

Monthly report from Alresford & Itchen Valley WCC City Councillors – February 2017

You can contact your City Councillors as follows :-

- 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

New Winchester City Council Cabinet announced

Winchester City Council's new Cabinet has been announced by the Leader, Cllr Caroline Horrill.

The new Cabinet looks like this!



Back row : Cllrs Stephen Godfrey, Guy Ashton, Steve Miller, Rob Humby

Front row : Cllrs Jan Warwick, Vicki Weston, Caroline Horrill, Lisa Griffiths

Cllr Caroline Horrill Leader with Portfolio for Housing Services
With responsibility for Housing Services, New Homes Delivery and Corporate Communications.

Cllr Victoria Weston Deputy Leader with Portfolio for Built Environment
With responsibility for Development Management; Strategic Planning;
Historic Environment; Building Control

Cllr Guy Ashton Portfolio for Professional Services
With responsibility for Organisational Development; Business Management;
Legal & Democratic Services; and IMT.

Cllr Stephen Godfrey Portfolio for Finance
With responsibility for Financial Services; and Revenues & Benefits.

Cllr Rob Humby Portfolio for Business Partnership
With responsibility for Business Partnerships; Economy & Arts and Tourism

Cllr Stephen Miller Portfolio for Estates
With responsibility for Estates and Community Grants

Cllr Jan Warwick	Portfolio for Environment With responsibility for Environmental Health & Licensing; Environmental Contract; Street Care; Landscape & Open Spaces; Traffic, Transport & Engineering; Parking
Cllr Lisa Griffiths	Portfolio for Health & Wellbeing With responsibility for Health & Wellbeing; Community Safety & Neighbourhood Services; and Sports & Physical Activity

Code of Conduct training for Parish Councillors

WCC will be running a session at the Alrebury Park Recreation Centre (Alresford) on 2nd October 2017. As City Councillors we are required to attend refresher training at least every two years, and Parish Councillors may also find the session useful. Further details will be provided nearer the time, so just note the date for now.

Local Plan Part 2

As you will no doubt be aware, LPP2 has been found 'sound' following independent inspection and WCC can now proceed to adoption providing more certainty for the District's communities and businesses.

Local Plan Part 2 together with Local Plan Part 1 provides strong positive planning policy for the District, setting out areas for growth and those to be protected, together with a comprehensive suite of policies to guide individual planning applications.

Planning

You might find this information useful when determining your comments for local applications. All views are considered and weighed up against the existing policies that WCC have to work with:

- * National policy
- * Local Plans
- * Other council strategies
- * Context and merits of the particular application
- * Technical consideration
- * Highways
- * Environment
- * Historic England
- * Consultees views on planning aspects
- * Other material planning matters

The interpretation of policy is not black and white and the officer makes a decision on the evidence they have in front of them and the statutory consultees feedback and always looking at the material considerations

There is some very good information on the PAS Planning Advisory Service web site that you may also find useful : http://scanmail.trustwave.com/?c=6600&d=5vuU2O00OhMOY_HxMjmIhMaaow3VsX4YiBaEzOQq4g&s=658&u=http%3a%2f%2fwww%2epas%2egov%2euk%2fcouncillors-page%2f-%2fjournal%5fcontent%2f56%2f332612%2f15306%2fARTICLE

WCC plan to run a Planning training session later in the year for Parish Councillors in order to help them with their comment making.

New WCC Strategy

WCC is in the final stages of approving the Council Strategy for 2017-2020. They are working on 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**

These will be the themes which will drive the work undertaken by the Council in the coming years.

The overview of the strategy you will receive is supported by detailed plans of the work we need to do in order to deliver the outcomes required.

Entrepreneurial Council takes shape

Two key elements of Winchester City Council's new entrepreneurial approach have been approved.

Full Council on 11 January backed proposals to launch an open-market shared ownership scheme and to create a strategic acquisition strategy.

Under the shared ownership scheme, the City Council will support local residents by providing equity to buy a property in the district for those who do not have the substantial deposit required for a house. Through charging a rent on the deposit element the Council will ensure a good financial return for the local taxpayer while ensuring that the Council's investment is supporting the local area. The household will normally own 70% of the property with the Council owning a 30% share. The household could buy the Council out of its share in the future.

The acquisition strategy will see up to £15m invested in property by Winchester City Council to produce rental income that supports services for local residents and compensates for loss of Government grant. The City Council has lost £2m in funding over the past four years, with a further £1.5m of reductions expected by 2020. The property investments will have an expected rate of return of 5-6% as part of its new strategy over the next three years.

2016 Annual Monitoring Report published

The latest version of the Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) has now been published on the Council's web site:
<http://www.winchester.gov.uk/planning-policy/annual-monitoring-report-amr/>

The AMR has been produced each year since 2005 and the 2016 AMR monitors progress on Local Plan preparation and the performance of adopted planning policies over the monitoring period (April 2015-March 2016). The Report includes information on the progress of planning documents, the delivery of housing together with proposed housing trajectories up to the period 2031, and an assessment of the Council's position on five year housing land supply.

Fly-tipping prosecution – WCC means business!

As you will no doubt be aware, a further fly-tipping prosecution has been successfully completed by WCC. There are two further cases pending, and three under investigation which may lead to prosecution.

The Council will investigate fly-tipping on private land but is not in a position to use public money for clearance in those cases.

National Spring Clean Campaign

Between Friday 3 and Sunday 5 March 2017 many in the District will take part in this national campaign to litter pick alongside their local council representatives. WCC are able to provide equipment so if you require further details of the Spring Clean event and how to get involved, follow this link : <http://www.winchester.gov.uk/waste-and-recycling/community-litter-picks-great-british-spring-clean/>

Changes ahead for parking in Winchester

Increased park-and-ride, dedicated spaces for ultra low-emission vehicles, use of new technology and differential pricing will be part of Winchester's future approach to parking following Cabinet's approval of an updated strategy. The Council has already started to implement the measures. The Traffic and Parking Committee agreed (4 January) to revise parking charges in the city to increase the difference in price between city centre car parks and those further out, while freezing prices of park-and-ride tickets to encourage drivers to use the car parks most suited to their visit. The aim is for people making longer visits to park outside the centre.

Salt Bins

If you have any salt bins that need attention or are less than ¾ full and needs refilling the quickest way to let HCC know is via the link on the HCC web page www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/severeweather/salting.

Avian Flu Prevention Zone

This is still an on-going situation as the prevention zone order for all domestic birds to be kept inside and to avoid any contact with wild birds has been extended until the end of February 2017. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-measures-to-protect-poultry-against-avian-flu>

The Government have made the order but the "Local Authority" is responsible for enforcing it; this is not Winchester City Council but Hampshire County Council's Animal Health team. However, HCC will not wish to be inundated with complaints about neighbours' chickens and will not be enforcing anything in these circumstances. If chickens/ducks/domestic birds are being kept in gardens, they should be ideally kept in a coop/shed or run. It is true that there is still potential contact with wild birds in a caged/netted coop but this is still considered to be adequate separation from wild birds. If the birds are loose in the garden, complainants are asked to inform their neighbours of the prevention zone (which applies to the whole of England) – this is to the owner's benefit as, should their poultry contract the disease, it is likely to be fatal.

Where domestic/commercial birds are kept in large numbers (over 50 birds) and are allowed to roam free range, this is where the County Council would like to be informed; <https://www.hants.gov.uk/tradingstandards/businessadvice/animalhealth/avianinfluenza>

There have been worries of bird flu infecting humans in the past but this strain is not considered a risk to people, although those working closely with birds should be vigilant and observe strict biosecurity.

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Progress on Central Winchester Regeneration

The City Council has invited JTP, an award-winning ‘placemaking’ practice of architects and masterplanners, to work with the Council and wider community to create a Supplementary Planning Document which will set out a vision for the future development of central Winchester through collaborative planning and consultation. The approach JTP will take is based on 3 key strands of work:

1. Understanding
2. Engaging
3. Creating

Launch date is planned for 10th Feb and Community Planning weekend 24th and 25th March. Planned road shows are to take place in other parts of the district, Bishops Waltham and Alresford.

If you want more details please contact Cllr Vicki Weston Chair of the Central Winchester Regeneration Group or visit the web page <http://www.winchester.gov.uk/planning/major-sites/silver-hill-central-winchester-regeneration/cwregen/>

Consultations

WCC runs regular consultations to which residents and parish councils are encouraged to respond to. You will see current consultations on the following link : <https://winchester.citizenspace.com/> and also a “What you said, what we did” section to show how the Council is responding to points raised.

Reminder : Barfield Close road closure

Barfield Close in Winchester is closed to traffic from Monday 9 January 2017 for five months during the next phase of construction of the Chesil Lodge extra-care building.

The closure is between the mini-roundabout outside the Chesil multi-storey car park and the north side of the tunnel on Barfield Close. A pedestrian footpath will be maintained along Barfield Close but all vehicles will have to use Chesil Street as an alternative. Access to all premises south of the tunnel/ bridge will be maintained from Bar End Road.