Wickham Market Parish Council. Clerk's Report 16 November 2026.

1. **Correspondence from residents:**
   1.1. A question regarding the lack of Quiet Lane signage at the Wickham Market end of Walnuts Lane. This is being looked into.
   1.2. Concern over pea shingle spreading over the footpath outside the George. The resident will report to SCC Highways using the reporting tool.
   1.3. Regarding the question raised in September (item 1.3) about the damage to the boundary wall at Chapel Lane car park. This has now been repaired.
2. **Play area**
   This project is gaining momentum so here is a brief update:
   2.1. Three designs and quotes have been received to identify what is possible and a broad view of costs.
   2.2. The Parish Magazine carries an article about the project this month with a QR code for a public engagement survey.
   2.3. Public engagement has started this week with a poster campaign.
   2.4. The Christmas Market will be used to engage particularly with parents and children.
   2.5. The school is engaged and we are running a competition to paint the play truck.
   2.6. Grant providers have been identified and applications will be drafted once we have the results of the public engagement.
3. **Active Travel Routes**
   3.1. This project is ongoing and is still at the information gathering stage at the moment. There is a focus on a link from Wickham Market to the station. The bridges across the Deben are currently providing the largest challenge. Other routes are also being considered including a path from Marlesford to the Southern Park and Ride. The group is focussing on achieving an initial route to demonstrate demand and capability before expanding into a wider network of routes.
4. **Recruitment**
   4.1. Leanne will be retiring from her role in December so WMPC welcome two new part-time employees:
      - Louise Turner is looking after our markets and all our marketing and information channels including the visit Wickham Market website, News Magazine and all the Council's social media.
      - Rose Martin is looking after our cemetery operations, allotments and all our grounds maintenance including cemetery, playing fields and hedge maintenance.
   4.2. There are still plans to recruit a Deputy Clerk and RFO to further improve WMPC resilience.
5. **IT Resilience**
   5.1. As a result of recruitment, WMPC IT resilience requires an urgent update to provide employees with appropriate devices and to protect and share data securely. This is addressed in FC26-169
6. **SX Playing field transfer**
   6.1. Cllr Stephen Molyneux is following up this possibility with SCC assets team
7. **SX Playing Field Bench**
   7.1. Quotes have now been received so a grant application to Councillor Sally Noble is being prepared
8. **Trees on the Hill**
   8.1. You may have seen that ESC have trimmed the trees on the Hill and left live lighting strings trailing. While the lights probably belong to WMPC, the trees and the land are ESC responsibility and it is ESC actions that have left the live wires trailing.
9. **Tree safety inspections**
   9.1. A number of suppliers for this work have been recommended by local town Clerks and a request to quote is ready to be sent once the mapping has been resolved.