



Annual Newsletter

2016/17

Winchester City Councillors : Kim Gottlieb, Lisa Griffiths, Ernie Jeffs.

Boundary Changes

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

- 1** Boundary Changes
Local Plan Part 2 :
Inspector Approves
- 2** Rubbish
Devolution
- 3** Gypsies & Travellers
Local Plan (cont.d)
- 4** What else have we been
doing?
Important Changes &
Major Projects

When the local elections took place in May 2016, the landscape changed around the Winchester City Council Wards. The Council reduced from 57 seats down to 45. This has resulted in larger Wards, with a few two councillor wards but the majority now being three councillor wards, as is the case for Alresford & Itchen Valley Ward.

Itchen Valley and Bishops Sutton now find themselves represented by three Councillors - sometimes perhaps confusing as to who to contact. We are all equally able and share with fellow Conservative ward councillors to ensure residents needs are supported.

In terms of future elections, councillors will seek re-election as follows : Ernie Jeffs (2018), Kim Gottlieb (2019) and Lisa Griffiths (2020). 2021 will be a year without elections. We have noticed that there seems to be an election every year so don't quote us on that!

Local Plan Part 2 : Inspector Approves

"This settles the uncertainty around where development is expected up to 2031."

In early April 2017, the City Council adopted the Local Plan Part 2, having received the Inspectors approval in February 2017, thus settling the uncertainty around where development will occur up to 2031.

For our ward, this means new housing on Sun Lane and The Dean.

There is a Masterplan for The Dean which sets out a vision and guidance for anyone wishing to build. This will help to create a sense of place and cohesion in the future. Already, approval has been given to the plan for McCarthy & Stone to build a later living development at the CJ Warwick site.

For Sun Lane, approximately 320 new homes will be built, an area is set aside for new commercial units, and around two-thirds of the site will be open space for residents to enjoy - this may include a new local Scouting

Remainder of article : page 3

Rubbish

The battle to keep the Alresford tip open for the benefit of the town and surrounding villages was won! However, we are well aware that Government funding is making it difficult to ensure these facilities remain and it is likely we will be looking again at how to retain the tip.

An expected consequence of charging to dispose of some household and commercial waste caused worry of increased fly tipping. Some think it has increased and have reported it as so, but Council statistics do not record the same. However, WCC have successfully prosecuted 6 offenders in the past year. We absolutely mean business on this and have a number of cases pending prosecution, as well as further under review.

The current contract with Biffa and IdVerde to empty our bins and keep the grass cut/weeds down is due for renewal in 2019. WCC is in early stages of reviewing how this works (or does not work on some occasions). As councillors we deal with missed bins or overflowing bins, including dog waste, on a regular basis. It's very frustrating when it seems a simple job to ask and one that is high on the list of priorities for a rural community that sometimes feels it doesn't get much for its money.

There will not be a councillor who does not find the topic of rubbish on their 'to do' list.

A campaign to improve recycling rates from household waste has shown a slight increase - 0.02%. This may seem minor but many councils across the country are showing a decrease. Largely this is a matter of putting the right waste in the right bins and we are working on ensuring people understand how to avoid cross contamination which increases costs.

“Put the right waste in the right bins (and no garden waste in general bins) to help increase our recycling rates.”



Tip savers working for residents.

Devolution

Despite the efforts of many, for the County and District, no progress has been made on Devolution, but money has been wasted. WCC continues to provide services, trying to make it a more efficient organization and working more closely with teams at HCC. Our paths cross in many ways and joined up approaches mean we serve residents better.

Devolution will happen - how and when, who knows.

Gypsies & Travellers

During the year, various actions have taken place to formulate a plan to make an allocation for Gypsies & Travellers and Show People. We have regularly listened to your views and put those forward, along with evidence of the poor locations suggested in our Ward and reasons why they are felt to be inappropriate.

In order to fully comply with Government requirements, an allocation must be made in the Plan. They must also be approved by the Inspector. This is to ensure that there are set places for these residents and makes it possible for unauthorized camping to be moved to an appropriate site.

WCC have yet again gone out to ask if there are any sites which landowners wish to make available for these particular allocations.

We are aware that Hampshire County Council have advised WCC that the depot sites are not available for this allocation. Good news for 2 out of 3 that were listed in our Ward.

As councillors, we understand the fears of ward residents and will continue to ensure your views are represented.

Local Plan - Inspector

Approves from page 1

headquarters near the commercial area, as well as new allotment plots to help reduce the long waiting list. A new and separate link to the sewage treatment plant is planned to avoid overloading the existing infrastructure. We await plans for the roads, including the new 4-way link to the A31. An application is expected later in 2017 for this site.

WCC is required to commence a review of the Local Plan between 2018-2021 to ensure an adequate housing supply, houses are being delivered quickly enough and deciding on whether further land should be sought to build more homes in the District.

A survey by WCC into the way in which the council communicated with residents during the Local Plan has been undertaken. Much has changed in terms of technology since the Local Plan was commenced, and WCC will seek to improve its communication based on the comments received. This feedback will also assist in a wider context when seeking views of residents.

“We await plans for the Sun Lane development, including the new 4-way link to the A31. An application is expected later in 2017.”

What else have we been doing ?

- Planning : ensuring your voices are heard on the Local Plan and Gypsy & Traveller allocation, and supporting residents with planning applications.
- Housing problems : personally liaising and supporting residents who experience neighbour disputes, ensuring specialist needs are provided for residents, and supporting vulnerable residents in council housing.
- Taking up concerns on behalf of Parish & Town Councils.
- Taking positions of responsibility on the City Council : Cllr Ernie Jeffs, Planning; Cllr Kim Gottlieb, Overview & Scrutiny; Cllr Lisa Griffiths, Portfolio for Health & Wellbeing (health, community safety and sport & leisure).
- Communicating with residents : highlighting WCC consultations which affect our residents, and raising awareness of how to resolve Council issues.
- Bringing the NatWest mobile bank to central Alresford every Wednesday.
- Supporting local businesses - bringing local problems to the City to ensure District problems are heard, and linking with District strategies to support our local economy .

Important Changes & Major Projects

Corporate Strategy. The Council adopted a new strategy with five outcomes :

- Delivering an **entrepreneurial approach** to efficient public services
- Winchester District will be a premier **business** location
- Delivering quality **housing** options
- Improve the **health and happiness** of our community
- Improve the quality of the District's **environment**.

Having been agreed by Council, these messages are being welcomed by staff as giving them a clear direction for priorities. With a new Leader, Cllr Caroline Horrill, and new Chief Executive, Laura Taylor, there is a positive and clear message.

Central Winchester Regeneration. After the significant collapse of the Silver Hill project earlier in 2016, WCC have worked to understand

the desires of residents and visitors and the best way to move forward. The most recent culmination being the workshops which are to provide the context for a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD), which will set the context of what is desired. The text of your articles.

Bar End Sport & Leisure. This project has wide cross-party support and is looking to open late in 2020. This will need to take into account the needs of Bar End residents, sports clubs, the wider district users and partners who will fund the project. There will be significant engagement to ensure this meets the needs of the City and District.

Station Approach. Another project sent to vex us. The arrival at the City and future economic and housing debate around this site continues. Should we park, should we have houses or business, etc? This project is set to gain momentum, having also stalled in 2016.

Business Rates. The shock to some businesses in the District has affected Alresford and our rural businesses significantly. The recent announcement by the Government of a phased rate relief has been devised in the past few months in order to assist those and ensure our local businesses can be assisted.

Cllr Kim Gottlieb :
kgottlieb@winchester.gov.uk,
 Tel : 07795 494919

Cllr Lisa Griffiths :
lgriffiths@winchester.gov.uk,
 Tel : 01962 738646 or 07545 375632

Cllr Ernie Jeffs
ejeffs@winchester.gov.uk,
 Tel : 01962 734629 or 07887 536966