

Winchester City Councillor Monthly Report October 2018



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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.

Loan Sharks

There is confidential advice available through the Illegal Money Lending Team : 0300 555 2222, for anyone affected. Individuals can report a loan shark online at : stoploansharks.co.uk or text to 07860 022116. There are some truly horrifying stories of how this affects peoples' lives and the sums demanded. WCC and the CAB are supporting organisations who can assist where debt help is required.

Hitting the Cold Spots

The Hampshire information line can offer information and advice. Tel : 0800 804 8601, email : staywarm@environmentcentre.com or on www.hants.gov.uk/cold-spots. There is support in emergency situations and help to access funding for repairs or replacement boilers.

House adaptations

WCC hold funds to provide home adaptations or equipment – it's not based on income, but on NEED. An occupational therapist from the Councils' team will advise on the best solution. Email: privatesectorhousing@winchester.gov.uk or tel : 01962 848455

CIL Funding

CIL supports a number of different objectives and Parishes might be minded to think around their Indoor Sport or Recreational Facilities. Currently we know the process is complicated, however officers are available to help and it may be you should make a bid. Swanmore Parish Council have recently undertaken work adjacent to Swanmore College in consultation with their residents and are delighted with the resulting provision.

Change in Animal Licensing effective 1 October 2018

Dog sellers/breeders, boarders (whether home or other), keeping dangerous animals – all things animal! New licensing and regulations have come into force. Please check website to ensure you comply and have the right license.

<http://www.winchester.gov.uk/environment/animal-licences>

HMO's (Houses of Multiple Occupation)

The deadline for landlords to apply for their HMO Licence under the new regulations has now passed. As from 1st October 2018 any privately rented property housing 5 or more people from different households in 2 or more households must be licenced. The Council believes however that there are many properties in district that fall into this scheme for which landlords have yet to submit their application, and ,this is a criminal offence.

The council is keen to monitor local HMO's and the new legislation allows them to control the rise in HMOs having already taken steps to reduce HMO's in both Winnall and Stanmore through Article Four Directions.

The council will allow a 1 month period of grace for late applicants, expiring on 31st October 2018, after which any application will automatically attract a Civil Penalty or prosecution, in line with our published Enforcement Policy (<http://www.winchester.gov.uk/housing/private-housing-and-empty-properties/enforcement-policy>).

If any resident is in an HMO which they suspect is not licenced, they should contact the Council. (It might be worth just asking the landlord as it could be an oversight!) This is designed to protect the occupants, but also in the City, this will also help to protect large swathes of student housing dominating an area.

Contact as follows : Tel 01962 848526 / privatesectorhousing@winchester.gov.uk or follow the link to <http://www.winchester.gov.uk/housing/private-housing-and-empty-properties/houses-in-multiple-occupation>

Winchester High Street Defence Barriers

After a much longer period of time than anticipated, the existing barriers are due to be replaced with permanent barriers which will be formed of planters, seats and anti-ram raid drop and static bollards. The work commences mid October and due to be completed early November. They will be replaced one by one to ensure the security of Winchester High Street.

Winchester Sport & Leisure Park, Bar End

The planning application is scheduled to be heard on 31 October 2018. No objections have been raised by Statutory Consultees.

The construction contractor, Wilmott Dixon, is sourcing fixed prices, and the operator procurement is underway, with bids due in November. Once finalised, this information will feed into the business case to be put to Full Council in February 2019. The Operator will not be appointed until after approval of the Full Business Case.

Council borrowing for house building

WCC were delighted at the news the Government is scrapping the cap. As you know, we have an ambitious target to build 600 new homes, however the ability to gain funding was a big part of the conundrum to making speedy progress. This is a hugely welcomed piece of news.

Finally, congratulations to Winchester Distillery (of Alresford) who have moved into premises above the old Post Office in Middle Brook Street, Winchester, to run a range of fun, educational events including Wine and Spirit Education Trust classes. They plan to work with other like-minded businesses to extend the experience offerings beyond gin to other drinks and food.