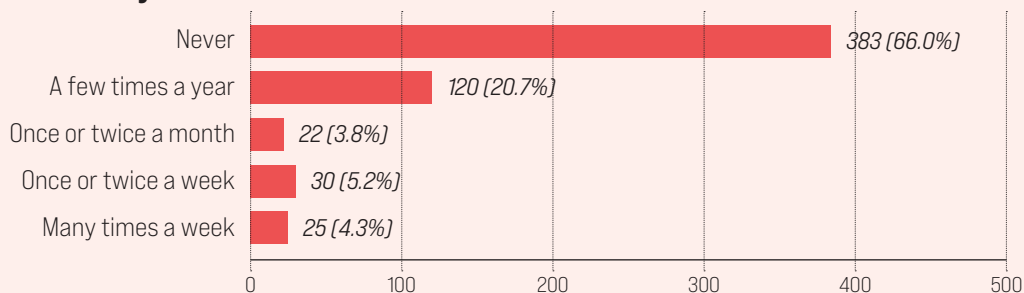


Total responses: 573

Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding

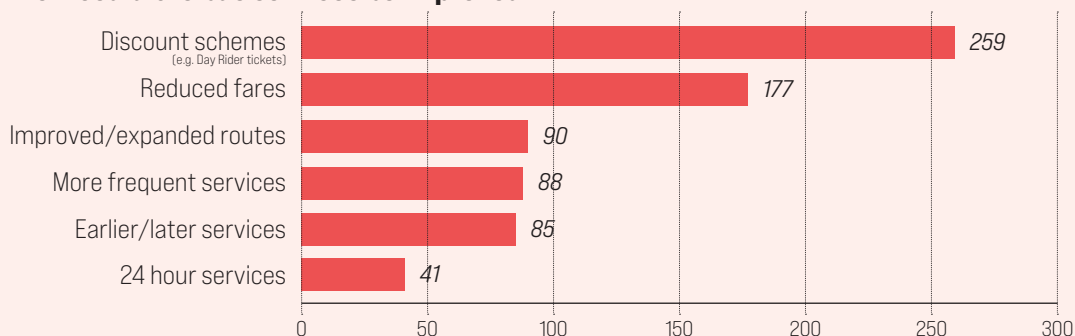
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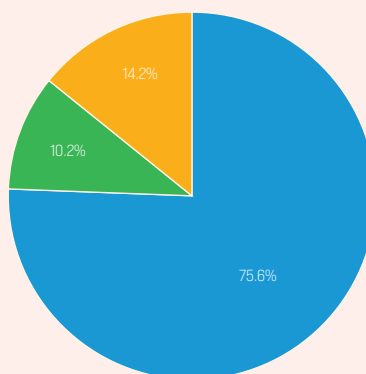


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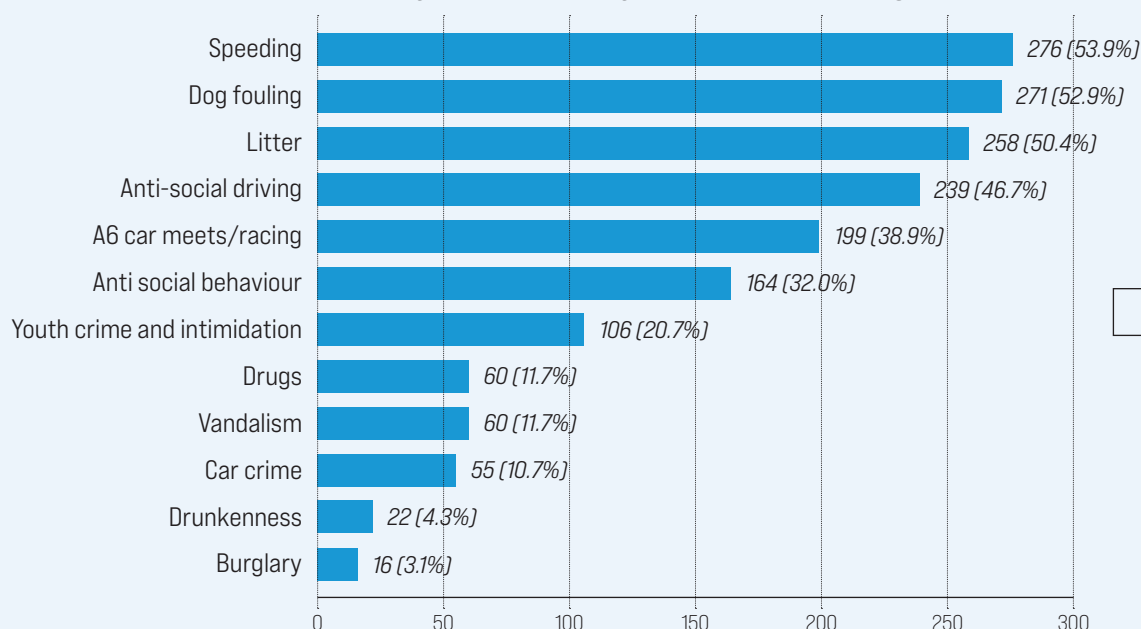


Total responses: 569

Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding

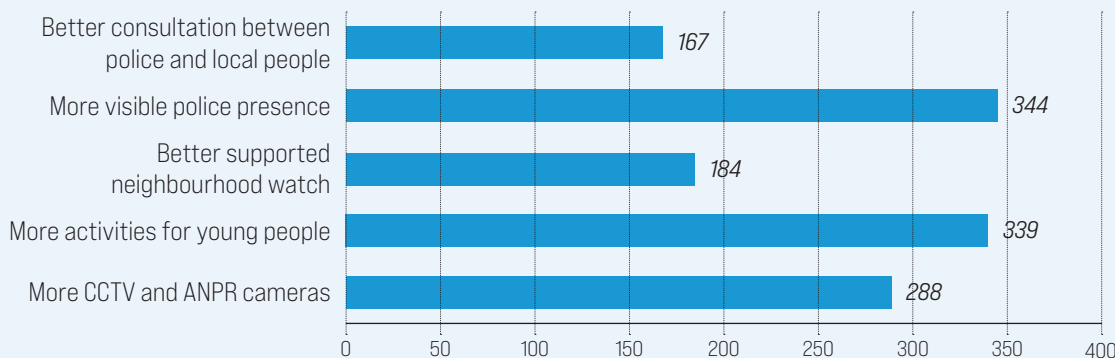
CRIME & ROAD SAFETY

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Total responses: 512

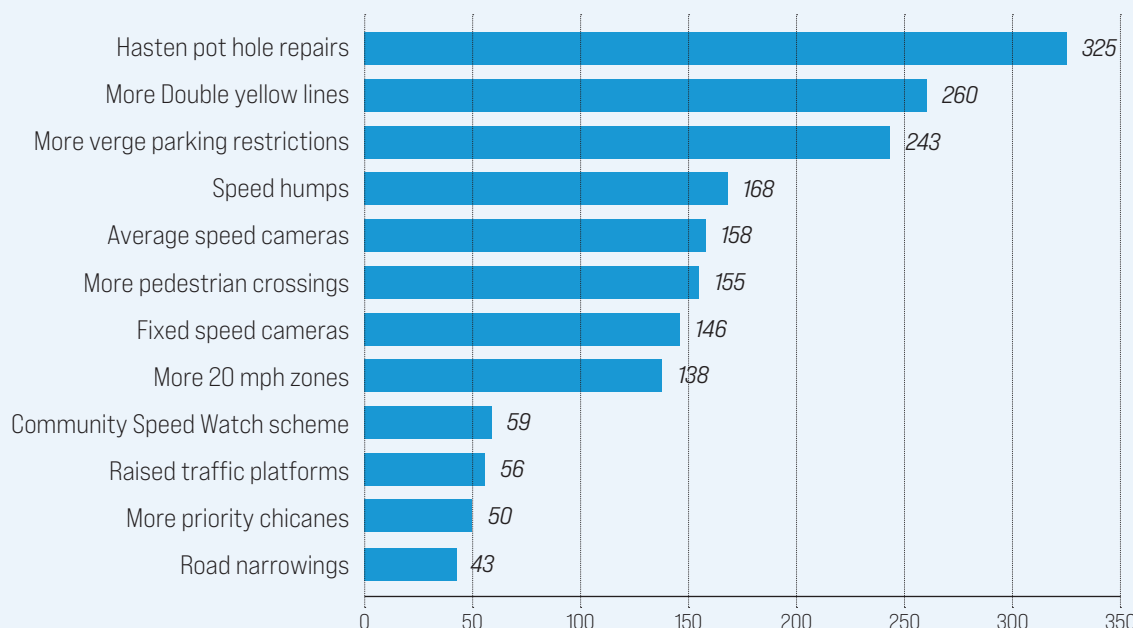
Q12. Do you think any of the following measures are needed to help prevent crime in Wixams?



Other: Residents mainly want more youth support and safe spaces, alongside stronger action against repeat offenders and anti-social behaviour. There were also calls for better community and parental involvement, improved road safety enforcement, and tackling issues like vandalism and litter. A smaller number of responses highlighted wider social support needs such as mental health services, poverty reduction, and better transport links.

Total responses: 1,322

Q13. What measures do you think are needed to improve road and pedestrian safety?

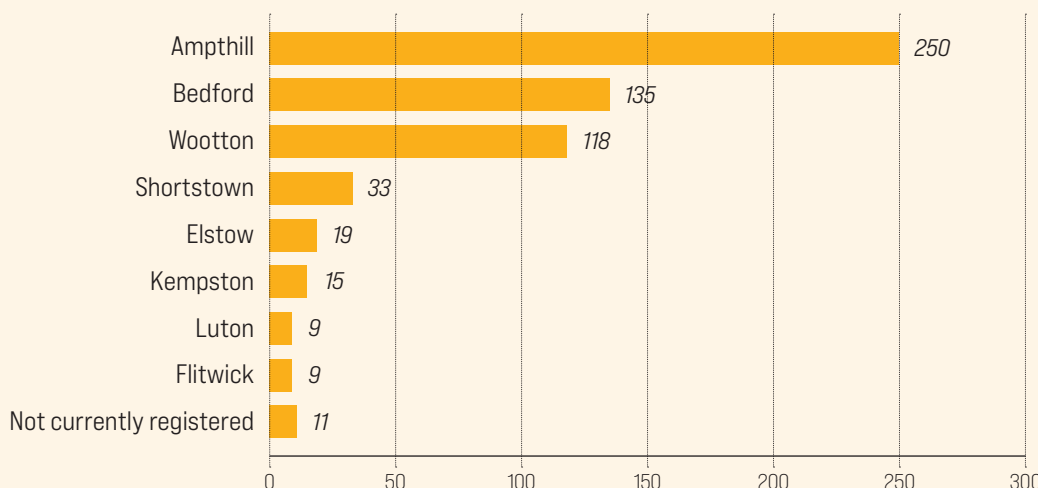


Other: Residents mainly want better parking provision, improved pedestrian crossings, and safer road layouts to reduce hazards caused by congestion and poor visibility. Stronger enforcement of speeding and parking rules is also a key theme. Some also suggest broader road design changes, while a few feel current safety measures are sufficient.

Total responses: 548

HEALTHCARE

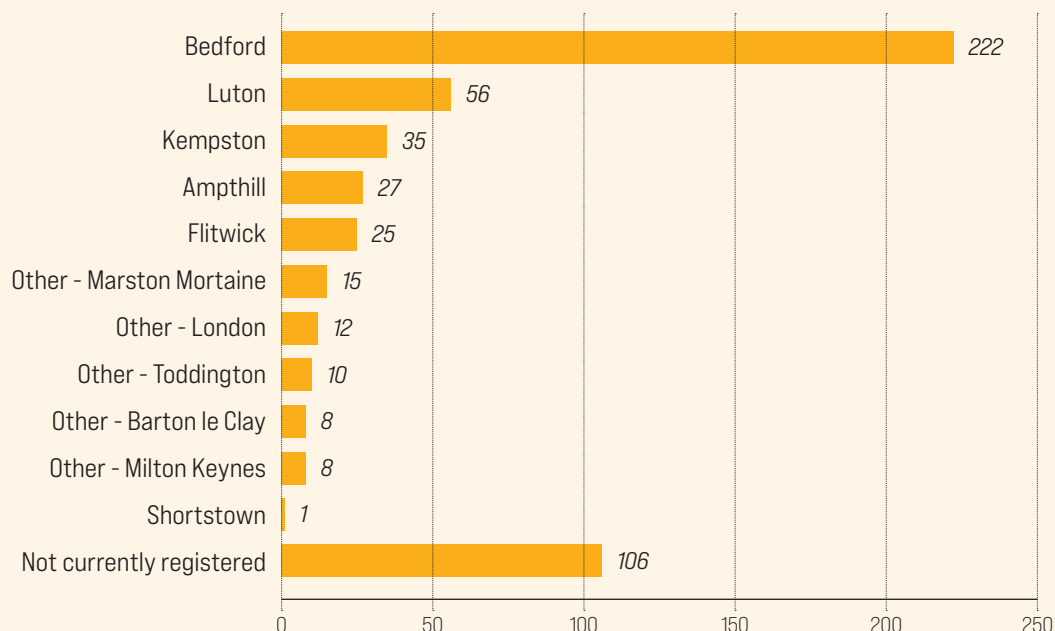
Q14. Where is your GP?



Other: Residents are also registered in Barton le Clay, Clapham, Great Denham, Leighton Buzzard and other nearby areas. A small number are registered in London, while one household reported being registered with an online GP surgery.

Total responses: 580

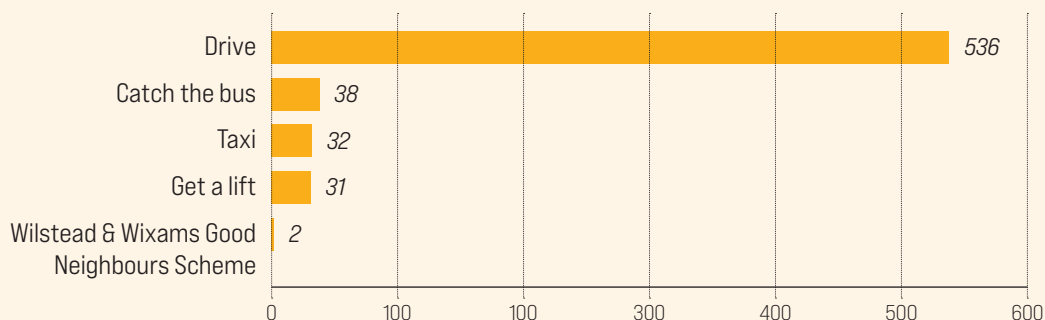
Q15. Where is your dentist?



Other: Residents reported accessing dentists across a wide geographical area rather than locally. The most commonly mentioned locations were Marston Moretaine, Toddington, Milton Keynes, Barton le Clay, London, Hitchin, and Stevenage, alongside several other towns across Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire, and beyond. Some residents are registered abroad for their dental care.

Total responses: 573

Q16. How do you travel to get to your medical appointments?

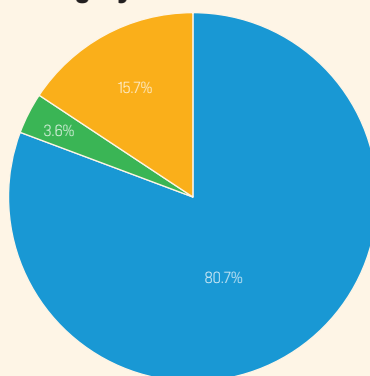


Other: Residents also reported that they walk, catch the train or fly to medical appointments.

Total responses: 575

Q17. When built, will you register with the Wixams surgery?

- Yes - 446 responses (80.7%) ●
- No - 20 responses (3.6%) ●
- Not sure - 87 responses (15.7%) ●



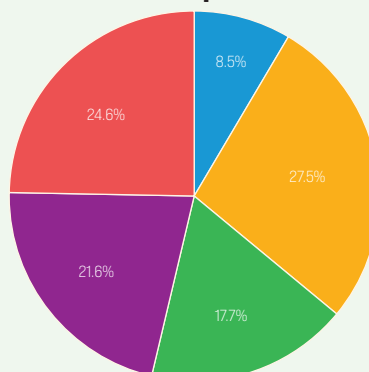
Total responses: 553

Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding

WIXAMS DEVELOPMENT AND TOWN CENTRE

Q18. Do you feel that public engagement for the Wixams development has improved since the last survey?

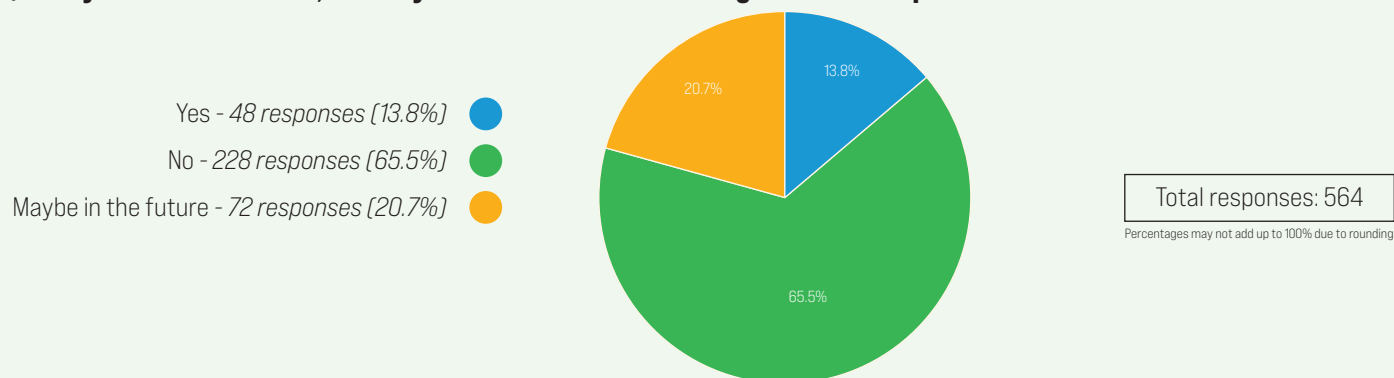
- Yes its much better now
48 responses (8.5%) ●
- Still room for improvement
155 responses (27.5%) ●
- Better, but still lacking
100 responses (17.7%) ●
- No, there's not enough engagement
122 responses (21.6%) ●
- N/A we recently joined the community
139 responses (24.6%) ●



Total responses: 564

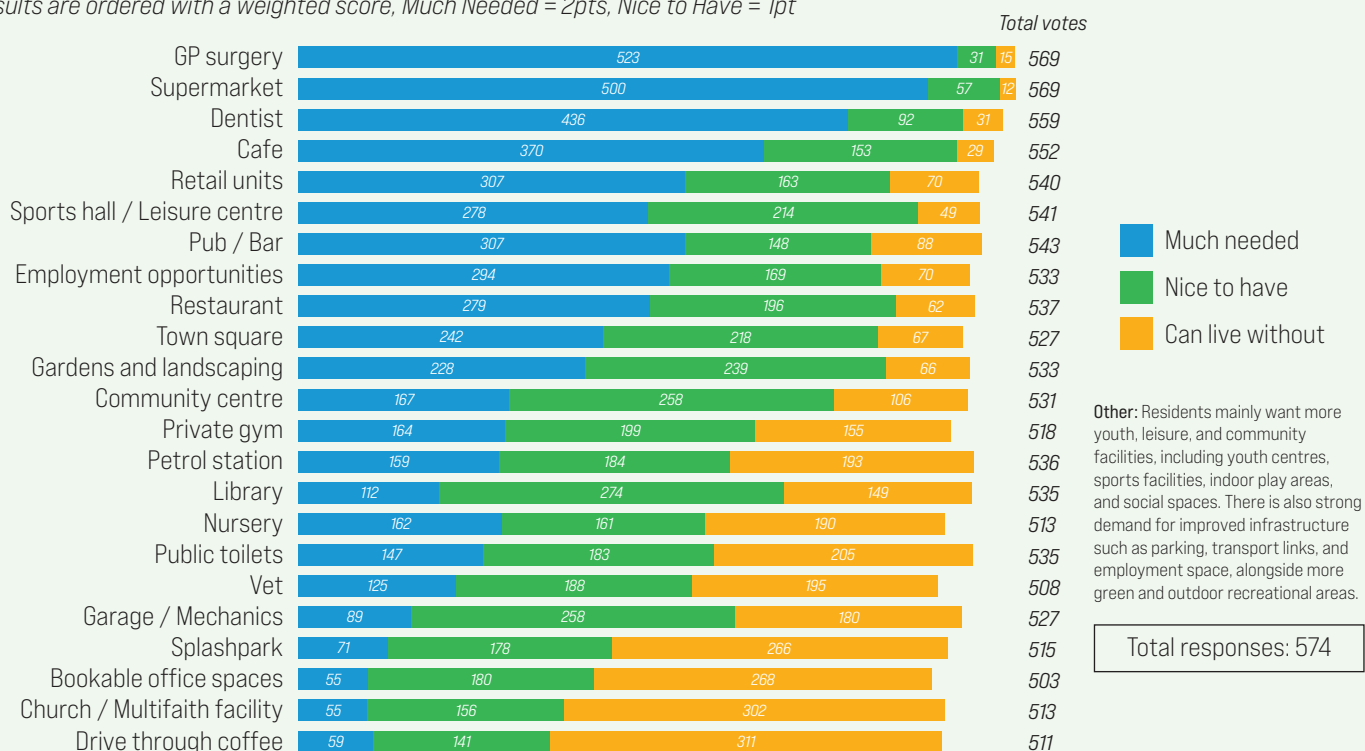
Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding

Q19. If you run a business, would you be interested in taking a unit in the planned town centre?



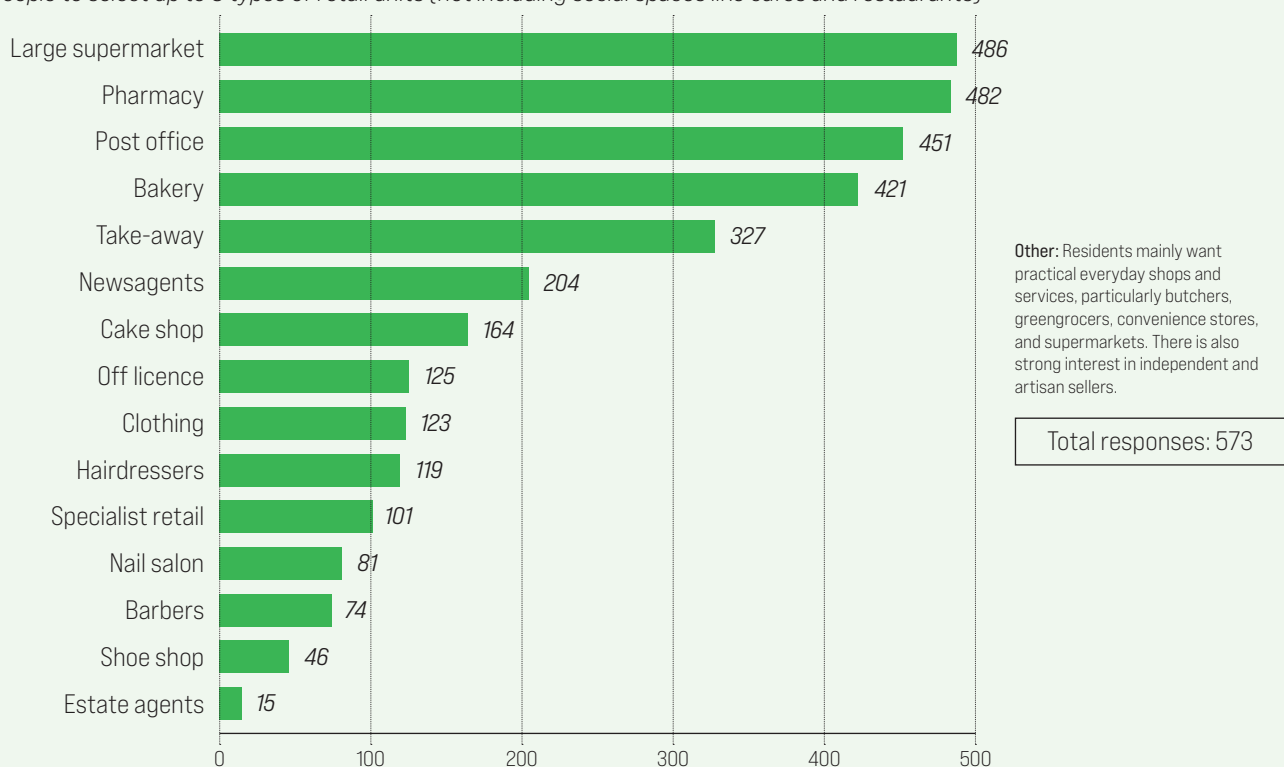
Q20. For each of the potential town centre facilities listed below, please select their importance to you.

Results are ordered with a weighted score, Much Needed = 2pts, Nice to Have = 1pt



Q21. What sort of retail shops would you like to see in our town centre?

We asked people to select up to 8 types of retail units (not including social spaces like cafes and restaurants)



Q22. When fully built, how well do you think Wixams will meet the expectations you held when you moved here?

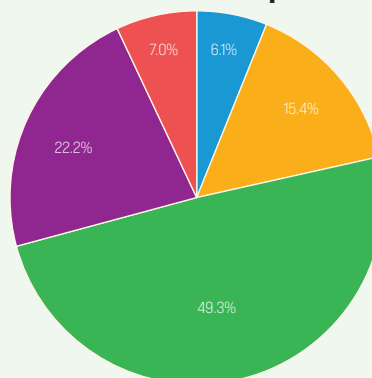
Well above expectations - 35 responses [6.1%]

Above expectations - 88 responses [15.4%]

As expected - 282 responses [49.3%]

Below expectations - 127 responses [22.2%]

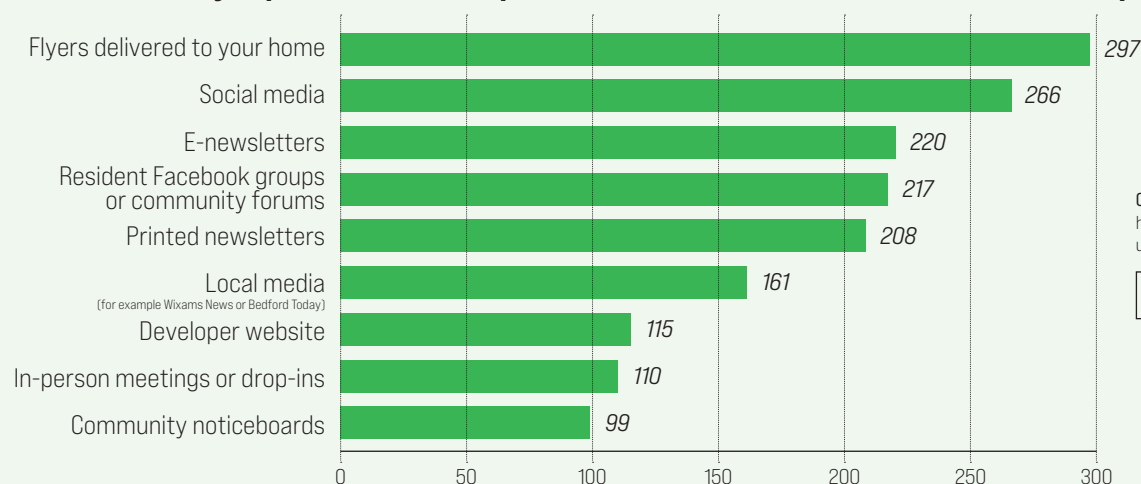
Well below expectations - 40 responses [7.0%]



Total responses: 572

Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding

Q23. How would you prefer to receive updates and information about the Wixams development?



Other: Residents also suggested hosting virtual meetings and including updates in BedsLife magazine.

Total responses: 570

Q24. Please share any comments you have about the planned Universal Studios theme park near Wixams.

We asked residents to share any comments they had about the planned Universal Studios theme park near Wixams. There were 318 total comments made, we put them all into an AI and it generated the following:

Residents' comments show strong overall support and excitement for the proposed Universal Studios theme park, particularly because of the expected employment opportunities, investment, tourism, and economic growth it could bring to Wixams, Bedford, and the wider area. Many residents also hope it will accelerate delivery of local infrastructure, especially the long-awaited train station, roads, and town centre facilities.

However, the overwhelming concern throughout the responses is the potential impact on traffic, parking, and infrastructure capacity. Many residents fear severe congestion on the A421, A6, Manor Road, and within Wixams itself, alongside concerns about visitors parking in residential streets. Calls for better roads, parking controls, public transport, shuttle buses, and completion of the railway station before the park opens were very common.

Residents also raised concerns about noise, pollution, environmental impact, pressure on local services, crime, and loss of community identity. In particular, many worried about an increase in Airbnb and investor-owned properties changing the character of Wixams and reducing community cohesion.

A recurring theme was the desire for local benefits and protections, including discounted tickets or annual passes for residents, priority access to jobs for local people, and measures to ensure Wixams residents benefit from rather than suffer because of the development.

Overall, sentiment was largely positive but cautious, with many residents supportive of the opportunity provided that infrastructure, transport, parking, and community protections are delivered alongside the development.

Here are some specific comments which best capture the general feelings from the community:

"A very exciting opportunity for the area, particularly improving infrastructure and employment prospects for young people, but some concerns about impact on local wildlife and impact on community if lots of property becomes holiday lets."

"Very excited to see how it will help local businesses in the area which hopefully will help local employment."

"Bit concerned about the noise, fireworks etc, but very concerned about the traffic."

"We don't have infrastructure for such a huge project. I am really concerned about traffic and noise."

"This is great however there is a need to ensure all transport links are created and can manage the influx of people, furthermore, residents can still park in their neighbourhoods. Also would be nice to get a residents incentive eg introductory offer."

"Brilliant! Can't wait for it to come."

"100% supportive and keen that we (Wixams) should have a strategy to better leverage the opportunities it will create."

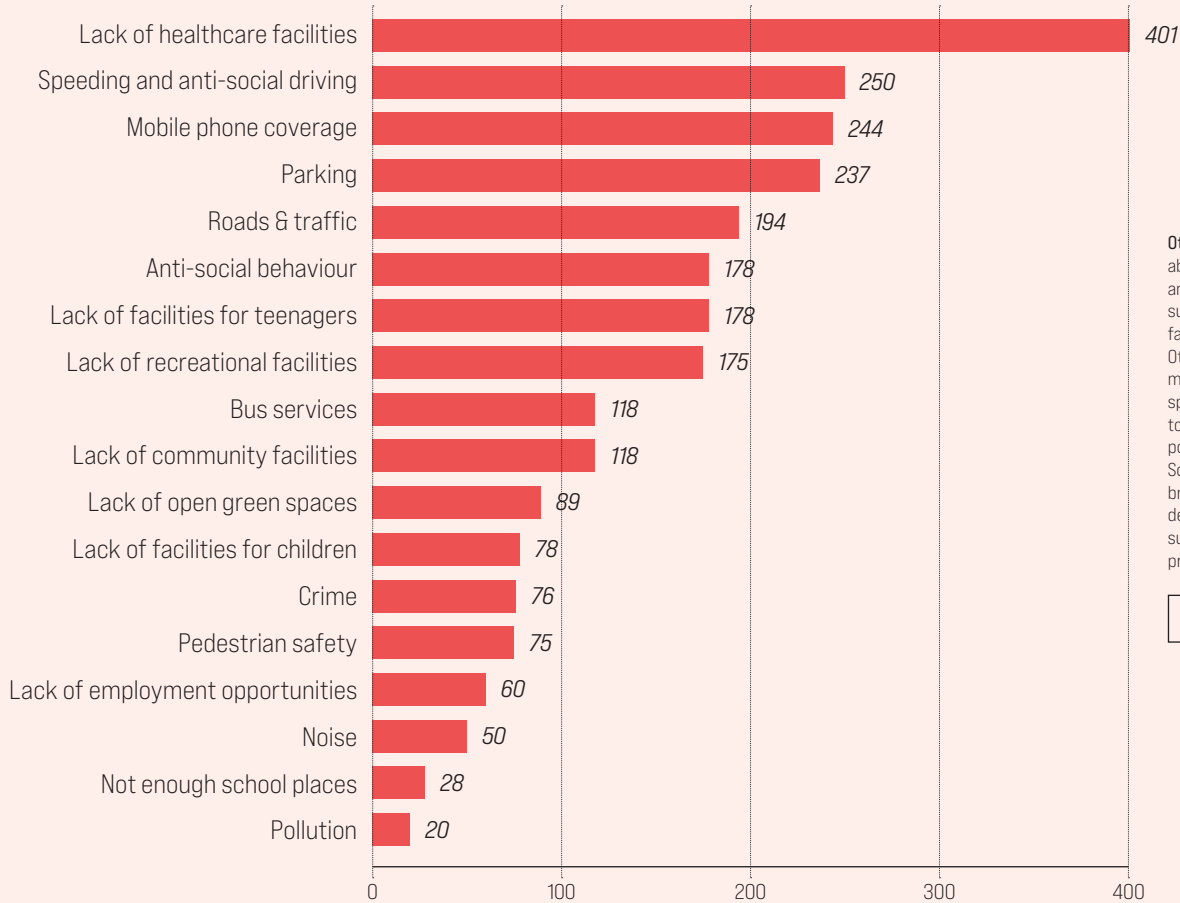
"I think this is an exciting opportunity for the local community bringing job prospects and money to the local area."

"Brings much needed jobs but with thousands of houses planned they will all be gone anyway."

"Hopefully it will be a good thing bringing investment and opportunity to the local area. There MUST be parking restrictions throughout Wixams though to discourage visitors parking in the villages."

"Fantastic! Not only for Bedford but the whole country, bringing huge opportunities for hundreds of businesses in the area, and more retail outlets able to survive."

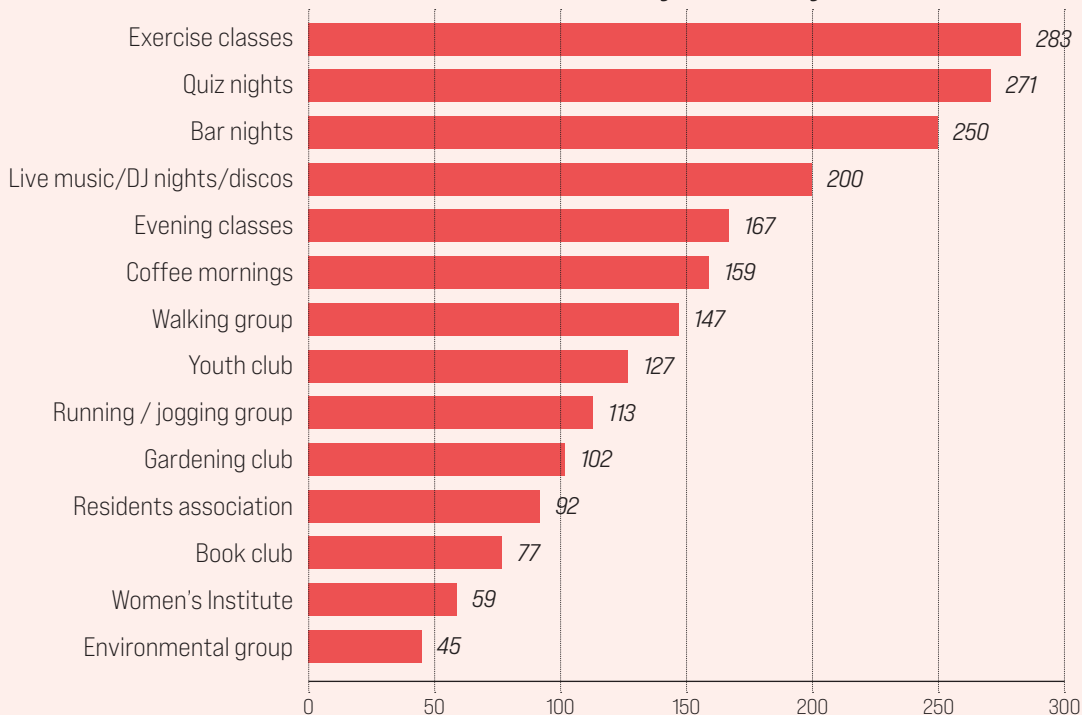
Q25. What are your top five concerns in Wixams?



Other: Residents highlighted concerns about the lack of local amenities and social spaces, including shops, supermarkets, pubs, cafés, and facilities for adults and families. Other issues raised included poor maintenance of roads and green spaces, delays to infrastructure and town centre development, limited policing, and anti-social behaviour. Some residents also mentioned broadband provision, train station delays, and requests for facilities such as dog parks and better leisure provision.

Total responses: 579

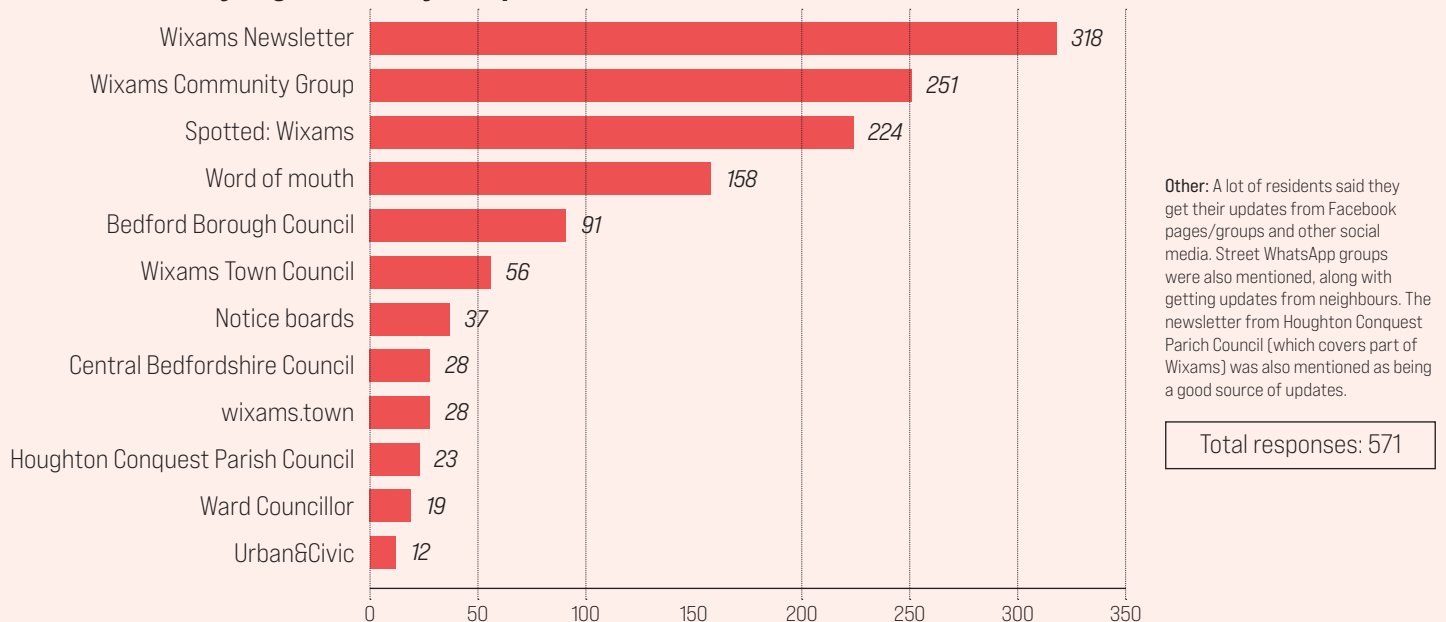
Q26. What sort of activities & events in Wixams would you or family members be interested in attending?



Other: Residents showed the strongest interest in activities for children, teenagers and families, alongside more opportunities for adults to socialise locally. Popular suggestions included youth clubs, mum and baby groups, SEN/SEND activities, arts and crafts, sports clubs, hobby groups, cafés, comedy and cinema events, and community volunteering initiatives. Overall, responses reflected a desire for stronger community connections, inclusive activities and more local recreational and social opportunities for all age groups.

Total responses: 522

Q27. Where do you get most of your updates and news about Wixams?



Q28. Finally, please provide any further comments about life in Wixams

We asked residents for any comments they wanted to make about life in Wixams. There were 232 responses to this question, these were put into AI which generated the following overview:

A significant number of residents describe the area as quiet, friendly, and pleasant to live in, often highlighting good neighbours, peaceful surroundings, and a generally positive community feel. However, even among these more positive responses, there is a consistent caveat that Wixams feels incomplete and lacking in essential infrastructure.

The dominant theme is frustration about unmet development promises. Residents repeatedly mention delays or absence of key facilities that were expected as part of the original plans, especially a GP surgery, dentist, train station, supermarket, and a proper town centre. Many feel the area has prioritised rapid housing development over delivering the supporting services needed for a functioning community.

Transport and accessibility are another major concern. Bus services are described as infrequent and poorly timed, roads are seen as congested or unsafe at peak times, and parking is a widespread issue across residential streets. Several comments also raise concerns about future strain once the train station and further development arrive.

Anti-social behaviour and safety concerns are frequently raised, particularly speeding, dangerous driving, poor parking behaviour, and youth-related issues in certain areas. These are often linked to a perceived lack of facilities for young people, with many respondents calling for youth centres, activities, or community workers to provide alternatives and reduce problems.

A strong recurring sentiment is the lack of social and community spaces. Residents often say there is nowhere meaningful to meet, socialise, or build community life, with repeated requests for pubs, cafés, restaurants, community hubs, and local events. Many feel this absence contributes to a weaker sense of community despite the growing population.

Environmental and maintenance issues also appear repeatedly, including litter, dog fouling, poor upkeep of green spaces, tree removal, and inadequate maintenance of roads, pavements, and drainage. Some residents also express concern about overdevelopment and loss of green space.

Finally, there is a noticeable undercurrent of disappointment or distrust toward developers and planning authorities, with many respondents feeling that original promises have not been delivered or that progress is too slow compared to housing growth.

In summary, Wixams is generally seen as a pleasant but under-served place: a growing residential area where housing has largely arrived, but infrastructure, services, and community facilities are widely felt to be lagging behind.

Here's some of the comments which best represent the views of the wider community:

"We were sold the dream & none of it came true. No train station, no doctors, dentist or even nursery for the baby I was carrying in 2022. We are now overcrowded with the amount of properties developed & cars parked everywhere, causing serious issues."

"Overall a lovely place to live and bring up children. We need more facilities, just look at Great Denham and what they have compared to us."

"Good community feel with most areas. Still lots of undelivered promises with facilities and infrastructure. Feel sorry for non drivers and teenagers."

"A community driven pub or restaurant would make a huge difference. Somewhere to meet new people and connect the villages."

"Wixams is a lovely place to live! I really enjoy living here. I think the biggest problem we have is the parking issues and lack of infrastructure with more and more houses planned to be built."

"A large supermarket, GP and dentist are the three main priorities and we need a local shop."

"There is a distinct lack of things to do for teenagers apart from football. This is the core contribution to anti social behaviour from teens."

"We absolutely love living in Wixams and think it has huge potential to be a wonderful community."



A FANTASTIC DAY FOR THE WIXAMS 5K FUN RUN

The end of May saw Wixams Town Park come alive with runners, families and supporters as the Wixams 5K Fun Run returned on Sunday 31st May – and what a day it was!

Blessed with glorious sunshine and a fantastic community



atmosphere, the event attracted 120 runners for the main 5K and around 50 children for the kids' fun run. From experienced runners chasing a fast time to those simply taking part for fun, it was wonderful to see so many people enjoying the event and making the most of everything our growing community has to offer.

The course around the Town Park was buzzing throughout the morning, with plenty of encouragement from spectators helping runners over the finish line. One of the highlights of the day was seeing so many local families getting involved, whether running, volunteering or cheering from the sidelines.

A huge thank you must go to everyone who took part and helped make the event such a success. Community events like this rely on people getting involved, and the support we received was incredible from start to finish. Additional thank you and the most important thank you goes towards our sponsors for the event Urban and Civic for the main sponsor for the Fun Run, Ginger Cow Estate Agent for the Kids Fun Run, B&M and Wixams Co-Op for providing the finisher bag goodies and bananas and water.

We would also like to thank the Wixams Brownies, whose enthusiasm and support on the day helped create such

a welcoming atmosphere. Along with the many local residents who came out to cheer, clap and encourage the runners, they played a big part in making the event feel like a true community celebration.

No running event is complete without refreshments, and we were delighted to have Blended Coffee Company and Chubbies Food Van on hand to keep runners and supporters fuelled throughout the morning. Their excellent coffee, food and friendly service were hugely appreciated by everyone attending.

The success of the event reflects what Wixams Runners is all about. We are a friendly and inclusive running group that welcomes people of all abilities. Whether you're training for a race, returning to running after a break, or simply looking to meet new people and stay active, you'll find a warm welcome with us.

We meet every Tuesday and Thursday evening at 7pm, and every Sunday morning at 9am, outside the Barratt Home Office in Wixams. While we enjoy our running, the social side of the group is just as important, and we pride ourselves on making sure nobody gets left behind.

Thank you once again to everyone who ran, volunteered, supported and helped organise this year's Wixams 5K Fun Run. We hope everyone enjoyed the day as much as we did, and we look forward to seeing even more faces at future events and club runs.



Planning in Wixams

As always there is a lot of planning activity happening around Wixams. It is really important, whether you feel strongly in support or against applications you use your voice and submit comments.

Wixams South is now going through appeal and the hearing is thought to be around December.

The Wixams Town Centre reserved matters have been submitted, and are being reviewed.

The Pre Planning Agreement for Wixams East has been signed. But this is no indication of the final outcome, it is simply a part of the planning process for larger applications. There is no further information to share as yet. Once the planning application has been submitted, this will be shared through various means, including social media and notice boards.

With all planning applications and appeals, it is vital for residents to have a voice, and I strongly encourage you to submit comments. But please remember that these must be comments for planning reasons. If you have any questions or queries you can always get in touch, my details are below. Many of us feel strongly about infrastructure having experienced the growth in Wixams without the facilities such as; GPs, shops, pubs etc. being put in at the beginning of developments and we cannot let this happen again with proposed larger developments in the area.

In other news in and about Wixams, amongst many things, it was a privilege to be asked to open the Wixams Retirement Village Summer Fayre. Have you ever popped into the WRV? It is such a friendly environment and they have some great events. There's also a local gym there too, available to everyone. Head in to find out more.

I also attended the burying of a time capsule at Willow Grove Primary School. The children were so excited to see Mayor Tom, Cllr Jane Walker, and I join in the fun. Being referred to



as the tuck shop lady slightly tickled me – I had previously helped them with ward funds to set up and purchase equipment for the newly formed PTA, which is doing incredibly well with the group of parent volunteers organising all sorts of events for the children.

As part of the Wixams Youth Group, we are pleased that we have been able to provide free activities throughout August. Please see the U&C article for more info.

As always, please do get in touch if you need help, have a concern or have an issues or ideas you would like looking into to enhance Wixams.

Andrea
Andrea.spice@bedford.gov.uk
07739903028

Wixams Planning Applications July 2026

Bedford Borough Council (BBC) and Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) have received a number of planning applications for reserved matters in Wixams. The applications submitted include proposals both within and outside the proposed Town Centre for shops & community buildings, sports, leisure & play areas; and landscaping & open spaces.

BBC Planning References

Open Space 1b - 26/00988/MAR
Open Space 4 - 26/00994/MAR
Open Space 5 - 26/00995/MAR
GP Surgery - 26/00991/REM
Nursery - 26/00992/REM
Shops & Community Centre - 26/01006/REM
V2 Community Centre - 26/00990/REM
Open Space 2 - 26/00989/REM

CBC Planning References

GP Surgery - CB/26/01685/RM
Nursery - CB/26/01686/RM
Shops & Community Centre - CB/26/01666/RM
Food Store - CB/26/01665/RM
Pedestrian Link - CB/26/01663/RM
Open Space 2 - CB/26/01675/RM
Open Space 8 - CB/26/01667/RM

Have your say
or view the
plans online at:
www.bedford.gov.uk/searchplans



Have your say
or view the plans
online at:
www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/planning-register





WIXAMS SUMMER PARTY BRINGS THE COMMUNITY TOGETHER

The Wixams Summer Party, held on Saturday 27 June, was another fantastic community event, and we would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who came along and supported the day. Despite the soaring temperatures, which were lovely for some and a little too hot for others, it was wonderful to see so many families enjoying themselves.

We were delighted to welcome representatives from Universal to the event, who spent time walking around, chatting with local stallholders and experiencing the fantastic community spirit that makes Wixams such a special place.



There was plenty to see and do throughout the day, with funfair rides, returning food vendors from our successful Food Festival, and a wide variety of craft stalls both inside and outside the hall. Entertainment included live wrestling, a wonderful performance from talented local singer Bonnie Bracey, energetic performances by Fundamentalz, a walkabout magician, and a new fun duo the Crimplene Crusaders who had everyone laughing with their mischievous antics including a visit to the Police stand luckily they weren't arrested! We

also had a photo booth for families to make memories of the day. The children were entertained by the Circus Corner and many children were seen walking around with a special creation from the balloon modeller. Let's not forget the talented stilt walker dressed in fiery orange who was walking around the event. Last but not least we had a magnificent display of classic cars provided by Auto Anonymous which was amazing.

A very special thank you goes to The Co-op, who generously donated an unlimited supply of ice pops for the children, helping everyone stay cool in the summer heat. Their kindness was greatly appreciated by families throughout the day.

Without the support of our sponsors we would not be able to provide such a fun-packed event and we would like to thank Ginger Cow Estate Agents who sponsored the Wrestling, Barrett & David Wilson Homes who sponsored the Climbing Wall, Abbey Homes who sponsored the Balloon Modeller, Urban and Civic who sponsored the stilt walker, Holdsworth Foods who sponsored the Magician, D&D Decorating and Fundamentalz.

Finally, thank you to everyone who attended, volunteered, performed, traded or supported the event. Days like these remind us just how incredible the Wixams community is, and we couldn't do it without you.

COMING UP NEXT...

Disco Bingo – Friday 4th September

Get ready for a fun-filled evening of music, dancing and bingo! Tickets will be available to purchase during July and August.

Halloween Party – Saturday 24th October

Tickets will be available from September.

Winter Wonderland – Saturday 28th November

We look forward to welcoming you all to our upcoming events.

If you would like to get involved in organising our events for the Community please contact wixamsevents@gmail.com.

Wixams Events Team



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Urban&Civic



Wixams' First Ever Food Festival a Fantastic Success

On 30th May, the Wixams Events Team proudly hosted the village's very first Food Festival, and what a fantastic day it was! The community came out in force to support the event, creating a wonderful atmosphere from start to finish.

With 16 food vendors travelling from across the county, there was something to tempt every taste bud. Visitors enjoyed a fantastic variety of cuisines, including traditional fish and chips, authentic Jamaican dishes, Indonesian street food, delicious chicken and waffles, pizzas and many other tasty treats.

The weather couldn't have been better, allowing families and friends to relax and enjoy the day together. Throughout the event, our local DJ kept the music flowing with a great mix of tunes, while a talented magician entertained children and adults alike. Children had fun on the bouncy castle in the hall allowing parents to relax and a face painter was available to provide the children with lovely painted faces and braided hair.

We would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who attended, our amazing food vendors, entertainers, volunteers, and everyone who helped make the event such a success.



We also appreciate all the feedback we received, both positive and constructive. Your comments will help us make next year's event even bigger and better.

After such an incredible first Food Festival, we're already looking forward to welcoming everyone back for our second Wixams Food Festival next year!



OUR NEXT EVENT



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Activity schedule on reverse



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Age range: 4 - 13

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On top of our busy activity schedule we have some more
relaxing activities on offer during our snack breaks and
30min free play break slot. These are:

- Connect four
- Colouring
- Tic-tac-toe
- Chess + Draughts
- Interactive Lego
- Our own Library of reading books
- BIG Jenga
- Uno
- Dominos
- Massive Snakes and Ladders



Sports Activity Schedule

Relaxed activities in gaps all throughout the day

KEY
Camp Start Times
Food Breaks / Hot Dinner
Camp Finish Times

4 - 7 Years Old

	08:00	08:30	09:00	09:30	10:15	10:30	11:15	12:00	12:30	13:00	14:15	14:30	16:30	17:00	18:00
Monday	Relaxed Activities	Relaxed Activities	Dance/Zumba	Football	Football	Football	DnB Dodgeball	Freeplay	Basketball	Party Games	Relaxed Activities	Multi sport	Multi sport	Multi sport	Multi sport
Tuesday	Relaxed Activities	Relaxed Activities	Team Games	Football	Football	Football	Relaxed Activities	Freeplay	DnB Dodgeball	Relaxed Activities	Relaxed Activities	Multi sport	Multi sport	Multi sport	Multi sport
Wednesday	Relaxed Activities	Relaxed Activities	Team Games	Football	Football	Football	Relaxed Activities	Freeplay	DnB Dodgeball	Relaxed Activities	Relaxed Activities	Multi sport	Multi sport	Multi sport	Multi sport
Thursday	Relaxed Activities	Relaxed Activities	Team Games	Football	Football	Football	Relaxed Activities	Freeplay	DnB Dodgeball	Relaxed Activities	Relaxed Activities	Multi sport	Multi sport	Multi sport	Multi sport
Friday	Relaxed Activities	Relaxed Activities	Team Games	Football	Football	Football	Relaxed Activities	Freeplay	DnB Dodgeball	Relaxed Activities	Relaxed Activities	Multi sport	Multi sport	Multi sport	Multi sport

Ducks

8 - 10 Years Old

	08:00	08:30	09:00	09:30	10:15	10:30	11:15	12:00	12:30	13:00	14:15	14:30	16:30	17:00	18:00
Monday	Party Games	Party Games	Football	Football	Football	Dance/Zumba	Rounders	Freeplay	DnB Dodgeball	Basketball	Golf	Multi sport	Multi sport	Multi sport	Multi sport
Tuesday	Party Games	Party Games	Football	Football	Football	Dance/Zumba	Rounders	Freeplay	DnB Dodgeball	Basketball	Golf	Multi sport	Multi sport	Multi sport	Multi sport
Wednesday	Party Games	Party Games	Football	Football	Football	Dance/Zumba	Rounders	Freeplay	DnB Dodgeball	Basketball	Golf	Multi sport	Multi sport	Multi sport	Multi sport
Thursday	Party Games	Party Games	Football	Football	Football	Dance/Zumba	Rounders	Freeplay	DnB Dodgeball	Basketball	Golf	Multi sport	Multi sport	Multi sport	Multi sport
Friday	Party Games	Party Games	Football	Football	Football	Dance/Zumba	Rounders	Freeplay	DnB Dodgeball	Basketball	Golf	Multi sport	Multi sport	Multi sport	Multi sport

Meerkats

11 - 13 Years Old

	08:00	08:30	09:00	09:30	10:15	10:30	11:15	12:00	12:30	13:00	14:15	14:30	16:30	17:00	18:00
Monday	Party Games	Party Games	Golf	Golf	Golf	Rounders	Dance/Zumba	Freeplay	Tennis	Basketball	Golf	Multi sport	Multi sport	Multi sport	Multi sport
Tuesday	Party Games	Party Games	Golf	Golf	Golf	Rounders	Dance/Zumba	Freeplay	Tennis	Basketball	Golf	Multi sport	Multi sport	Multi sport	Multi sport
Wednesday	Party Games	Party Games	Golf	Golf	Golf	Rounders	Dance/Zumba	Freeplay	Tennis	Basketball	Golf	Multi sport	Multi sport	Multi sport	Multi sport
Thursday	Party Games	Party Games	Golf	Golf	Golf	Rounders	Dance/Zumba	Freeplay	Tennis	Basketball	Golf	Multi sport	Multi sport	Multi sport	Multi sport
Friday	Party Games	Party Games	Golf	Golf	Golf	Rounders	Dance/Zumba	Freeplay	Tennis	Basketball	Golf	Multi sport	Multi sport	Multi sport	Multi sport

Tigers

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Monthly Gardening Tips

Tips for Summer 2026, by Marion Colledge



Marion is a dogged gardener. Having recent mobility issues, she gardens standing near a wall, or squatting/sitting down.

UPDATE

We had a wonderful cherry harvest owing to the frequent rain. The ladybirds hatching from the nettle patch came and ate the aphids, stopping the ants harvesting many aphids in the tree. We had a spot of early hot weather and watered six buckets on each of two Saturdays into plant pots sunk under the tree canopy. The main weed this year has been violets (pictured). They like hard soil. I had scratched them off, but some roots remained. They would have drunk all the water had it been simply sprinkled on top. Once upon a time violets used to be much prized for their purple blossoms for Mothering Sunday in March, but they have lost favour in face of commercial alternatives!

BIRDS

In the back garden in June tits were very active, partially owing to the neighbour feeding them. The robins are not far away. They let us know they are nearby by singing but are not hungry enough to come and sit nearby on tools. I'm happy to say a blackbird family are back, they are not all dead of the bird virus. They only came to eat next door's mahonia berries and sour cherries. They didn't get my cherries: I put a red net flat on top.

One day in early June I sat in front garden bird-gazing for twenty mins at 5.30pm a pair of swifts high overhead circling feeding, flock of gulls passed twice low over the houses, a kite was gliding high up, looking with its piercing eyes for mice on the ground, sparrows coming in and out their nest in my north eave dropping poo and feathers on the house ramp and car (but I am glad they are not extinct!), the odd straight-flying crow rapid, low flying as if it knows where it's going, Magpies on roof across road drinking from gutter. One day after work, I looked up at the sky from outside my front door and watch the birds.

PLANTS AND WEEDS

The purple clematis (forty-five years old) benefitted from some water and food to its roots which are very close to the wall. It is now climbing up into the holly bush (pictured).

Photographed are some weeds which 'got away with it' because I have been immobile.

1. Garlic mustard – you don't want this in your garden as the seeds go 'ping' and make many more new plants. It is said, however, that one can eat or freeze a few fresh young leaves.
2. Tiny oak tree (from an acorn) would grow to fifty feet. It is next to a beautiful drought resistant pink campion.
3. Herb Bennet – look up 'wood avens' – yellow flowers finished now, fuzzy round seeds heads, but ready to divide and cling to your clothes and spread (fortunately usually only thrive in relative shade, therefore controllable). Supposed to be usable for flavouring drinks.

I live with a certain degree of weeds...

Final photo: I bet you don't know what this is: it is pink autumn cyclamen in its summer form – fine and ready to be split up and spread.

PLANTING

Only plant for drought now, plants like thyme, basil OR courgettes and tomatoes if you have the time to water them. I have successfully grown carrots in a huge pot next to my front door.

AFTERNOONS OUT

Howbury Hall I can recommend – 6 Sept – a few other gardens are listed at <https://ngs.org.uk/gardens/97-clophill-road-mk4/>



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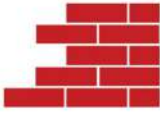


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CHOOSING THE RIGHT DOG HOME BOARDER

It's great to be back as Kat's Korner once again, contributing to Wixams News. I hope Kat's Korner will become a regular feature, sharing practical advice to help keep our pets happy, healthy and safe.

Isn't it amazing how much Wixams has grown over the past few years? With that growth has come an increasing number of dog owners. If you're still thinking about a last-minute summer getaway, or planning ahead for a future holiday, here's something worth knowing.

At the time of writing, there are no licensed dog home boarding businesses operating from a Wixams

address on either Bedford Borough Council's or Central Bedfordshire Council's public registers.

If you're looking for someone to care for your dog in their own home, it's important to remember that a recommendation on social media, a listing on a pet care website, or the fact that someone is your regular dog walker does not automatically mean they are licensed to provide home boarding or dog day care.

Since 2018, anyone running a business providing dog home boarding or dog day care in their own home must normally hold an Animal Activities Licence issued by their local council. Licensed businesses are inspected against animal welfare standards and awarded a star rating, helping owners choose safe, legal and welfare-focused care.

A recommendation tells you someone is popular. A licence tells you they've met legal animal welfare standards. The two aren't always the same.

Before booking, ask to see the licence and check the council's public register. It only takes a few minutes and could make all the difference.

If there's an animal topic you'd like to see covered in a future edition, or you have a question about pets or the local wildlife, I'd love to hear from you at katskornerwixams@gmail.com.

Until next time, **Kat**



Wilstead, Wixams & Houghton Conquest Branch

Charity Quiz Night

Saturday 10th October 7PM – 10PM
(Entry from 6.30PM)

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STORY CORNER

WHISPERS OF WILLOWBROOK

ADVENTURE ONE: THE MISSING HONEY CAKES

BY TRACY CLAYTON

The morning sunshine stretched across Willowbrook as the sweet smell of freshly baked honey cakes drifted along Market Street.

Mrs Maple Bear had been up since sunrise, carefully mixing honey from Buzz Bee's hives with warm spices and a sprinkle of cinnamon. Today wasn't just any day, it was the annual Village Picnic, and everyone was looking forward to her famous honey cakes.

But when Mrs Maple Bear opened the bakery cupboard...

"Oh, my goodness!" she gasped.

The tray of twelve honey cakes had disappeared!

News travelled quickly through the village, and before long, five friends were hurrying towards the bakery.

Oliver Owl adjusted the little notebook tucked beneath his wing.

"This sounds like a mystery," he said with a smile.

Poppy Hedgehog looked around carefully.

"Let's not jump to conclusions," she reminded everyone.

"Maybe someone needed help."

Benny Bee buzzed excitedly around the bakery.

"I'll look everywhere!"

Daisy Deer noticed something unusual outside the bakery door.

"Look!"

Tiny golden crumbs lay scattered along the path.

Archie Squirrel crouched down.

"They're leading somewhere!"

The five friends followed the trail through Market Street, past Bramble's Fruit & Veg, across the Village Green and over the little wooden bridge beside Silver Brook.

The crumbs continued all the way to the edge of Elderwood Forest.

Waiting beneath a blackberry bush sat three tiny hedgehog hoglets looking rather worried.

Beside them was the missing tray of honey cakes.

The little ones looked up nervously.

"We're so sorry," whispered the smallest hoglet.

"Our mum has been poorly, and we didn't know what to do. We wanted to surprise her with something special."

The Willowbrook Wanderers looked at one another.

No one was angry.

Mrs Maple Bear smiled warmly.

"You could have asked for help."

The smallest hoglet hung its head.

"We thought everyone was busy getting ready for the picnic."

Poppy gently placed a paw on the little hoglet's shoulder.

"In Willowbrook, no one has to face things alone."

Mrs Maple Bear laughed softly.

"I think there's only one thing for it."

She handed each little hoglet a wooden spoon.

"Let's bake some fresh honey cakes together."

Soon the bakery was filled with laughter, sticky paws and the delicious smell of warm honey once again.

By lunchtime, there were more honey cakes than ever before.

At the Village Picnic, everyone shared slices together while Mrs Maple Bear told the story of the mysterious missing cakes.

"It wasn't really a mystery after all," smiled Oliver as he closed his notebook.

"It was simply a reminder that kindness is always the sweetest ingredient."

As the sun began to set, the five friends wandered to their favourite place beneath the Whispering Willow Tree.

A gentle breeze rustled through its branches.

Oliver paused.

"Did anyone else hear that?"

The others listened carefully.

For just a moment, it almost sounded as though the old tree was whispering...

"Your first adventure has only just begun..."

Will you join the Willowbrook Wanderers again?



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