

## Winchester City Councillor Monthly Report August 2018



\_\_\_\_\_ Cllr Lisa Griffiths

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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 will help.

As always, even though it's the summer and many people are on holiday, there is a lot going on.

### Boomtown Festival 2018

Event is Wednesday 8th August until Sunday 12th August at the Matterley Bowl. Key information for residents :

- Road closures through various parts of the Ward depending of ingress or egress of traffic from site.
- A31 – central reservation turnings will be blocked, and speed restrictions will be in place.

**If there are issues, IN THE FIRST INSTANCE, contact Boomtown as follows :-**

**- 4 August - 13 August**

For the quickest response telephone the **residents hotline on 01962 678 606**. The team answering this number will be best placed to direct your query to the right festival response team, i.e security, waste management etc.

Event Control operates 24 hours from 7am on Tuesday 7th August. There will be an answer machine for pre-show times when the control room is not manned and/or phone lines are busy. The email address and phone line will be operational with a team regularly checking for messages and answering calls.

You can also contact the festival via a dedicated email address but please do not expect an immediate response; the team will respond to you as soon as possible - [eventcontrol@boomtownfair.co.uk](mailto:eventcontrol@boomtownfair.co.uk)

**- From 14 August**

Feedback can be sent to Boomtown's Community Liaison Officer at [local\\_community@boomtownfair.co.uk](mailto:local_community@boomtownfair.co.uk)

**In the event you do not receive a response from Boomtown, Council contacts**

- Call 01962 840222. The line is open from Wednesday 8 August - Sunday 12 August.
- Or, use the [on-line report it tool](#).
- Council officers are on duty and the line will be available out of normal working hours. Please be patient in waiting for a response as they maybe off site dealing with an issue.

### Universal Credit (UC)

A new simpler single monthly payment for people of working age in or out of work. It supports working age people with basic living expenses and housing costs and replaces the following benefits:

- [Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance](#)
- [Income-related Employment & Support Allowance](#)
- [Income Support](#)
- [Working Tax Credit](#)
- [Child Tax Credit](#)
- [Housing Benefit](#)

There are a small number of people who will not have their housing costs paid as part of their Universal Credit and will continue to receive help towards their rent by claiming Housing Benefit from Winchester City Council, for example:

- If you have been placed into temporary accommodation by our housing team under housing homeless or homeless prevention legislation
- If you are living in supported accommodation and receive care support or supervision from your landlord or by an organisation on your landlords' behalf.
- If you are responsible for 3 or more children

Universal Credit was introduced at **Winchester Job Centre** from Wednesday 4 July 2018 for **new claims only**. If you have any queries or concerns related to your own situation, please contact me for assistance.

### **Winchester City Council's Local Plan 2036**

The Local Plan – everyone's favourite topic! WCC are asking residents for their thoughts for the Local Plan 2036. The consultation runs until midday Friday 21 September 2018. The Council has to plan for and deliver the housing, employment space, facilities and infrastructure needed to ensure that the District grows and prospers whilst protecting the built and natural environments which makes Winchester's towns, villages and countryside so attractive. We are all stakeholders, so all have a right to a say! An online consultation is available at <https://winchester.citizenspace.com/policy-and-planning/winchester-lp-launch/> with key questions to help shape the plan. Further information and supporting evidence for the Local Plan can be viewed at <http://www.winchester.gov.uk/planning-policy>

### **Winchester Sport & Leisure Park, Bar End**

Some of you will have read the comments that the sports hall is not 50% bigger in the new centre, so to explain why it has that capacity, I can tell you that currently the River Park sports hall is the equivalent to 6 courts. Sport England guidelines changed some years ago run-offs are required between play areas. In the new sports hall, the majority of sports will be able to play twice the number of matches concurrently in the new hall, plus we have the capacity to host international matches for some sports – none of that is currently possible. In addition, all the exercise studios are twice the size of the existing ones and therefore those larger classes will not need to be in the sports hall – unless we host one of the mega classes which are occasionally put on to introduce a new type of class and everyone gets the chance to go along to see if they like it!

I'm sure there will be many more arguments put forward by some who think it's still not great! The District needs the new sports and leisure facility such as has been designed.

### **Major Projects**

WCC is involved with a large number of significant projects across the District and you can keep up to date by reading the information on this link : <http://www.winchester.gov.uk/major-projects> If you have any questions that cannot be answered on the link, please contact me.

### **Winchester's hack event**

An exciting, interactive event where you can help local business and young talent in Winchester by working together to explore ideas and share solutions. Saturday 8 September 9am to 6pm is free to attend at The University of Winchester's West Downs Centre, for people with all sorts of skills and experience to get together to solve shared problems. Anyone interested can join and it's all around the theme of 'How can Winchester be a premier business destination?' It will use technology and data to help explore: supporting local businesses, attracting and retaining young people and creating co-working spaces.

Places will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis - to book your space visit

[www.hackwinchester.eventbrite.co.uk](http://www.hackwinchester.eventbrite.co.uk).

If you are interested in sponsorship opportunities please contact Mark Braggins from sponsors, AHA Digital Ltd, at [mark.braggins@aha-digital.com](mailto:mark.braggins@aha-digital.com) or phone 07743 817215.

### **Car Parking Conundrum in Alresford**

WCC operates the on street parking for HCC through an agreement (like other Districts in the County) and that agreement is up for renewal and HCC are considering whether running it themselves is more cost effective. The idea to start charging for on street parking in Alresford and install meters is not part of the plan. HCC will be looking to continue the existing operation, and as happens from time to time, on street parking permits are required in some areas to control the number of vehicles. In Alresford, to date, it has not been proven pressure is sufficient to bring in paid permits. As for 'charging points' mentioned, these relate to HCC installing electric vehicle charging points which will need to be paid for and potentially seek to restrict the time in these points to ensure there is a turnover for those who need them. Cllr Porter agrees that this is the case!

**Some things are worth repeating as we miss information with our busy lives:**

### **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 Thursday 9 August, 2-3pm, running weekly at River Park Leisure Centre. Book up and see how this class can bring benefits.

### **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.