

Transport and Footpaths *continued*

Sadly Wick lost its school many years ago. However for families wishing to live in the village, there are two different paths parents can follow when deciding what is best for their children - State provision or Independent schooling.

Firstly, state provision is through the auspices of Worcestershire County Council Local Education Department. Basically it provides First Schools, Middle Schools and High Schools. Unfortunately the age of

Park First and Nursery School through Abbey Park Middle School to Pershore High School.

There are two other Primary Schools in Pershore – Cherry Orchard First School and Holy Redeemer Roman Catholic Primary School. Cherry Orchard First School has a catchment which serves the area west and north of the High Street, in Pershore. Holy Redeemer School - taking pupils from 4+ to 11 years - serves the whole district. It is a feeder school to

School provides specialist education for children with special educational needs. It is located in Evesham to which a taxi service takes children.

It is best to visit the websites of each school to see what current educational opportunities are being offered.

Also, a visit to the Schools OFSTED site will indicate the quality of education being offered and how recently it was inspected.

Transport to schools can be

“The majority of village residents depend upon their own cars.”



Photo: End of Owletts Lane

transfer between stages is not uniform across the county or even in the district. Thus although parental freedom of choice is claimed by government, it is unlikely that you will be able place your child anywhere other than Pershore without great inconvenience.

Wick comes under the ambit of Pershore. The age of change from First to Middle school is 9 years, and that for Middle to High School is 12 years. This is different from Evesham and Worcester. For most children, their educational progress is from Abbey

Blessed Edward Oldcorne Catholic College in Worcester.

“Pershore High School – A Technology College and Training School” is designated as a specialist school in technology. Its pupils are from 12 to 18 years.

Other First / Middle schools exist in local villages – Cropthorne, Elmley Castle, Pinvin, and Drakes Broughton – but no transport is provided by the Local Authority which includes Wick.

The Vale of Evesham Special

Actions for consideration

difficult. Worcester L E A charges parents for the bus provision for pupils. There are no convenient buses on regular routes that can be used.

The education provision by Independent Schools is such that Cheltenham, Malvern, Bromsgrove, Worcester and Gloucester, which are within half an hour's journey, offer wide ranging opportunities that cater for all pockets, faiths and educational backgrounds. It is best to consult the vari-



Photo: Wick Club

Voluntary and Social Issues

“Nearly 60% of respondents said they would use a village skip.”

The questionnaire asked a wide variety of questions regarding services and activities in the village and the responses were intriguing and on occasions surprising:

- Over 50% of respondents said they would use a volunteer run shop at least once a week. With the proximity of Pershore this may be rather ambitious.
- There was considerable interest in the concept of a “Good Neighbour Scheme” with 136 people thinking there was a need for one and 83 saying they would be prepared to help. This is clearly something that needs to be followed up although the form of such a scheme should be clarified.
- 50 respondents were in favour of a pub. This is surprising given the existence of the Club and the virtual impossibility of getting planning permission.
- An internet café was not seen as necessary, less than 10% thinking they would use it. This no doubt reflects the use of home computers with nearly 20% of homes using the internet for shopping.
- Pershore, unsurprisingly, was the major shopping venue for low order goods. 23 households had daily milk delivery and 39 newspapers.
- Gardening club, fitness and adult sport were the main activities that people wanted. It is pleasing to see that well supported gardening and photographic clubs have started up.

Voluntary and Social Issues *continued*

- Nearly 60% of respondents said they would use a village skip if one was provided and over 30% would use a bottle bank despite a 2 weekly kerbside collection. The site of such a bank could be controversial.
- The mobile library was only supported by 22 people but, like the bus service, to these people it is important and the village should ensure it continues.
- The playground is well thought of which is reflected in its support and funding. However looking at the age profile of the Village it may well be used mainly by grand children or visitors from outside the village.



Photo: Gateway at Wick Grange

Actions for consideration

- Initiate the formation of a Good Neighbour Scheme.
- Encourage the use of “Community Bus Services” based in Pershore.
- Establish with BT the quality of internet provision in the village.

Wick Parish Profile from last Census results

Wick parish covers an area of 677 hectares and the last census recorded 187 households within the parish. The total population was 442 of which 220 were male and 222 female.

The age structure showed that 29% of people were 65 or over, 22% were 45 -59 and 14% fell within the 30 -44 age group.

Of the economically active nearly 33% were employed full time whereas of the economically inactive 23% were retired.

24% of people aged between 16 - 74 had no qualification and 26% had a degree or professional qualification.

Most people were in good health (64%) but 20% said they had a limiting long term illness.

76% owned their home outright or with a mortgage or loan. 70 households or 37% had two cars available.

Most travelled to work by car or van (59%) whereas only 6% went on foot. 44 people or 21% worked mainly from home.

“24% of households are rented, the same as the average for the County”



Photo: The May Queen, 1922. From the village photo archive.

Actions for consideration

“In most cases it is for the Parish Council to consider the action required”

- Setting up of a “Good Neighbour“ scheme
- Support the setting up of any new organisations such as the gardening and photographic clubs
- Consider the purchase of a communal marquee
- Investigate the setting up of working parties to support community projects.
- The Playground Association to investigate the possibility of more events for children and young people.
- Investigate the possibility of setting up a village web site as distinct from the subsidiary one with Wychavon.
- To involve the Community Liaison Officer more in Parish activities.
- Ensure that ditches are maintained by local landowners and Severn Trent.
- Utilise the flood grant to provide protection from flash flooding and where possible rising river water.
- Provide all necessary support to the Flood Alleviation Committee in it’s dealings with the various agencies controlling the river Avon.
- Ensure an action plan is in place for distributing sand bags etc when severe weather is anticipated.
- The Parish Council to continue to monitor potential developments and to report via Parish Notice Boards any new applications.
- To press for more information regarding the capacity of services.
- The Parish Council should continue to press to local authorities to direct bus services through the village centre.
- Establish with BT the quality of internet provision within the village.

Most of the above actions are for the Parish Council to consider but in some cases it would be appropriate for individuals or other organisations to take up the cause and initiate whatever action is required.

Conclusions

“People support gradual change and there is enthusiasm for new social activities”

Over the last century Wick developed from an exclusively rural community into a much more diverse village with parishioners from many walks of life. Changes in transport availability and the proximity of Pershore inevitably led to the closure of institutions such as the school and shop, but the Church and Wick Club continue. New building has been sympathetic to the changes and again small in nature often being the conversion of redundant farm buildings. These changes generally happened gradually over time and the beauty and harmony of the village were rarely disturbed.

It is clear from the questionnaire that the people of Wick are happy with the past and want future changes and developments to continue in the same gradual way. There is an enthusiasm for new social activities and to preserve the rural background of the village. It is the duty of the Parish Council to see that it does everything in its power to encourage this way forward.



Photo: The Forge, Main Street from the village photo archive.

WICK 2020

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