



THE WOOTTON ANNUAL REPORT 2023

See Inside for Wootton
A-Z Map

History of Wootton

Wootton or Wotton, comes from the Olde English pre-7th Century words "wudu", wood and "tun", enclosure or settlement. Later in history, Wootton came to mean "settlement by a wood". Our Wootton (Bedfordshire) was recorded as "Otone" in the Domesday Book in 1086 and "Wutton" in 1197 in the Feet of Fines. Wootton has been a popular place name throughout English history. In the 21st Century there are at least 18 Woottons in England and one in Australia, a few hours drive north of Sydney.



Wootton has had a long association with brickmaking with references in the 17th century to the bricks made in the tithe kiln at Wood End. In both the early and late part of the 18th century church bells were made here for several churches in Bedfordshire and adjoining counties. The early part of the 19th century saw the opening and licensing of "The Black Horse" PH (public house), shortly followed by "The Fox and Duck" PH and the "Rose and Crown" PH, which we now know as "The Legstraps" PH. The Cock Inn PH is older however, and was described in 1764 as an alehouse and blacksmith's forge. The Chequers PH is believed to be a 17th century building. Around the same time, the Baptist Church was built at a cost of £400. The latter part of the 19th century saw the opening of Wootton's first school and the Methodist Church. For sports fans, towards the end of the 19th century we find our first reference to a cricket match against Kempston, which we must have won! A few years later in 1890, Wootton Blue Cross Football club was formed.

Going back to the Domesday Book, Wootton was listed as having 26 residents (20 villagers and six slaves) across ten hides. By 1901, the population had risen to 1,252. The population remained steady throughout the first half of the 20th century. However, by 1971, the population had climbed to 2,386, rising to 4,230 in 2001. According to the 2011 census, the area covered by Wootton civil parish had 4,156 residents living in 1,654 households. With the latest expansion, Sherwood Close, Berryfields, Little Wootton, Berry Wood and The Kilns we are now probably close to a population of 6,000.

The Parish Council (staff and volunteers)

Wootton Parish Council was founded in 1894 and as the first tier of local government, is the closest to the people it represents. The council consists of 15 voluntary councillors who serve for a period of up to four years before standing for re-election.

The parish council employs one full time and three part-time members of staff.

Sue Edgar Playford	(Full time) - Clerk to the Council & Responsible Financial Officer
Vacancy to be filled	(Part time) - Recreation Ground caretaker
Alison Reed-Thomsett	(Part time) - Allotments Officer
Lorna Cochrane	(Part time) - Litter picker

Contacting the Parish Council

Please use one of the methods below to contact the parish council. You can also contact the councillors directly (see page 3) or attend one of our meetings. Don't worry, you don't have to stay for the whole meeting if you don't wish to. Members of public can usually speak on any matter relevant to the wellbeing of the parish at the beginning of the meeting.

Wootton Parish Council
c/o 3 Longden Close
Haynes
Bedfordshire
MK45 3PJ

Telephone: 07531 930788
Email: clerk@wootton-pc.gov.uk
Website: <https://wootton-pc.gov.uk/>
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/WoottonParishCouncilBedfordshire>
Twitter: [#WoottonPC_Beds](https://twitter.com/WoottonPC_Beds)

Front Cover: - picture taken by Gareth Lloyd

Parish Councillors



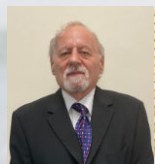
Cllr: - Gareth Lloyd (Chairman)
Tel: - 07414 551820
E-mail: - Gareth.Lloyd@wootton-pc.gov.uk



Cllr: - Gerald Bygraves (Vice Chairman)
Tel: - 07792 842601
E-mail: - Gerald.Bygraves@wootton-pc.gov.uk



Cllr: - Bob Hensher
Tel: - 767774
E-mail: - Bob.Hensher@wootton-pc.gov.uk



Cllr: - John Kay
Tel: - 01234 400 830
E-mail: - John.Kay@wootton-pc.gov.uk



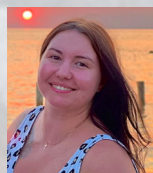
Cllr: - Jeff Noakes
Tel: - 07806 470411
E-mail: - Jeff.Noakes@wootton-pc.gov.uk



Cllr: - Stuart O'Dell (Chair Planning)
Tel: - 767133
E-mail: - Stuart.Odell@wootton-pc.gov.uk



Cllr: - Keith Randell
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Cllr: - Victoria Richbell-Davies
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E-mail: - Alex.Swain@wootton-pc.gov.uk



Cllr: - Tristan Tryerman
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Cllr: - Bob Wallace
Tel: - 768011
E-mail: - Bob.Wallace@wootton-pc.gov.uk



Cllr: - John Wheeler
Tel: - 07913 409433
E-mail: - John.Wheeler@Bedford.gov.uk



Cllr: - TBC
Tel: -
E-mail: -

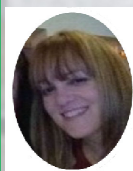


Cllr: - TBC
Tel: -
E-mail: -



Cllr: - TBC
Tel: -
E-mail: -

Clerk to Wootton Parish Council



Clerk: - Sue Edgar Playford
Tel: - 07531 930788
E-mail: - Clerk@wootton-pc.gov.uk

Bedford Borough Councillor



Cllr: - John Wheeler
Tel: - 07913 409433
E-mail: - John.Wheeler@Bedford.gov.uk

Bedford Borough Councillor



Cllr: - Sue Abood
Tel: - 07968 792862
E-mail: - Sue.Abood@Bedford.gov.uk

Clerk's Report



This is Wootton Parish Council's sixth annual report and I am again pleased to include my report, as Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer for the parish council. As the village continues to grow (albeit at a much slower pace), we are once again including our 'History of Wootton' section, which we hope you will find useful.

This year saw local elections across the borough, and the parish council welcomed Tristan Tyerman as a result. Since the elections, we have also welcomed Alex Swain, John Kay and most recently, Victoria Richbell-Davies.

We currently have three parish councillor vacancies, so if you would like to learn more about these positions, please get in touch and check out the information we have on our website: <https://wootton-pc.gov.uk/parish-council/policies-and-procedures/>

Our caretaker Charlotte has sadly recently resigned and we will soon begin our recruitment process to replace her. Thank you Charlotte, for the work you have put in over the years to keep our recreation ground at Church Road tidy. Lorna our litter picker does the same throughout the rest of the village (save for those areas which are under the care of a private management entity). Our two volunteer litter pickers (Jan and Miriam) also do great work and cover Lorna when they can. Both were recruited through Bedford Borough Council's Community Champion Scheme. Signing up to this scheme ensures volunteers receive guidance and the appropriate PPE, plus equipment and it can be done via this link: www.bedford.gov.uk/volunteering. I must also finish with a thank you to Alison for her work in ensuring the allotments at Hall End are smoothly run.

The idea behind this report is to provide a window on who does what within the parish council and what the parish council's responsibilities are. Separate sections cover both ongoing/future projects as well as financial information. That financial information shows how our finances are managed, including the precept (budget) we receive as part of the council tax. It also shows the income generated from services we provide including allotments, sports facilities hire and the cemetery at Lorraine Road. We have again included information on how full council runs and our committees/steering groups.

Bedford Borough Ward Councillor's Report



Cllr. John Wheeler
John.wheeler@bedford.gov.uk
07913 409433

Since my last annual report, we have had an eventful year since emerging from the upside down world of the pandemic into times with their own unique challenges.

Through this all I have continued to do my utmost to represent Wootton residents, ensuring we get our fair share from Bedford Borough Council. As we enter a period of great uncertainty I wanted to confirm and reassure everyone I will continue to help and support Wootton.

Although we have left the locked down world of the pandemic behind, COVID and its variants still have not completely gone away and we must still be vigilant and careful. I would like to offer my thanks to all the volunteers and health sector workers that looked after so many people during that time.

Similarly, I would like to extend my thanks to all the volunteers and students at Wootton Upper School that have helped the Wootton Poor's Land Charity send out food parcels to our most vulnerable residents. I must also extend another thank you to everyone who managed to make the Bob Lunniss

Christmas lunch such a huge success this year and to everyone who managed to keep it a secret I was Santa at the lower school.

Wootton has continued to see development and hopefully, at the start of the New Year we should be moving toward installing the pedestrian crossing at Fields Road. I understand and share everyone's frustration with how long Bedford Borough Council has dragged its feet but, after conversations with traffic and highways, I am confident we should see this crossing installed in the New Year.

Additionally, I have also had meetings with Bedford Borough Council's Highways team on Cranfield Road to discuss a range of issues including pedestrian/school children's road safety. I am pleased that following these meetings, Cranfield Road has now been resurfaced and the white lining will be repainted.

I am still in touch with Bedford Borough Council's engineers regarding the pedestrian safety measures on that road and will strive to ensure Wootton has adequate safety measures in place. We also now have much needed street lighting along the cut through between Latimer Close and Studley Road which was not delivered by developers. This walkway is used by residents and school children in high numbers, but was left pitch black and unsafe. The new lampposts will ensure the area is suitably illuminated and feels safe. Cause End Road remains programmed for resurfacing at the Bedford Road end, once gas and water works have been completed.

At Wootton Lower School a new Special Education Unit for vulnerable children is now in place and should be fully operational next term. I would like to thank the Deputy Head Mrs. Burnett and Head Teacher Mr. Tavener for their considerable efforts in ensuring delivery of this much needed resource for Wootton Lower School children.

I, alongside Wootton Parish Council are continuing to pressure Persimmon Homes to complete all infrastructure works within the Berryfields development – not least safety works in the vicinity of the lower school site on Harris Way. This includes yellow lines, yellow zig zag markings, no waiting signs and a camera.

In a further bid to help parents in Wootton and beyond I have worked with Conservative Colleagues to hold Bedford Borough Council to account on how they assist parents choosing primary schools. Through our scrutiny, Bedford Borough Council has entered the final stages of finalising its new 'one-stop' website which will offer advice to parents and/or carers for children under five. The soon to be named 'Best Start Bedford Borough' has gone live and will offer as much information as possible about health, education and childcare, enabling parents and carers to make choices that are right for them.

I have used my ward funds this year to help both Wootton schools, the scouts, Wootton Blue Cross FC and Wootton Parish Council to help the community and children.

Useful Contacts:

Bedford Borough Council General Enquiries 01234 267422 www.bedford.gov.uk

Bedford Borough Council Childrens Services: 01234 267422 childrenservices@bedford.gov.uk

Bedford Borough Council School Admissions: 01234 718120 admissions@bedford.gov.uk

Bedford Borough Council Environmental Hotline 01234 718060 customerservices@bedford.gov.uk

Bedford Borough Council Highways Department 01234 718003 <https://highwaysreporting.bedford.gov.uk>

Bedford Borough Council Planning Department 01234 718068 planning@bedford.gov.uk

Bedford Borough Council Waste Collection 01234 267422 www.bedford.gov.uk

Surgery: first Saturday of each month at the library, 11am to 12 noon

Chairman's Report



Last year we had a historic change of Monarch. This year to a lesser degree, we have seen a change in administration at Bedford Borough Council and a new Member of Parliament – Alistair Strathern. A lot of what the parish council does involves lobbying Bedford Borough Council to help improve Wootton, so the change in administration will have a huge impact upon Wootton. Let's see if this will be a good or a bad thing – only time will tell.

Bedford Borough has yet to deliver a much-needed Doctors surgery and the village is still waiting on delivery of the outstanding average speed cameras (the order was placed in 2019). There were also various 'battles' in the enforcement of issues surrounding the new developments – including the roads, pavements, crossings and yellow lining) – to complete these works to a better standard.

The parish council has had several positive meetings with the new Mayor, and I hope the village will see improvements soon. I will keep you informed via the quarterly Wootton Newsletter on the successes and/or failures of the Borough Council.

Behind the scenes we have been working with Wootton Upper School to get a floodlit synthetic sports pitch delivered on its site, which will be available for community use outside school hours. Planning permission has been granted to refurbish the changing rooms at the recreation ground on Church Road (in a shocking state currently!). The works will include a basic kitchen/tuck shop facility, toilets and storage facilities and the existing toilet block will be demolished.

The parish council along with the Forest of Marston Vale are currently in talks with the Crown Estate regarding a pilot scheme to deliver net zero carbon dwellings within the village, as part of the Neighbourhood Development Plan. Talks are also being held regarding the remaining green space and how best to manage it, whilst improving the area as a wildlife habitat for the village. For more information on the development element, please visit: <https://www.thecrownestate.co.uk/en-gb/media-and-insights/news/2023-the-crown-estate-launches-demonstration-projects-to-trial-net-zero-carbon-homes/>

At last(!) we have new soundproof (acoustic) fencing being delivered along the A421 dual carriageway – currently, half the village has a new barrier. National Highways are delivering this project at an approximate cost of £5 million.

The parish council is awaiting developments in relation to Bedford Borough Council's Local Plan 2040, before establishing what policies, if any, within Wootton's Neighbourhood Development Plan need to be revisited. We have also been advising Kempston Rural Parish Council on infrastructure improvements they may wish to seek from developers (in relation to proposed development within its parish). This is important as the development will also affect Wootton.

Raise money for a Wootton Charity.



For those that might not be aware, we have a glass recycling bank on the recreation ground car park, behind the village hall on Church Road. The money that is generated from this, goes to the Wootton Poor's Land Charity. This charity helps people within the parish if they are struggling financially. In recent years, they have supplied kitchen appliances, food hampers and paid utility bills.

Each week, the skip is taken, weighed and emptied. Every full skip earns the charity around £35.

Grants

The parish council has a small pot of money for grants. Clubs and organisations within the parish can apply for these grants. For more information, please visit our website:

<https://wootton-pc.gov.uk/parish-council/policies-and-procedures/>

Grants Awarded 2018/2019

Acorn Quilters	£227	Contribution towards materials needed for the centenary poppy display at the Memorial Hall
Bedfordshire Against Covanta	£250	Donation towards the campaign against the incinerator
Royal British Legion	£250	Purchase of one Silhouette soldier
Wootton Car Fest	£200	Purchase of promotional materials and banners
Wootton Carpet Bowls Club	£200	Purchase of second hand mate windup/storage unit

Grants Awarded 2019/2020

Wootton Car Fest	£254	Purchase of promotional materials and banners
Wootton Good Neighbour Scheme	£380	Contribution towards running costs
Wootton Rangers Youth FC	£300	Purchase of kit and training equipment
Wootton WI	£131	Purchase of centenary wall plaque for the Memorial Hall

Grants Awarded 2020 /2021

Autism Bedfordshire	£300	Donation towards the scheme 'Loads of Autistic Fun'
Bizzy Bees Pre-School	£1000	Donation towards materials to enable them to meet Covid-19 restrictions
Wootton Village Hall	£975	Donation towards decorating costs

Grants Awarded 2021 /2022

Wootton Country Players	£450	Grant to aid clothing and prop clearance
Wootton Village Hall	£634	Installation of lighting to the grass side of the village hall

Grants Awarded 2022/2023

Wootton Blue Cross FC	£900	Donation to fund an event to commemorate HM King Charles III's coronation
Wootton Good Neighbour Scheme	£850	Donation to ensure continuation of the scheme

Proposed Projects for 2021/2022

The parish council completed the following projects in 2021/22:

- Additional CCTV cameras to provide better coverage within the Jubilee Gardens Play Area, Church Road;
- Additional defibrillator for Wootton Community Centre, Harris Way;
- Additional dog litter bins at various sites within the village;
- Additional footpath within the Jubilee Gardens Play Area, Church Road;
- Installation of posts at Popes Way Green, Lorraine Road end;
- Installation of two additional lecterns – at the Pound (opposite the Cock Inn PH, Bedford Road and Memorial Hall, Bedford Road);
- Repairs to the mandala roundabout at the Jubilee Gardens Play Area, Church Road;
- Repairs to the skate park, Church Road;
- Repairs to the village hall car park, Church Road;
- Replacement defibrillator for Wootton Changing Rooms, Church Road;
- Tree planting as part of HM Queen Elizabeth II's Green Canopy at Lorraine Road cemetery and adjoining field;
- Works to improve Keeley End Pond (Bedford Road/Hollies Walk).

Projects Completed in 2022/23

The parish council completed the following projects in 2022/23:

- Additional footpath within Lorraine Road cemetery;
- Fun Fest, recreation ground, Church Road;
- HM Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee event at the recreation ground, Church Road;
- Installation of a new Royal British Legion-style memorial bench at Lorraine Road cemetery;
- Installation of Average Speed Cameras along Cranfield Road;
- Installation of new/replacement litter bins at several sites within the recreation ground and Jubilee Gardens Play Area, Church Road;
- Purchase of new goal posts (donated to Wootton Community Centre and Wootton Rangers FC);
- Replacement basket swing at the recreation ground, Church Road;
- Replacement lighting (LED for sodium-style) to the MUGA (Multi Use Games Area), Church Road;
- Replacement mesh fencing and repairs to the surface of the MUGA (Multi Use Games Area), Church Road;
- Works to improve Keeley End Pond (Bedford Road/Hollies Walk).

Proposed Projects for 2023/2024

The parish council has put forward a number of proposed projects to complete within this financial year. Additional projects may come forward during the course of this year and it should be noted that some may be subject to delay, due to issues beyond the control of the parish council. A number of projects have been carried forward from previous years for this reason:

- All projects are formally agreed by Full Council before works commence;
- Additional Lecterns (including one adjacent to the gaol area at St. Mary's Church);
- Additional Real Time Bus Passenger Information Units;
- Average Speed Cameras for Bedford Road/Church Road/ Hall End Road/Keeley Lane;
- Berryfields/Fields Road roundabout regeneration project;
- Installation of a new village entrance sign – entrance from Bourne End/Wood End;
- Refurbishment works to the Changing Rooms/Toilet Block at the recreation ground, Church Road;
- Transfer of parish council-owned street lighting columns to Bedford Borough Council.

Wootton Poors Lanf Charity

Cc 200216

Poors Land Charity dates from 1847 with its aim to give grants for food, fuel and furniture where no public funds were available. Today it is similar with a modern approach to the grants that it gives out. The area the charity covers is the Ecclesiastical area of Wootton and Stewartby and as such has trustees from both communities volunteering and helping.

Our yearly Christmas hampers have recently been organised for fifty families which were put together by the trustees and given out via the schools. Last year it was fifty-five hampers. Over the years grants have been made towards the cost of school uniforms and college equipment. Help has been given with medical equipment, help towards hospital travelling costs and a replacement bike which had been stolen and was essential to the owner.



The Parish Council has generously give all the Village Hall glass recycling proceeds to the charity from 2014, when it was just £328. By 2022 this had risen to a magnificent £1,197. Please use the Village Hall bottle bank as you can see it really is used to benefit people in this community.

If you need help or perhaps think a friend could do with a bit of support, please phone 01234 768391 or email wootton.poorsland@gmail.com in complete confidence.

A big thank you to our trustees and the Parish Council for their help and support of the Charity.

Financial Report

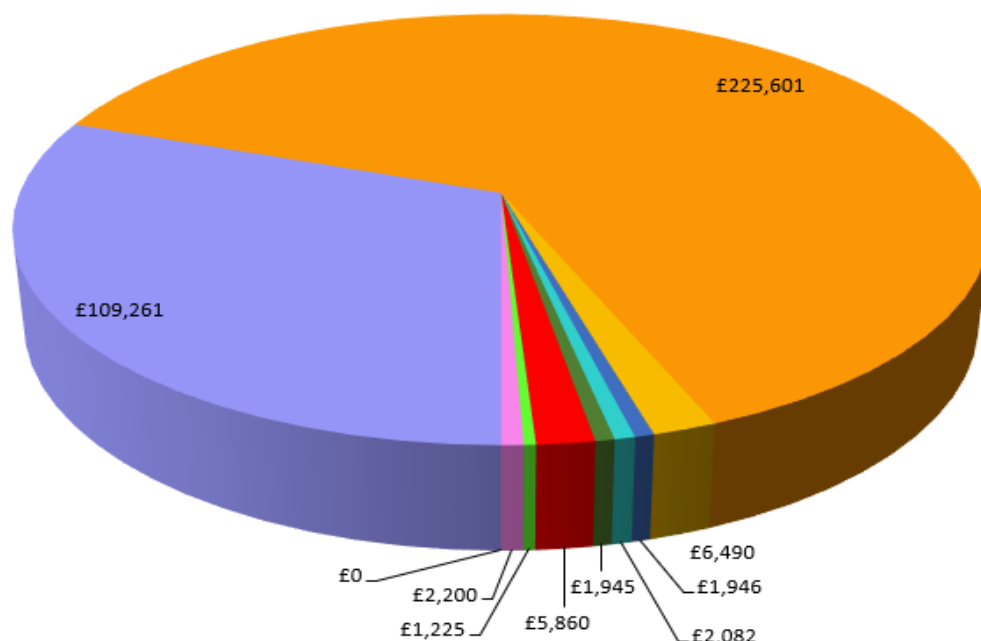
In accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations the parish council employs the services of an independent internal auditor, currently GKP, Chartered Accountants. The external auditors are appointed by the Audit Commission who appointed Mazars LLP in 2019.

Detailed financial information, including audited accounts are available to view via our website (<https://wootton-pc.gov.uk>), under the heading "Wootton Parish Council" then "Finance".

Audited Accounts (2021/22)

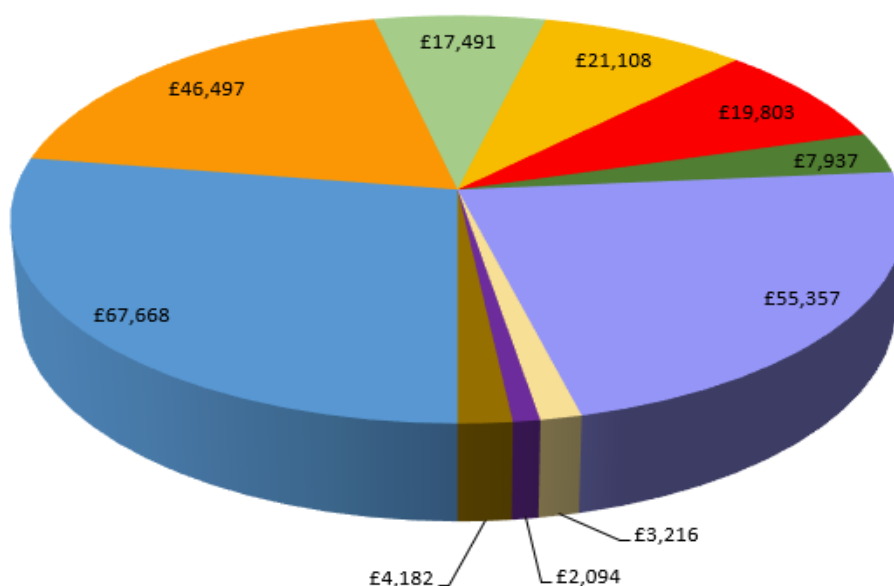
2021-22 Income

- CIL
- Precept
- Cemetery
- Interest
- Grass cutting
- Wootton News
- Recycling Credits
- Allotments
- MUGA
- Grants/S106



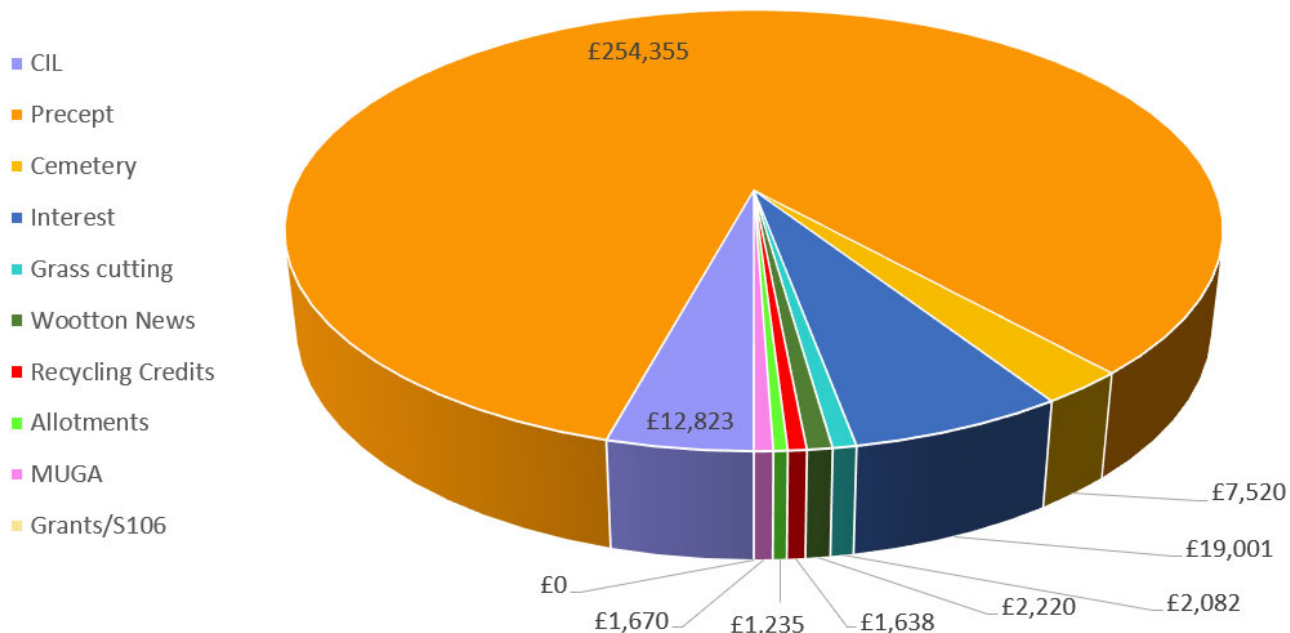
2021-22 Expenditure

- Staffing
- Estate Management
- Office
- Cemetery Management
- Christmas
- Wootton News
- Projects
- Donations
- Fun fest & Queens Jubilee
- Highways

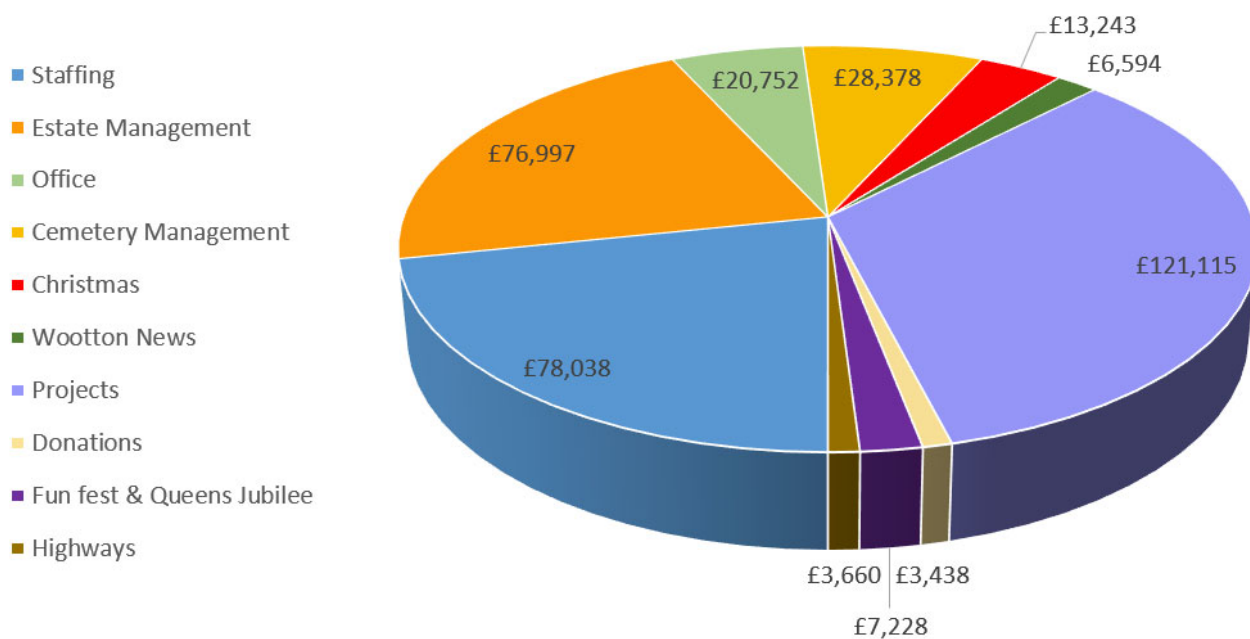


Audited Accounts (2022/23)

2022-23 Income

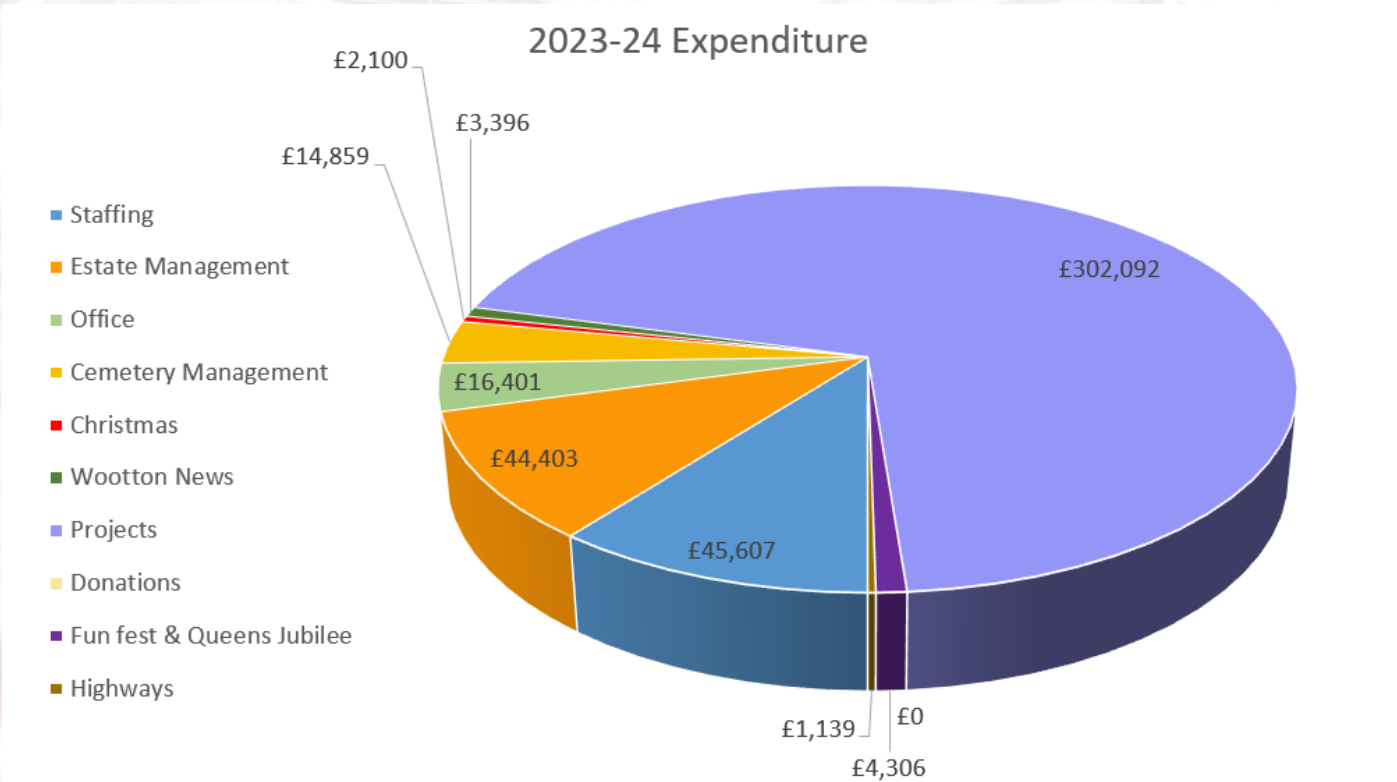
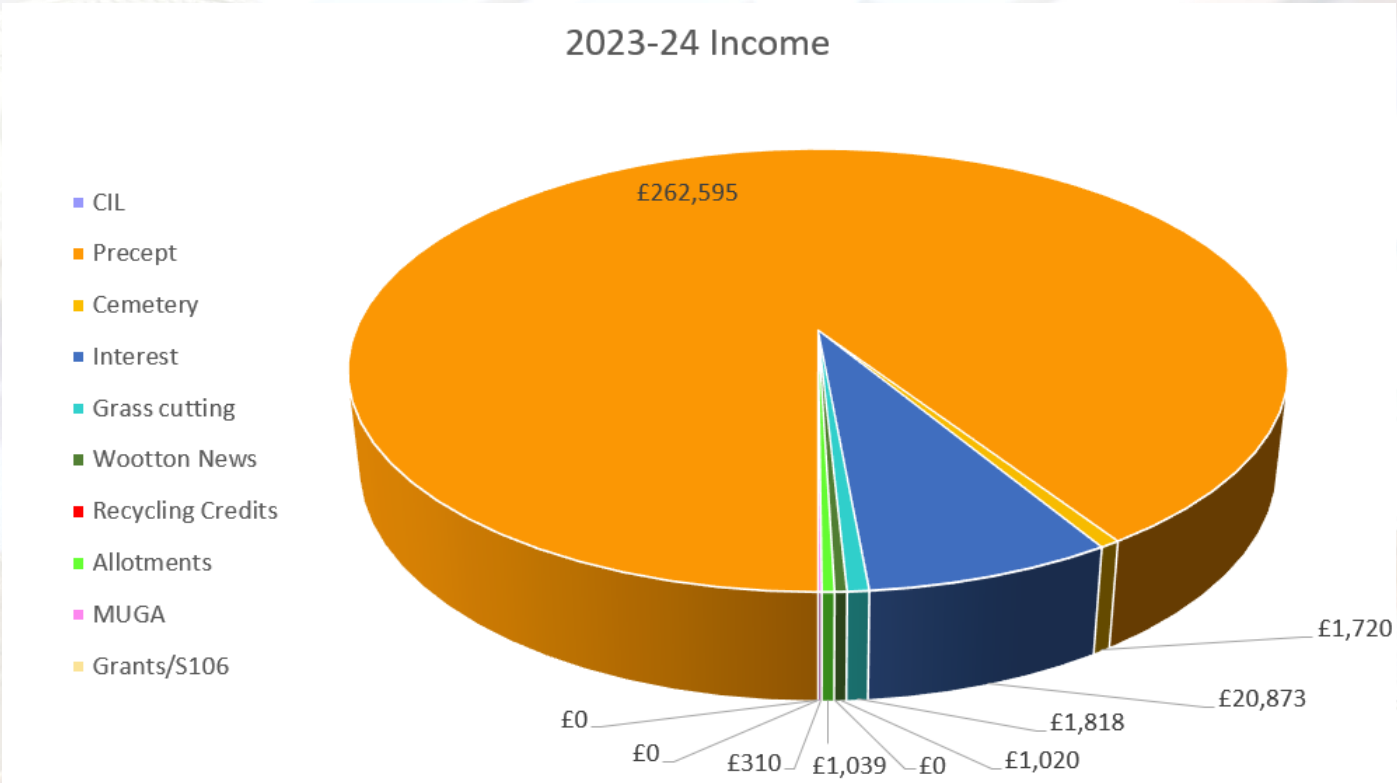


2022-23 Expenditure



This years (2023/24)

These figures are taken from January's precept* calculation and represent our predicted income and expenditure for the year



*The precept is a portion of council tax paid to the parish council by Bedford Borough Council, to run the parish. The precept demand is submitted annually to Bedford Borough Council in January.

Halls for Hire



Memorial Hall, Bedford Road

Hall available for parties and meetings. The hall has a kitchen with serving hatch, toilets and use of tables and chairs.

For more information please call **07749 538 964** or email **MemorialHallMK43@gmail.com**

Wootton Scout Hut

Children's Parties, Birthdays, Weddings, Meetings for individuals or groups. The hall is suitable for up to 80 people and has a kitchen with a serving hatch, toilets, plenty of parking, garden and use of table and chairs.

The fee to hire is £10 an hour and there are discounts available for people linked with the group or regular bookings. For more information or to book contact **Mark** on **07772 330 169**



Village Hall, Church Road

Children's parties up to 11yrs old, plenty of room and open space out the back. A great hall to hire for parties. Also there is a small committee room to use for meetings. The hall is also used for Bowles, Fit Step, Yoga, Essential Dance, Friday Children Dance Class, Drama and Marshal Arts. For more information please email **WoottonVillageHallBookings@gmail.com** or call **Leigh Himsworth** on **07546 300 504**

Community Centre, Harris Way

This has a main hall, a kitchen, a large meeting room plus toilets and changing rooms.

For more information please email **bookings@wootton.cc** or

contact **Lorna Rae** on **07830 279 204**



What is the parish council responsible for?

The parish council is responsible for the following:

- Allotments and paddock maintenance (Hall End);
- Annual Christmas tree by the junction of Bedford Road/Cause End Road;
- Annual Fun Fest;
- Annual Open Air Cinema Event;
- Cemeteries maintenance (all three sites – St. Mary's churchyard, St. Mary's churchyard extension and Lorraine Road cemetery);
- Christmas street lights;
- Grass cutting (those areas for which it has responsibility);
- Maintenance of Keeley End Pond;
- Maintenance of the play areas at the Memorial Hall and Recreation Ground sites – including weekly, monthly and annual RoSPA inspections;
- Payment of recycling credits to the Wootton Poor's Land Charity (collected from the glass recycling unit at the recreation ground);
- Provision of dog mess and litter bins (although the borough council empty them);
- Tree maintenance (those areas for which it has responsibility);
- War Memorial maintenance.

See under Committees and Responsibilities for further information.

How to find out more information

There are several ways that you can find out what the parish council is doing or planning to do. We cater for the online community and those without internet access. This is your community, so take the time to find out what is going on. By talking to us, you can shape how our community will evolve. Below is a list of ways that you can find out more.

- Council meetings - all meetings are held at Wootton Community Centre on Harris Way;
- Councillor surgeries;
- Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/WoottonParishCouncilBedfordshire> ;
- Newsletter (produced quarterly);
- Notice boards;
- Website: <https://www.wootton-pc.gov.uk/>

How decisions are made



The council's committees make decisions on issues put before them or make recommendations that are discussed at full council meetings – where the recommendations can be approved, rejected or sent back to the committee for a rethink. Decisions made by the council are implemented by the clerk or other council staff and can only be made at a meeting.

The agenda for each meeting is published one week before the meeting on the parish council's website and in the noticeboards around the village. A link is also included on our Facebook page. Only items on the agenda can be discussed – this is a legal requirement. "Any Other Business" is not permitted, to ensure everyone knows in advance what will be discussed.

No councillor has the authority to organise, arrange or promise anything, but they can (and do) pass on requests, which (when relevant to the parish council) will be passed to the relevant committee or Full Council.

Committees and Responsibilities

All council meetings are open to the public unless there is a legal reason why they should not be. There is provision for the public to speak at the start of each meeting. Details of meetings, including dates, agendas and draft minutes are published on the council's website home page (<https://wootton-pc.gov.uk>). More information can be found out under the heading "Wootton Parish Council". Information about each committee and their signed minutes can be found under the relevant committee name. Agendas can also be found on our noticeboards and they are displayed at least three clear working days before the meeting and on our website. We have meetings most Wednesdays throughout the year, except the last three weeks of December. The schedule of meetings can be found on our website either on our home page, right hand side near the bottom or under the heading "Wootton Parish Council", followed by "Meeting Dates".

Committees are either **executive** or **advisory**. An **executive** committee has the power to make decisions. An **advisory** committee does the background work and makes recommendation to full council.

Full Council

Full Council is the main body of the parish council to which all advisory committees report to. All councillors sit on full council which meets on the second Wednesday of each month.

Planning Committee

The Planning Committee is the only **executive** committee, meaning it can make decisions. It meets twice a month (second and last Wednesday) to consider and comment on all planning matters, and determines the parish council's view in respect of planning applications. If residents have concerns about a planning matter, they are welcome to attend the meeting at which the relevant application will be considered. It is vital however, that comments are also lodged with Bedford Borough Council, as the parish council is only one voice (same as any resident), despite being a statutory consultee. Bedford Borough Council has the final say on all applications, as the Local Planning Authority.

This committee may also respond on the parish council's behalf to consultations regarding planning issues or issues including the infrastructure of the village, which may have an impact on planning. This committee has parish councillor members only.

Leisure and Amenities Committee (L&A)

The Leisure and Amenities Committee is an **advisory** committee (with the exception of all issues and decisions relating to the Changing Rooms and Toilet Block refurbishment/demolition project) and cannot make decisions on behalf of the parish council. Recommendations are made to Full Council for approval.

This committee oversees the management and maintenance of the council's leisure facilities which include:

- Church Road recreation ground (sports pitches, enclosed children's play area, Jubilee Gardens, MUGA1, skate park);
- Harris Way MUGA;
- Harris Way sports pitches;
- Memorial Hall recreation ground (field, enclosed children's play area).

This committee also:

- Oversees the maintenance and any agreed development of public open space for which the parish council has a designated responsibility including the management of any associated contracts, including grass cutting.
- Oversees the management and maintenance of the council's allotments and paddock area at Hall End.
- Oversees the management and maintenance of all village (public) defibrillators.
- Oversees the management and maintenance of the village War Memorial on Church Road.
- Oversees the management and maintenance of all burial grounds for which the parish council has a designated responsibility.
- Oversees the management and maintenance of all trees within the village for which the parish council has a designated responsibility, including:
 - ◇ Church Road recreation ground;
 - ◇ Hall End Road allotments;
 - ◇ Keeley End Pond;
 - ◇ Lorraine Road cemetery;
 - ◇ Memorial Hall recreation ground;
 - ◇ Popes Way Green;
 - ◇ St. Mary's Churchyard and Churchyard extension;
 - ◇ War Memorial.
- Oversees the management and maintenance of Keeley End Pond.
- Oversees the management and maintenance of street furniture including benches, bins (which are emptied by Bedford Borough Council), bus shelters (not including those within the Berryfields and Berrywood Estates), noticeboards, planters (including the village entrance sign on Bedford/Wootton Road and The Pound opposite The Cock Inn PH on Bedford Road) and two street lights (one at Hall End and one at Potters Cross – both are on privately-owned land).
- Works in partnership with other councils, agencies and groups within the village and beyond to determine future requirements in terms of additional/improved leisure facilities and community activities and to prepare proposals/business plans for recommendation by Full Council.

This committee has both resident and parish councillor members.

Finance and General Purposes Committee (F&GP)

The Finance and General Purposes Committee is an **advisory** committee which oversees the management of the parish council's finances and makes recommendation to full council. It meets on the last Wednesday of the month. It has executive powers for the purpose of payment authorisation and staff appraisals **ONLY**. It also oversees the parish council's corporate governance arrangements, risk management procedures and insurance arrangements. The committee oversees matters relating to the employment and management of staff and any other matters falling outside of the remit of the council's other committees.

This committee has parish councillor members only.

Roads and Pavements

The Roads and Pavements Committee works on issues surrounding roads and pavements and reports on progress made to Full Council. It engages with the community, other stakeholders and if necessary, adjoining town or parish councils in order to identify those issues and how to best remedy them. This is usually done by liaising/lobbying Bedford Borough Council as the Local Highways Authority, to take the necessary action.

Fun Fest Committee

The Fun Fest Committee is an **advisory** committee, responsible for organising the annual Fun Fest. It meets two or three times a year. Its aim is to secure acts, stalls and events as appropriate and ensure all Health & Safety aspects are met, including public liability insurance and risk assessments. This group reports to full council which determines its annual budget.

This committee has both resident and parish councillor members. If you think you can help to improve our Fun Fest event we would love to hear from you.

Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group is an **advisory** steering group, created to work on the development of a Neighbourhood Development Plan, setting timescales, engaging with the community and reporting to full council on progress made. Since the Neighbourhood Development Plan was adopted, this steering group has not met but it will remain open until such time as the plan requires review.

This steering group has both resident, professional planning advisers and parish councillor members

Contacts Directory

Parish Council Chairman

Gareth Lloyd: 07414 551 820

Parish Council Vice Chairman

Gerald Bygraves: 07792 842 601

Clerk to the Council/Responsible Financial Officer

Sue Edgar Playford: 07531 930 788

3 Longden Close, Haynes, Bedfordshire MK45 3PJ

Parish Councillors

Bob Hensher: 767 774

John Kay: 400 830

Jeff Noakes: 07806 470 411

Stuart O'Dell: 767133

Keith Randell: 07872 647234

Victoria Richbell-Davies: 07758 831 492

Alex Swain: 07516 649106

Tristan Tyerman: 07935 974449

Bob Wallace: 768 011

John Wheeler: 07913 409 433

Bedford Borough Councillors

Councillor Sue Abood: 07968 792862

Councillor John Wheeler: 07913 409 433

Hall Booking

Memorial Hall - 07749 538964

email: memorialhallmk43@gmail.com

Scout Hall - Mark Atkins: 311 386

Village Hall - Leigh Himsworth - 07546 300504

email: woottonvillagehallbookings@gmail.com

Wootton Blue Cross Hall: 767 662

Wootton Community Centre -

email: bookings@wootton.cc

Complex (Multi Use Games Area) bookings Church Road

only - Sue Edgar Playford: 07531 930 788

Schools

Wootton Upper: 767 123

Holywell Middle: 750 381

Marston Vale Middle: 768 224

Wootton Lower: 768 239

Wootton Lower PTFA Contact: 768 239

Police

HQ: 841 212 Beat Manager: 842 433

Non Emergency: 101 Anti-Social Behaviour: 276 037

Good Neighbour Scheme: 07717 770 247

Playgroups

Bizzy Bees: 767 185

St Mary's - Tracey Kerins: 767 158

Wootton Community Nursery- Kayleigh: 07534 308 632

Speed Watch Co-ordinator

Juliet Wright: 07590 449815

St Mary's Church

Canon Peter Ackroyd: 768 391

Church Hall: 767 158

Wootton New Life Methodist Church

Rev Michael Giles: 930 882

Baptist Church

Mr Rob Stanton: 766 293

Roman Catholic Church

Father Seamus Keenan: 352 569

Doctor's Surgeries

Wootton Vale: 762 500

Cranfield, High St: 750 234

Kempston, Cater St: 849 090

Kempston, King St: 852 222

Kempston, St John St: 851 323

NHS111: Online www.111.nhs.uk or Freephone 111

Wootton Facilities

Pharmacy: 765 166 Post Office: 768 368

Library: 766 061

Village Club & Organisations

Alive and Singing Choir' - Barbara: 07710 007 572

1st Wootton Rainbows - Naomi: 07722 876 252

1st Wootton Boys Brigade - Allan: 319 269

1st Wootton Girls Brigade - Nicola: 319 269

Acorn Quilters - Dorothy: 409 566

Badminton Monday - Chris: 07740 939 109

Badminton Thursday - Freda: 270 638

Badminton Juniors - Colin: 270 283

Beavers Leader required call Mark: 07772 330 169

Bowls Monday - Viv: 855 383

Bowls Thursday - Rena: 768 012

Brennan School of Dance: 822 831

Brownies Tuesday - Denise: 314 030

Brownies Wednesday - Becky: 07876 766 050

Cubs Leader required call Mark: 07772 330 169

Country Players - Tina Kirkup -

Tina.Kirkup@hotmail.co.uk

Explorers - Jake: 07808 077 027

Group Scout Leader - Mark: 07772 330 169

Guides - Gill: 856 566

Marston Vale Forest School: 07811 087 322

Royal British Legion Wootton Poppy Appeal

Organiser - Chris: 07865 051 453

Scouts - Jake: 07808 077 027

Stewartby Operatic Society - 01908 616213

Tang Soo Do - Pat: 07917 805 863

Wootton Golf Society - Pete: 07975 596 164

Women's Institute - Kath: 765 333

Wootton Rangers FC - Jeremy: 07446 770193

Wootton Blue Cross: 767 662

Defibrillators around Wootton



AED

Emergency
Defibrillator

Key to Defibrillators in Wootton

- Public access - 24/7
- Public access - limit hours