

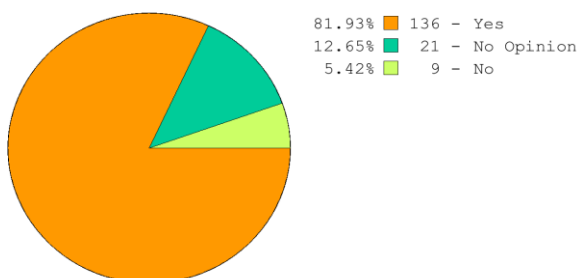
Community

THE GREAT WAKERING
PARISH PLAN 2015

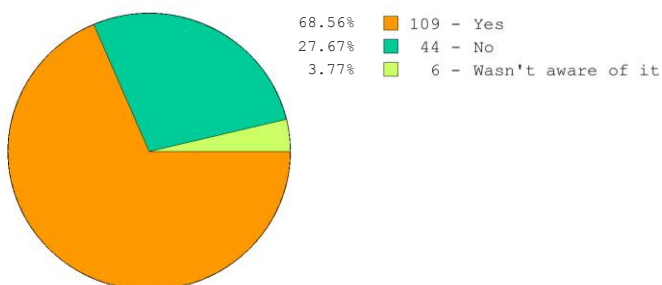
Here we look at the views of the village community and ask what could be done to enhance local living. 254 valid submissions were received. **Overview:** The majority of respondents – just over 80% - have concerns over the preservation of boundaries and space between Great Wakering and neighbouring towns and villages. Over half of respondents would be interested in a village market, fairs, shows and sports. Almost one third of respondents would like village Christmas lights and a community Christmas tree.

Over half of respondents feel that the Community Magazine is a good source of information. The majority feel safe walking in the village and over half would like to know more about the Parish Council.

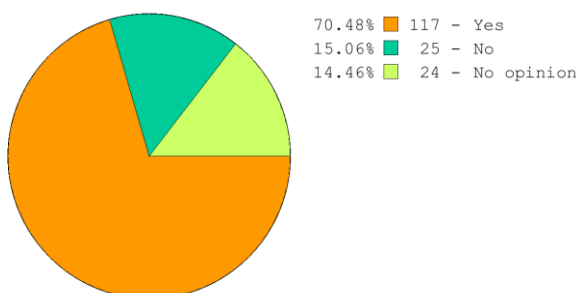
Are you concerned about preserving boundaries and spaces between neighbouring towns and villages?



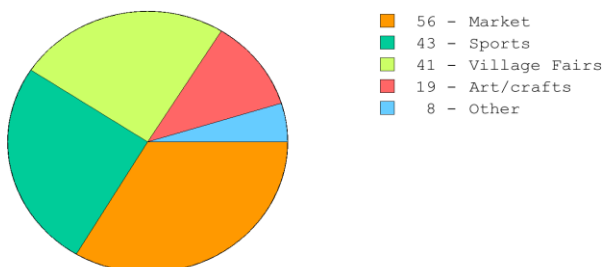
Do you, or are you likely to use the community centre?



There are 5 notice boards in the village. Do you think this is enough?



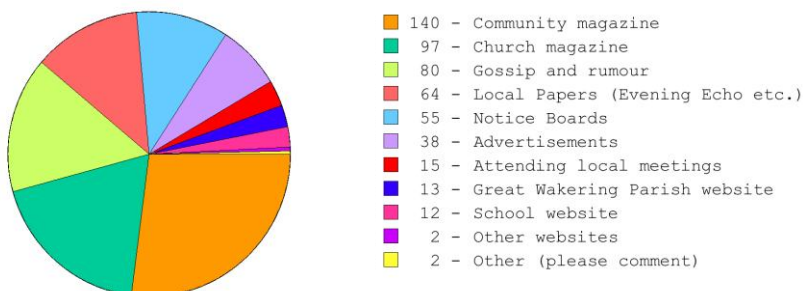
Are there any community activities you are interested in that are not catered for?



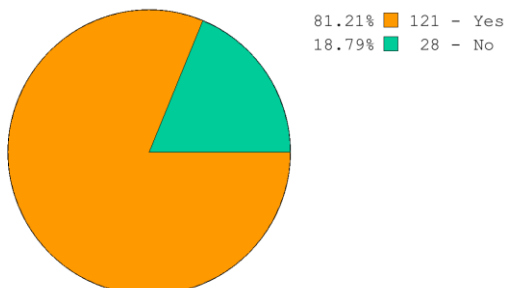
Are there any other events or celebrations you would like to see in the village?



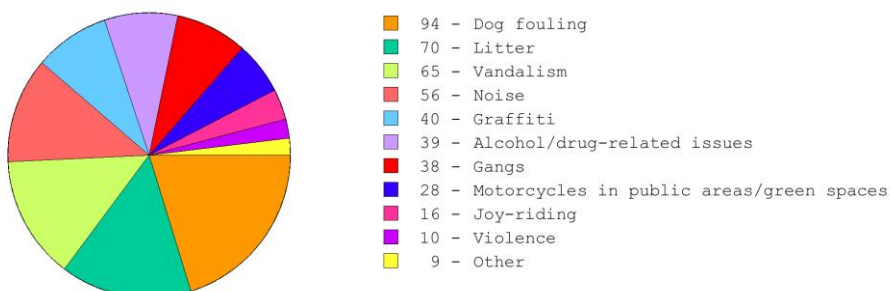
How do you find out what is happening in the village?



Do you feel safe when walking around the village, particularly at night?



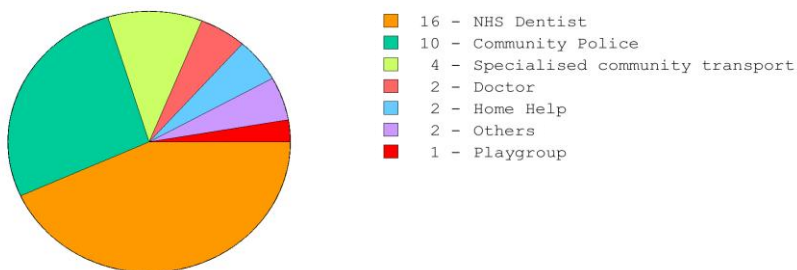
Are you aware of any anti-social problems in and around the village?



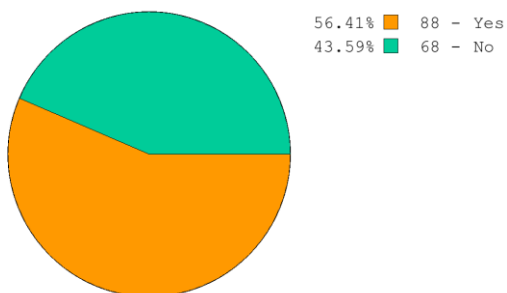
Are you satisfied with the following services in Great Waking



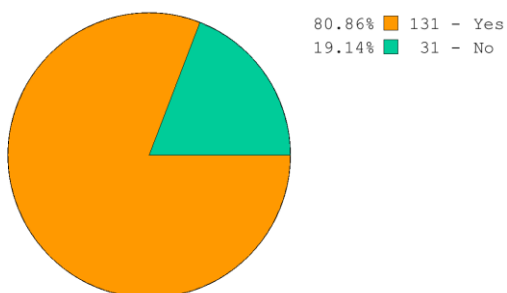
Are you experiencing difficulty obtaining any of these services?



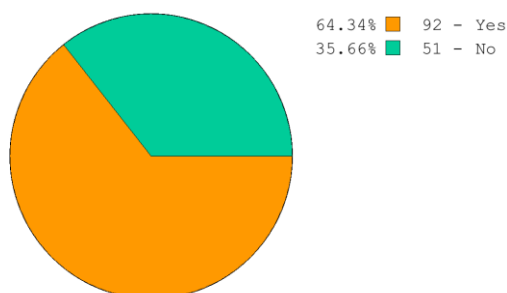
Do you know what Great Waking Parish Council does?



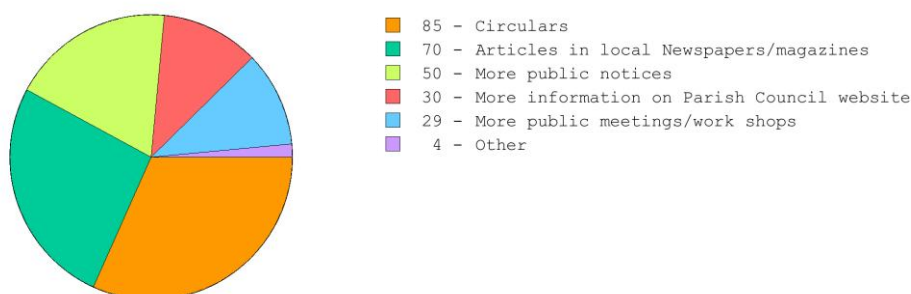
Do you know where the parish council offices are?



Would you like to know more about what they do?



How do you think the Parish Council could better communicate with the community about what they are doing and what services they provide?



Community Views and Comments

Q: There are 5 notice boards in the village. Do you think this is enough?

"Notice" ability could be improved.

Q: Are there any community activities you are interested in that are not catered for?

More local evening education classes so day-time & shift workers can attend. Stained Glass, Community events, Book club, Local walks with an informed guide, Cycling in the area and surrounding areas, Local history, Police panel membership, Theatre, a local farmers market, Community craft time, like sewing and cross stitch and knitting, a skateboard park at the Rec. Gymnasium. **Would like to play table tennis one or two mornings a week.** Happy to pay a few pounds per hour for this, Senior Citizen Clubs. What happened to the village fete? I always went as a child everyone got involved. **Would be nice to see more evening classes in community centre.** Auctions at the Community Centre. These were enjoyable and beneficial. It will be good if these were to resume. **Playgroups for younger children/babies and toddlers, Safe cycle track for children/bmx track, Not enough facilities for young children and more especially young adults 16 -21 age group.** Village fairs and Markets are a good way in bringing people together when I was young in the village everyone spoke about the fair. **Sports Centre should be extended, revamped and reopened to enable villagers to take up sport, gym, swimming activities without having to drive out of the village.** Volunteer work such as rubbish clearing.

ALSO SEE ISSUES OF PARTICULAR CONCERN PAGE 9

"Notice" ability could be improved."

"...more evening classes in community centre."

"Not enough... for young children and ...young adults 16 -21 age group"

“...Something to introduce people”

“Christmas Procession and Lights through the village.”

“My son... said he would love a village treasure hunt and travelling fun fair!”

“As a child we all loved the carnival and village fair... It helped the village to come together.”

“The community centre magazine is very informative...”

“Sometimes I feel safe and others I am aware of possible threats”

“...stopped going to the Co-op in the evenings ...because she feels intimidated...”

“...So we stay indoors and feel isolated.”

Q: Are there any other events or celebrations you would like to see in the village?

Use the sports centre land for more community activities. Sadly, I don't know anyone in Wakering. **Something to introduce people???** One organised bonfire on one date, not all over the village over the period of two weeks. **Christmas Procession and Lights through the village. My 7 year old son helped me to fill in the questionnaire and said he would love a village treasure hunt and travelling fun fair!** Christmas is my favourite time in Great Wakering and it would be lovely to have Christmas lights and a Christmas tree. **We have virtually nothing. Other villages, have a lot more going on. Films in village hall. Litter pick with prizes for most collected. St George's Day. As a child we all loved the carnival and village fair and took part every year. It helped the village to come together.** Classic car/ bus shows.

Q: How do you find out what is happening in the village?

Neighbours. **The community centre magazine is very informative and I always keep a copy handy to refer to.** Lots of local news! Large signs hanging up at community centre e.g. horticultural fair. **My parents keep me informed as they are more involved than me.** Leaflets through the door. School Newsletter. Children's Centre.

Q: Do you feel safe when walking around the village, particularly at night?

Not sure it is suitable for females or young people. **Sometimes. Always felt safe as a child here but there are youths hanging around in groups and a tramp now.** Dogs not on leads which is very unsettling as I have a toddler with me. Shoebury Road as it's not lit up very well. **Sometimes I feel safe and others I am aware of possible threats.** There was an attempted mugging in broad daylight not long ago which has made me think twice about using any of the public footpaths. Yes, most of the time but now and again when I go through the alley to the Co-op there are groups of youths mainly 12 - 14 years olds who look very intimidating. **At night/evening there are frequently groups of teenagers/young people hanging around the church bus top and the Co-op area, which can be very intimidating if alone or with young children.** Much safer than when we have lived in London. **Used to but not anymore.** There is often a rowdy group of youths hanging around the Co-op or the bus shelter. I have had a 2 pence piece hit me hard on the back of the head when at the ATM on one occasion and often have to walk in the road when they block the foot path. **My wife has stopped going to the Co-op in the evenings entirely because she feels intimidated by the group.** Elderly residents feel intimidated by groups of teenagers hanging around. **So we stay indoors and feel isolated. I've never really felt threatened.** Early evening I do, but not always late at night. **Generally - except for outside the Co-op.** Recreation area can be a problem. **We feel a bit nervous at night and always go by**

“The pathway between Anchor and Conway Ave is dark in winter, also uneven path, very dangerous...”

“Litter/graffiti, Dog fouling is on the increase”

“Parking on the pavements, Noise from local pubs late evening”

“Damage to graves/church windows.”



“Drug dealing and taking, takes place over the Rec... drunks in the village!”

“It would be nice to have at least one bin down New Rd...to have a doggy bin also”

car after dark. During the day we feel very safe. **The street lights especially in the alleyways take months to get fixed. The pathway between Anchor and Conway Ave is dark in winter, also uneven path, very dangerous.eg staff from Co-op have to use this path each night up to 10pm to go home.**

Q: Are you aware of any anti-social problems in and around the village?

Graffiti. **Dog fouling. Litter/graffiti** education at local school with children litter picking in and around village to make them more aware. **Dog fouling is on the increase.** I have noticed this as I power walk around the roads of Wakering on a regular basis. Naming and shaming works although it's not always deemed politically correct!! I have reported the disgusting graffiti in the alley by Marsh the butchers shop. Rochford council said the wall was listed and couldn't be cleaned off! **Me and my neighbours have also seen a man doing his business at the end of our road.** Fields behind Alexandra Road - motorcycles on farm land. **Parking on the pavements.** I feel is not acceptable when nearly every house in my road have got driveways or parking spaces. I see gangs around the village. The lack of curb cleaning. **The weeds are awful and the drains are not cleaned regularly. Large youth groups running up and down the church end of the High Street banging and knocking on doors and windows.** Drunkenness resulting in windows being smashed and a joyriding episode ending in the wall outside 2a High Street being demolished. Last night a window was broken in a house by about 4 young boys and the police were called. **Noise from local pubs late evening.** Parish webcams that can be accessed from the website might help monitor these activities. **Damage to graves/church windows.** When I walk the dog up the Recreation Ground, I sometimes see some 'dodgy' groups of youths/men black and white in the afternoon. I have never seen them do anything wrong yet but they arrive in cars and hang around the car park. They look out of place but have never confronted me. They just look suspicious! Maybe it just me!!! **I wouldn't want my grandchildren alone in the park.** I do find it concerning as the King Edmund children are home so early from school. **Light needed down the alley at the Co-op** as this may stop them hanging around the alley. **No police presence one drive through at around 8pm and the children know when they are coming and hide.** Group of girls outside the Co-op can be noisy & offensive. **One car yellow/grey which roars through village is a problem.** Large groups of children congregate on bench late at night on corner of Lee Lotts. Yelling climbing lamp post and lots of **litter. Drug dealing and taking, takes place over the Rec... drunks in the village!** My car and my daughter's car have been vandalised near church area where youths cannot be seen attacking vehicles. My house has been painted and sprayed on. Not sure what to do, no police presence plus mind-set of youngsters. **It would be nice to have at least one bin down New Rd to stop cans and rubbish in the hedges. It would be good to have a doggy bin also.** Dog fouling - we need more education and public awareness. **The Anchor Inn often has its street side doors open weekend evenings, sharing loud music and karaoke with the**

“speed of vehicles along Shoebury Road, is becoming increasingly more dangerous, ...”

“The sports field is filthier with litter than dog fouling most Mondays...”



“Great Wakering is much better than Southend, but still could be improved, especially around the Common Road...”

“The level of dog fouling around St Nicholas', Common Rd, Whitehall Rd and High St is awful. I am regularly cleaning it off my children's shoes and scooter's...”

village. Violence is often caused outside the community centre in the evening by local school kids to each other and they have also destroyed my friend's property. There needs to be police around there to deter them. **Some kids that live a few doors along that have thrown things at our windows and caused a lot of various nuisance to other neighbours. Also one of our neighbours has now had 3 different cars vandalised.** He even caught one young lad who had caused thousands of pounds of damage and telephoned the police but the boy got off with no punishment at all! The waste collection vehicles and staff frequently drop litter from the wheelie bins during their collections **speed of vehicles along Shoebury Road, is becoming increasingly more dangerous, especially when trying to cross the road with my young grandchildren. A speed camera is definitely needed!** Teenagers sitting at the bus stop next to the church and jumping on the churchyard wall or the bus stop itself. They are a bit of a nuisance - sitting there, smoking, leaving litter. **Youngsters hanging around Co-op hassling customers to buy drink and cigarettes on their behalf. The sports field is filthier with litter than dog fouling most Mondays. I filled three shopping [bags] with litter one Monday - it is a disgrace.** There is no excuse because there are litter bins available close by. **Co-op and Fish shop customer litter is an on-going problem.** Graffiti problem now seems to be under control. Large groups of youngsters roaming the village are intimidating, they need somewhere to go and hang out. Loud thudding music from youngsters in Twyford Avenue disturbs every Sunday afternoon and some weekday evenings, they have been warned but have ignored this. **Often woken up between 2 and 3 in the morning by noisy, foul-mouthed teenagers, presumably returning home after clubs; usually Fri/Sat and Sat/Sun.** Youths on motorbikes riding on the footpath beside the fishing lakes up and down to/ from the old brickworks although lately has decreased. **Great Wakering is much better than Southend, but still could be improved, especially around the Common Road where litter constantly blows into the village pond which is in need of maintenance.** More involvement by local schools in teaching pupils ethics and manners from a young age. **The recreational ground gates could be closed at night to save anti-social behaviour and motor cycle use of an evening. Public use the Star Lane LWS (Local Wildlife Site) and adjoining land as a dumping ground for waste and litter.** Children walking home from parties at the top end of Alexandra Road. **A MUCH BETTER PARK!** Dogs fouling owners if found not cleaning up after their dog should be prosecuted. Dog fouling is on the increase despite public awareness of this issue. I have a dog so I witness this on a daily basis especially walking over to the Common. Always lots of rubbish around and outside the Co-op. There is a gang of local youths who are anti-social. They roam the estate smoking cannabis, swearing and indecent behaviour. They know the police can't touch them as they are too young. What can be done about this? Noise from scooters with illegal exhaust systems. Police to enforce. **The level of dog fouling around St Nicholas', Common Rd, Whitehall Rd and High St is awful. I am regularly cleaning it off my children's shoes and scooter's.** We've even had to walk in the road around the church when it was so bad over Christmas. Where the offenders

"Maybe have a meeting ...Ask them what they would like to stop the boredom ..."

"Conway Avenue could be gritted when it snows"

"Pavements are falling apart. I broke my toe on one last summer."

" I do not think there are enough litter bins in the High Street"

"Footpath in High Street on North side from Little Wakering Corner to Brougham Close is dangerous due to camber."

"Did not know we had a Salt Bag Scheme."

"The children's play area in Glebe Close is usually a complete mess."

are under age the parents should be heavily fined with regards to alcohol and drug related issues. How often does anyone see any pedestrian police presence? **Maybe have a meeting and invite the teenagers to the meeting. Ask them what they would like to stop the boredom as this is what youngsters/teenagers seem to have a lot of nowadays.** A lot of damage was done on our recreation ground on 31st October 2012. There are two big gates where the entrance is to stop that sort of damage - those gates could be closed each evening at dusk - **very drastic action but can stop cars from getting into the recreation ground.**

Q: Are you satisfied with the following services in Great Wakering

Too many weeds on pathways and in roadside kerbs. Not enough appears to be done to reduce these. This makes the area look untidy and run down. **It would be helpful if Conway Avenue could be gritted when it snows. The road is very busy and is icy for days or weeks and extremely dangerous. Pavements are falling apart. I broke my toe on one last summer. My neighbour called the council they said they will do it as an H&S priority still hasn't been done.** Lived here 34years never seen a road cleared during snow. **I do not think there are enough litter bins in the High Street.** The street cleaning and maintenance of roads and footpaths could be better. **The footpath beside the Anchor pub leading to Conway Ave is in a very bad state. It is very dangerous walking through there especially with a pushchair.** When I notice a street light not working I phone the council which almost immediately gets it replaced

There are not enough dog poo bins around the village, more so on the Common. We need at least 2-3 bins on the Common. More on the High Street, one at Star Lane, one in the middle and one near the church, one is needed at the start of Star Lane. It would be nice to have a couple of seats on the Common. Metal ones, they can't get burnt. **Snow clearance on roads, Pavement maintenance. Footpath in High Street on North side from Little Wakering Corner to Brougham Close is dangerous due to camber.** My main concerns, which are only of late, are pavement maintenance, footpaths, Common ground, grass cutting - open spaces, verge maintenance. Pretty good really.

Not happy with council trying to opt out of maintaining the PARISH churchyard. **Did not know we had a Salt Bag Scheme.** Pavement maintenance very poor outside old people's home near butchers. The mention of action on the snow is a joke surely just ask the local MP his reply "it's not his problem". **Appalled that had to cut grass for friend's wedding!** Snow clearance on New Road has been inadequate in the past few years resulting in us walking and using public transport. **The children's play area in Glebe Close is usually a complete mess. The pot holes at the end of Seaview Drive at its junction with Shoebury Road are a danger to us cyclists. I nearly fell from my cycle last week.** Too much illegal parking on grass verges, churning them up and blocking vision especially being unable to see cyclists.

Snow on paths and roads in the winter is never cleared and for

“Ice has been so bad outside my home that I am unable to leave the house.”

“there is no excuse and if you and the church cannot sort this problem out I feel that all the parish councillors should resign and people stand ...”

“All excellent service for G/W – thank you”

“You cannot book an appointment until the day which I find poor... but if it isn't urgent you can't make an appointment for a couple of days' time. My friend...”

“The frequency and range of the bus services are poor.”

“Never hear or see much from the Council themselves.”

the last two winters has been a treacherous safety hazard. **Ice has been so bad outside my home that I am unable to leave the house.** Post Office not great - **have lost and mislaid two packets of mine in the last year.** Local parks are locked I have offered to hold key for Seaview Dr but got no reply. **The church I have to go through church yard to get to my daughters grave and it is disgusting that you have let the church yard get in the state it is in, there is no excuse and if you and the church cannot sort this problem out I feel that all the parish councillors should resign and people stand that have a pride in the village.** **We could do with an external bank type cash machine - one that does not charge for conventional withdrawals.** Street light maintenance - we don't have any. **No provision for gritting estate roads.** Driving out to main roads is hazardous. **The side roads are not attended to at all during snow falls and are a hazards to all users.** I can't be satisfied with Snow clearance on pavements as I don't think it happens. I can't be satisfied with gritting bins or salt bags because I don't know anything about them. **What is the 'salt-bag scheme'?** Maintenance of roads and paths has improved lately. **The entrance to the Common is an eyesore.** The church could do with some Maintenance as the grass is well out of control and it shows a lack of respect for the people buried there. **All excellent service for G/W – thank you.** High St pavements have many holes - something of a risk for all. **Need recycling bin for small electrical goods.** The litter on the Common is getting worse. **Please take care of the trees in the Churchyard of Great Wakering Church with immediate effect they are effecting my peace of mind and enjoyment of my property as well as causing a risk.** The grass in the small park on Conway is sometimes left too long in between cutting which can make it hard to use. **Shame library services have been recently cut. Post Office doesn't provide passport service.**

Q: Are you experiencing difficulty obtaining any of these services?

We need a Secondary School, as the village is getting bigger, and more children come into the Gt. Wakering. No, although it is not often I need a doctor but on the few occasions I have tried to get one I have not been impressed with the service. **You cannot book an appointment until the day which I find poor in this day and age. Sometimes you want to see a doctor, but if it isn't urgent you can't make an appointment for a couple of days' time. My friend who lives in Rochford seems to have a much improved system - perhaps we could learn something from their routine. The frequency and range of the bus services are poor.** Particularly when compared with the same services as enjoyed by the residents of Shoeburyness and Thorpe Bay. I don't like the doctor's surgery here, so we are all with Shoebury Health Centre on Campfield Road which is far better in my opinion. **Are there any Community Police?** Difficult to make an appointment when you are working and with the doctor you want. **Bus to Asda.** Have real trouble getting doctor's appointments, as they are too busy and receptionists make it difficult to book appointments in advance, which you need to do when you work full-time doing shift work. **There is no dental practice in Wakering.**

“...what the Parish Council cover and what is Rochford council's responsibility.”

“By organising more community events and trying to engage with the cross section of our community.”

“... updates in Community Magazine are good.”

“More public notices in the shops not just on the noticeboards.”



There is little evidence of police presence in Wakering. Waiting list for Pre-school sessions we'd like to tie in with working days/hours. Community police waste of space and money

Q: Do you know what Great Wakering Parish Council does?

Yes, but it doesn't seem to make any difference! From attending 2 meetings they seem pretty powerless and ineffective if they have no personal experience of the matter in hand. **I know what I read on the website and in other publications.** Only really heard about you last year at the Farmers Market but think the Great Wakering Parish Plan is a great idea. **Never hear or see much from the Council themselves.** Not entirely. **I am not sure what the Parish Council cover and what is Rochford Council's responsibility.** Make a load of excuses and doesn't care less. Having been involved for several years with R.D.C's standards committee you don't seem to be very well advertised!

Q: How do you think the Parish Council could better communicate with the community about what they are doing and what services they provide?

Make pc website interesting and relevant to community. **By organising more community events and trying to engage with the cross section of our community.** **Circulars - It does look like an old boys' club.** Use of email rather than newsletters. Time to move with the times. E.g. I would like to pay my allotment rent via bank payments. I struggle to find a cheque book to pay currently. Cheques are out of date. **Get a Twitter account and Tweet about the activities you are doing. Regular updates in Community Magazine are good.** There needs to be a more active engagement with local residents. Maybe link up with the community magazine so it provides a single source for information to the community. **More public notices in the shops not just on the noticeboards.** Just keep spreading the word and some of the information will eventually sink in. **Circulars including email. Also updating the website.**

