

A Brief History of WFGB PC

Note. Sections in *italics* are for information only

In the beginning there was just Woodham Ferrers sometimes (*incorrectly*) known as North Woodham or Top Woodham. There was a Woodham Ferrers Parish Council and their records are I believe still held at the Essex Record Office. (*I believe the name Woricker will feature throughout, more than one generation*)

Prior to the 1970s Woodham Ferrers was the predominant village. Bicknacre was little more than a hamlet and South Woodham Ferrers was made up largely of inter war Plot Lands around the station which was built in 1889.

In 1972 a scheme was initiated by Essex County Council to develop the area into a 'New Riverside Country Town' and South Woodham Ferrers became a standalone Parish and Bicknacre and Woodham Ferrers were subsumed into the SWF Parish Council. Bicknacre, and I assume Woodham, were represented by a subcommittee, the Bicknacre contingent of which was largely made up by members of the then Bicknacre Village Hall committee.

Just prior to this, in the early 1970s, Bicknacre too started to develop reaching its current size in the late 1970s when Mill Meadow was completed. (*We have recently come across a map outlining the proposed development in Bicknacre from about 1969*)

Woodham Ferrers and Bicknacre Parish Council was created in April 1987 following local boundary changes and the creation of South Woodham Ferrers Town Council.

The northern boundary of Bicknacre was moved from Bicknacre brook which runs alongside the school to overshot bridge a distance of nearly 800 metres. The rest of the Parish is as shown in the attached map

Prior to this change, Bicknacre Priory School and the Village Hall were actually in Danbury as was half the Westerings estate and Pear Tree lane. (*As the Village Hall was our Polling Station, we went there to vote, but the school caretaker had to go to Danbury Village Hall*)

This boundary change did cause some consternation at the time (*I think some people in Pear Tree Lane thought their friends in Danbury wouldn't want to know them anymore, I did know some who were quite touchy about it*), however those properties that had previously been in the Danbury Parish were allowed to retain Danbury as their postal address, despite being in Bicknacre

As 1987 was an election year, the existing local councillors remained in place initially and David Trumble was elected Chairman for the period of transition from 7 April 1987 until the elections were held in May 1987; the previous Chairman being ineligible as he was no longer a resident of the newly formed Parish.

In May 1987 an all new Woodham Ferrers and Bicknacre Parish Council was formed consisting of 9 members, 3 to represent the Woodham Ferrers Ward and 6 to represent the Bicknacre Ward. Eight councillors were elected unopposed and the ninth councillor was co-opted shortly afterwards.

Elizabeth Pharo was elected Chairman of the first all new council on 12 May 1987.

Since the creation of the Parish Council in 1987 there have been a total of 48 Councillors and, including David Trumble, there have been 10 Chairmen, some serving office on more than one occasion.

There have been 6 Clerks, Karen Kuderovitch being the current Clerk since December 2005. Under Karen, the Council achieved Quality status in 2008 and numerous other accolades since.

The council currently serves an electorate of approximately 2400 people living in 1200 dwellings being divided approximately 400 electors and 200 dwellings in Woodham Ferrers and 2000 electors in 1000 dwellings in Bicknacre.

WF & BPC is a Parish within the Chelmsford City Council's (previously Borough Council) administration.

Chelmsford became a City in 2012 at the time of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

This illustration shows the current Parish Boundary (*not to confused with the development boundary*)



Woodham Ferrers and Bicknacre Parish Council
Council Members April 1987 to present

<u>Trumble</u>	<u>David</u>	First Chairman	7 April to 12 May 1987
Bannister	Chas	First new WF&B PC Cllrs	
Brown	Jeremy	First new WF&B PC Cllrs	
Grimwood	Martin	First new WF&B PC Cllrs	
Jennings	Warren	First new WF&B PC Cllrs	
<u>Knight</u>	<u>Jim</u>	First new WF&B PC Cllrs	
<u>Pharo</u>	<u>Elizabeth</u>	First new WF&B PC Cllrs	Chairman of First New Council May 87
<u>Saltmarsh</u>	<u>Chris</u>	First new WF&B PC Cllrs	
<u>Turner</u>	<u>Michael</u>	First new WF&B PC Cllrs	
Woricker	Geoffrey	First new WF&B PC Cllrs	
<u>Allinson</u>	<u>Mick</u>		
Allinson	Claire		
Amos	Cathy		Current Councillor
<u>Arnold</u>	<u>Barry</u>		
Baker	Nancy		
<u>Bishop</u>	<u>John</u>		
Blackshaw	Garry		Current Councillor
Blanks	Raymond		Current Councillor
Bowen	Jim		
Brooks	Ernie		
Brown	Peter		
<u>Carroll (Brett)</u>	<u>Lucy</u>		Current Councillor
Cooper	Lisa		
Cottee	Mary		
Covey	Amanda		
Dawkins	Tony		
Eaton	Keith		
Gerish	Stuart		
Godwin	Lee		
Goodwin	Alan		
Harrison	Beryl		
Hugget	Ben		
Little	Mike		
Mair	Albert		Current Councillor
Montgomery	Alan		
Orme	Kevin		
Owen	Sylvia		
Pharo	Charles		
Rushworth	Jennifer		
<u>Saltmarsh</u>	<u>June</u>		Current Councillor/Chairman
Sinclair	Sandy		Current Councillor
Smith	Jackie		
Stacey	Shirley		
Vail	Martin		Current Councillor
Webster	Bob		
Whitworth	Margaret		
Wilkin	Ken		Current Councillor
Yarham	Murray		

Councillors in **Bold** have also served as Chairman of the Council

Clerks to the Council

Lynda Nightingale

Lyn Proctor

Mandy Walsh

John Bishop

David Godfrey

Karen Kuderovitch 2005 - present

**Celebrating 25 Years Since The Formation Of
Woodham Ferrers And Bicknacre Parish Council
Members Of The Council 1987 To 2012**

Mick Allinson

Claire Allinson

Barry Arnold

Chas Bannister

John Bishop

Raymond Blanks

Jim Bowen

Ernie Brooks

Jeremy Brown

Peter Brown

Lucy Carroll (Brett)

Lisa Cooper

Mary Cottee

Amanda Cobey

Tony Dawkins

Keith Eaton

Alan Goodwin

Martin Grimwood

Beryl Harrison

Ben Hugget

Warren Jennings

Jim Knight

Albert Mair

Alan Montgomery

Sylvia Owen

Charles Pharo

Elizabeth Pharo

Jennifer Rushworth

Chris Saltmarsh

June Saltmarsh

Jackie Smith

Shirley Stacey

David Trumble

Michael Turner

Bob Webster

Margaret Whitworth

Ken Wilkin

Geoffrey Woricker

Murray Varham

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