

## Winchester City Councillor Monthly Report July 2018

### Older Peoples Partnership

A vibrant and busy Partnership of organisations that are looking to make life as easy as possible as you age.

- **'Hitting the Cold Spots'** : advice and practical support, emergency heating measures if you are without heating, access for funding for boiler repairs and replacements, small grant support to help cope with winter emergencies. If you think your heating needs some work, think about this now! 0800 804 8601 (Mon-Fri 9-5) or [staywarm@environmentcentre.com](mailto:staywarm@environmentcentre.com), [www.hants.gov.uk/cold-spots](http://www.hants.gov.uk/cold-spots). There is a low uptake of the grants in the Winchester District, please ask if you/friend/relative need assistance.
- **'Community First'** : Residents can find support, volunteer or events. You don't have to be old! There is a great deal offered for individuals of all ages and business. 0300 500 8085, [admin@cfirst.org.uk](mailto:admin@cfirst.org.uk), [www.cfirst.org.uk](http://www.cfirst.org.uk)
- **'Older Adult Wellness Day'** – 1<sup>st</sup> October 2018, to coincide with "International Older Peoples Day", activities and exhibitors will be at River Park Leisure Centre.
- **Dementia Friendly Class** – starting 9 August, 2-3pm, weekly at River Park Leisure Centre.
- **Community Transport Consultation** - until 5 August. Also looking at street lighting.  
<https://www.hants.gov.uk/aboutthecouncil/haveyoursay/consultations/publictransportandstreetlighting>

### Life-changing adaptations for homes

Funding always available for council and private tenants. Apply to the Council for Disabled Facilities Grant assistance by emailing [PrivateSectorHousing@winchester.gov.uk](mailto:PrivateSectorHousing@winchester.gov.uk) and calling 01962 848 455.

### Review of sports pitches across the district

A Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) implemented by WCC has looked at the number and standard of sports pitches across the district and whether any improvements are required. The strategy makes a number of recommendations to improve and maintain the quality of pitches. WCC will work with parishes and assist with seeking funding to improve the standard and durability of existing pitches.

### Sun Lane Outline Planning Application

As many residents will be aware, the Outline Application was passed by WCC in June. There is still a lengthy process to secure the legal agreements around the delivery, including ensuring that affordable and open market housing are delivered at the same time. The new junction will be built first to ensure access is through the site and not the town, and it will take some 18-24 months before that commences.

### Winchester Sport & Leisure Park, Bar End

The River Park Leisure Centre has some 65,000 visits per year, of that number approximately 56,000 are individuals and families with no affiliation to sports clubs. You will have read sports clubs (13% of bookings) are feeling their voice is not heard, however many engagement sessions and club meetings have occurred with 1,000s of views gathered and evaluated to provide a centre to meet a wide range of needs. The sports hall will be 50% larger than the current one, and provides 60% more capacity as we will have studios providing space to host classes currently held in the sports hall. Research has been undertaken by external consultants on how individuals use leisure centres, future trends and population growth to determine the best facility for the district and hence we have the application for the new centre at Bar End. The design has been welcomed by Winchester Trust, AR Design Studio, Sport England and the sports National Governing Bodies who deem it fit for the future with flexibility to adapt as trends change. At the recent planning exhibition at the Guildhall, the overwhelming response was to "get on and build it".

As part of the facility, we are delighted The Pinder Trust is a partner providing hydrotherapy – a suite which will be outstanding in its ability to deliver treatment to many. Allegra's Ambition will provide outdoor activity in memory of a

much loved daughter and young sportswoman, who passed away suddenly aged 15. A truly exciting project for the future!

### **Central Winchester Regeneration**

The Supplementary Planning Document (SPD), although softened in its wording to meet legal requirements, delivers a vision driven by residents. Quite right that it should change from the original design! It is a vision which reflects ancient Winchester, as well as bringing modern business, homes, retail and leisure spaces. Like the Sport & Leisure Park, 1000s have engaged in bringing their ideas and ambitions to provide guidance as to how it should be redeveloped. With WCC owning 80% of the land, we can ensure residents views are reflected in the designs. There are two other land owners who need to be wary the wrath of residents should they not work within the guidance the SPD brings. There is much change to come to this area and 'get on and build it' is the message from residents who wish to see their City loved and not degenerating.

### **Bespoke Biking sign agreement with Winchester City Council to take on bike hire scheme**

WCC has made arrangements with Bespoke Biking to take over the running of the Bikeabout bike hire scheme in Winchester. The scheme, which has been run by the City Council for more than ten years, offers bike hires at a competitive price for either half a day or a day. In recent years the service has been run by Winchester Tourist Information Centre and has proved to be popular with residents and tourists - particularly in the summer months with 230 hires during the last 3 years. Bespoke Biking, who are a non-profit organisation already runs a bike hire facility at The Brooks Shopping Centre and are set to take on the hiring of the Council's 10 hybrid bikes, 4 Pashley bikes and 2 electric bikes, supported by the Council for a trial period of two years.

If you have any comments or questions on the content of this report, please do not hesitate to get in touch. And of course, on any matter relating to WCC responsibilities where I may be able to help.

**CLlr Lisa Griffiths**

**Ward Member for Alresford & Itchen Valley**

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