

Winchester City Councillor Monthly Report March 2018

You can contact your City Councillors as follows :-

- **Kim Gottlieb** : kgottlieb@winchester.gov.uk 07795 494919
- **Lisa Griffiths** : lgriffiths@winchester.gov.uk 07545 375632
- **Ernie Jeffs** : ejeffs@winchester.gov.uk 01962 734629 or 07887 536966

The Alresford Tip

It seems that HCC are to save it once again! Keep using it – for free (well, it is covered by your Council Tax but no charging expected in the near future). Thank you to everyone who responded to the leaflet.

Winchester City Council's General Fund Budget and strategic vision given green light

Winchester City Council's Strategy which sets out the key priorities for the council and the General Fund Budget which allocates millions of pounds of funding to public services, have both been approved.

Key investments within the net spend of more than £16m for the coming year include an additional Park and Ride bus, development of a housing company to deliver new homes and a commitment to provide kerbside glass collection for residents. The budget included £1m of savings from internal efficiencies.

Despite a £3 million reduction of annual funding over the past five years, the council has budgeted for a below inflation rise in council tax of 2.9%. Band D properties will see an increase of just £3.93 a year from the Winchester City Council element of Council Tax.

The £16 million budget directly supports the four key priorities in the council strategy. The continued focus on housing, environment, health and happiness and economy was also agreed. Development of a new Leisure Centre at Bar End continues to be a priority as does regeneration of Central Winchester and development proposals at Station Approach. The council will continue to make wise investments in local property in the District.

WCC Grants

Grants are available for many reasons – funding events to assisting apprentices – so work a look to see if you can obtain funds. <http://www.winchester.gov.uk/grants>

Extra peak hours Park and Ride bus to be launched

WCC has invested in an additional bus after customers told the council that buses were often full in peak times and therefore couldn't always stop to pick up passengers. The extra bus means that **from Monday 5 March** there will be nine Park and Ride buses serving all park and ride sites. There will now be buses every seven minutes in the morning from 7.30am until 9.00am and in the afternoon from 3.45pm until 6.00pm

Alresford Health Walks

There are regular health walks, taking varied routes, in and around Alresford. They start from the Alresford Recreation Centre and details of dates can be found on the WCC website. Good for mental health as well as physical!

Landlord who illegally evicted tenant successfully prosecuted

WCC has successfully prosecuted a private landlord after he harassed and then illegally evicted a tenant in November 2016 contrary to the Protection from Eviction Act 1977. After receiving reports from the tenant, the Council investigated and found credible circumstances supporting concerns that the eviction was illegal, and therefore pursued legal action against the landlord. This demonstrates that WCC will not tolerate rogue landlords taking advantage of their tenants private rented accommodation.

The Housing and Planning Act 2016 will create a national database of rogue landlords/letting agents, which will be maintained by local authorities.

To report any concerns about privately rented accommodation contact the council's private sector housing team on 01962 848 526 or email PrivateSectorHousing@winchester.gov.uk

Plans for 600 new council homes by 2020 and £90m worth of investment for existing homes given green light

Ambitious plans by Winchester City Council to build 600 new council homes by 2020 and to also invest £90m in existing homes over the next ten years have been approved. The Housing Revenue Account (HRA) and budget and business plan was approved at a Winchester City Council meeting on February 22. In the next ten years, the Council has set aside more than £100m for new homes, including the £15m scheme for 76 Council homes at The Valley in Stanmore, more than £8m for the Chesil Extra Care Scheme which will be completed in Spring of this year, and £47m of funding for emerging sites and smaller sites. The capital programme of £90 million for the next ten years also ensures that major works identified within the Council's housing stock continue to be dealt with to ensure that homes remain above decent homes standard.

New Winchester Sport & Leisure Centre

The next Cabinet (Sport & Leisure) meeting is to be held in the Walton Suite at the Guildhall, Winchester, at 18.30 on Monday 26 March 2018. All welcome if they would like to be updated on the project progress.

Have your say :

Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (SHELAA) (formerly SHLAA)

This Call for Sites will inform the preparation of the Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (SHELAA). This is a requirement of the National Planning Policy Framework and the reasons for undertaking this exercise are:

1. The information submitted as part of the Call for Sites will help to identify Brownfield Sites to be placed on the 'Brownfield Register' which the Council must legally prepare
2. The SHELAA will help to inform future planning documents i.e. Local Plan, Gypsy and Traveller DPD and Neighbourhood Plans
3. The SHELAA will contribute to calculating the available and deliverable housing and employment land supply position.

As part of the process, the Council is asking landowners and agents who wish to promote land for housing and/or economic development, retail, leisure, self build and gypsy and travelling showpeople

sites to submit information to us on sites they would like to be assessed. There is no need to submit information on sites which already have planning consent or are allocated by the Local Plan. The Council will accept sites that are 0.25ha or more in size (or likely to provide at least 5 dwellings or 500m² of economic floor space).

If you would like to have your site included in the Council's Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (SHELAA), then please complete the sites consultation on the WCC website.

Station Approach Engagement Event - Have your say on the development of the gateway to the city

A drop-in information evening is planned for Thursday 15 March from 5pm to 8pm at the Hampshire Record Office on Sussex Street in Winchester. Two additional public exhibitions on **Saturday 17 March in Alresford (at the Swan Hotel from 10am to 12noon)** and Bishop's Waltham (at King's Church from 3pm to 5pm) are also going ahead as planned. All events are open to everyone who would like to see the masterplan, meet the architects, ask questions about this scheme.

Further information and feedback forms are available online at winchester.gov.uk/stationapproach, or by emailing stationapproach@winchester.gov.uk