

Chair's Report – E&L 13 February 2023

Funding for Economic Development

Late January I was advised that funding worth £10K was available from the East Suffolk Towns Initiative and asked whether it would be of interest to Wickham Market.

So a meeting was set up on Wednesday 1st February in the Village Hall committee room consisting of Jo McCallum, Joanne Chapman, Joss Mullett (ESC) the Clerk and myself to discuss the funding and support available to Wickham Market with this £10K grant which our Parish Clerk will be able to manage as a separate reserve to be spent on agreed projects that can be supported, for example:

Newsletter, cost of producing /distributing 6 editions

Storage facilities for Market equipment (gazebos)and other items the PC holds

Improve marketing and promotion of the village.

Improve signage for both village facilities/services as well as footpaths.

At the moment we are waiting to receive the draft grant terms and conditions.

Warm Rooms Project.

The project was set up in November by the Parish Council in the Village Hall Committee room for two days a week, Tuesday and Fridays 1000-1600hrs paid for by a grant received from ESC but it never really had the uptake or enthusiasm from the residents, but we had a group of enthusiastic volunteers waiting to welcome them with tea, coffee and biscuits. So, on the 1st February at a meeting the decision was made by the volunteers to cover the venue until the 4th February and close the Warm Rooms project as the volunteers felt it was pointless to continue as the response was nil.

I would like to thank all the volunteers who put the time and effort into trying to make it work, it was worth the try.

Boundary Change

Wickham Gate Properties are now being advertised.