

# WINCHELSEA RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

## Welcome to our December 2024 update:

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### **Annual General Meeting**

We had a good turnout with over 50 residents in the New Hall. Our new Chair, Glen Marks gave the Chairs Report giving particular thanks to the hard work of committee members who have now stood down and to our new members. He encouraged any resident, particularly those with IT and communications experience to join the Committee.

The main attraction was our new MP, Helena Dollimore who spoke on local issues, notably the need for better rail services and her support for introducing safer traffic measures in and around Winchelsea. Helena also answered questions from the audience. WRA is very grateful for her attendance and support.

Individual Committee members gave updates on activity through the year which are summarised below.

### **Committee membership**

Glen Marks is our new Chair, David Dickson, Secretary and Ian Menzies, Treasurer. Julie Gurr has joined the committee with a role in progressing new traffic measures and Dave Richards to support our IT and communications. The details of the full committee can be found on our website

### **Finance**

The 2023/24 Accounts were approved. We confirmed our current bank balance of £1173 and the savings achieved by changing our website arrangements. We asked members present to vote on reinstating our membership subscriptions from April 2025, the cost to remain at £10 per member. This was approved. The funds will support printing and publication of material on both A259 and Winchelsea Town traffic, cover our communication and IT costs and provide a modest contingency fund. Requests for payment will be sent out in March 2025.

### **Activity updates**

**Traffic:** The Black Cat monitors provided by Icklesham Parish Council are regularly placed at different locations in the Town and the A259, giving consistent data on speed and numbers of vehicles. It shows an average of 14000 vehicles passing through the Town every week, an increase of 16% compared to last year. WRA highlighted the lack of action from IPC and East Sussex County Council (ESCC). WRA has now made direct contact with National Highways. This has been positive, and we are now waiting for a response from ESCC. If they are supportive, WRA will begin a consultation process with local residents.

WRA continues to support improved safety on the A259. We have compiled a leaflet highlighting the 'hot spots' and how we consider they can be improved. This will be sent to national agencies including National Highways, ESCC and Rother DC. We recognise the local geography limits options, but we cannot ignore the dangers of crossing Tanyard Lane and accessing the New Hall.

**Toilets:** This remains a live issue between Icklesham Parish Council and Rother District Council. We are waiting for the outcome of yet another survey. In the meantime, WRA has offered information on options for a new non-traditional structure on the current site and will continue to press for a long-term solution. The Town is a tourist destination and needs good standard facilities.

**Accessible pavements:** Rother DC has completed the dropped kerbs at all locations and particular thanks to Ali Casey who made sure the works went ahead.

### **Next members meeting**

The next WRA members meeting will be held in the Spring and dates will be circulated in good time.

**Thank you for your continuing support.**

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