

## **WINCHELSEA RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION JANUARY 2025 UPDATE**

A belated Happy New Year to Winchelsea residents. WRA Committee continues to work on the important local issues and our current activity is summarised below.

### **Public Toilets**

WRA has been pressing for a long term solution to providing suitable public toilets in Winchelsea since 2021. We succeeded in keeping them partially open but, as many residents will know, Rother DC (RDC) recently put the building up for sale. This was done without notice. The building is in poor repair and we do not know if there is interest in purchase or what use it may have in the future. WRA supports a long term solution that may require demolition and installation of a new structure. We have raised our concerns with our local MP Helena Dollimore and RDC councillors and will support IPC, where we can, in any future negotiations with RDC. In the meantime, we are asking RDC to keep the toilet open during these negotiations.

### **The Little Shop**

Residents may know that the owner intends to sell the building. Negotiations on who may buy it and any future operation are at an early stage. While WRA is not able to buy or manage the shop directly, it is strongly supportive of retaining shop services. We are in direct contact with the owner and there will be an independent group of residents coming together to liaise with the various parties, evaluate proposals and identify relevant funding. Watch this space!

### **Traffic Safety**

This continues to be a priority. Following our contacts with National Highways in October and December last year, we understand their senior officers have had positive discussions with East Sussex County Council on introducing safety measures in the Town and on Tanyard Lane without the need for new construction. However, we are waiting for further information from National Highways before we can set out a specific proposal to residents. We will update residents as soon as we have a response from National Highways.

The Black Cat data provides regular evidence of the increasing traffic numbers and extent of speeding. On 6 December, 7300 vehicles were recorded on Rectory Lane, with 5% exceeding 40mph. On 10 January, 1746 vehicles were recorded on the High Street with 13% exceeding 30 mph. These are snapshots only. The detailed data is available from IPC.

### **Bins**

IPC has agreed to provide a new larger bin adjacent to the public toilets. We are grateful to them and hope this will reduce the incidence of loose rubbish in the area.

### **WRA Members Meeting**

**Our next members meeting will be on Saturday 29 March at 11am at Winchelsea New Hall.**

It will be an opportunity to find out more on what we do and to hear from you on how we can help in the future.