

Winchester City Councillor Monthly Report December 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.

Your Council – making positive changes

In February 2017 the council welcomed an external peer team of councillors and senior officers from other authorities across the country who were tasked with looking at how the council can improve its performance. Since the review the council has introduced a number of changes to address their recommendations and has a plan in place to complete the remaining actions in the coming months..

In September 2018, the council welcomed the team again when they carried out a follow-up evaluation of the progress being made, the summary was : *“The council has a clear sense of direction and progress is being made. The mix of ambitious projects and good service delivery will allow Winchester to continue to be a great place in which to live, work and visit.”* Good progress, despite what you might hear or read elsewhere!

Winchester Movement Strategy moves to next stage

HCC and WCC have launched the second part of a two-phase public consultation into how to improve traffic and transport in and around Winchester. The Winchester Movement Strategy is being developed to help make travel improvements in the city and inform future funding bids. Make sure you have your say, as Alresford & Itchen Valley residents will be impacted. **The consultation will finish on 13 January 2019.** Full details and the online survey available at: www.hants.gov.uk/aboutthecouncil/haveyoursay/consultations/winchestermovementstrategy.

On-street parking update for Alresford

WCC and HCC are continuing discussions and no firm decision has been made. There is little in the way of on-street parking permits in the Ward. Car park sites in Alresford are owned or leased and operated by WCC, and are not impacted.

Council Housing across the District

WCC has submitted a £52m bid for funding to build more Council and Low-Cost housing across the district. As a Council that is well regarded and recognised for its success in building more homes of this type than many other Councils across the country, we are expected to be successful.

Citizens Advice Bureau

Plea to Ward Councils. The CAB provides an important service for residents and is not funded by the Government, except for occasional grants for specific purposes. Clients do not have to pay, however a donation is appreciated, but there are running costs for the service for a small paid staff, and therefore if you can make an annual grant it helps to provide an important support service for residents. There is a very good link here showing how they help residents.

https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=mA62NH61_ME&feature=youtu.be

Visiting Winchester during December – best way to park

WCC and the BID have funded extra Park & Ride services for shoppers leading up to Christmas, including a free Sunday Service starting running until Christmas, as well as extended running times at all Park & Ride sites until 20:30.

Winchester Christmas Market

Winchester's reputation as a major Christmas destination has been given another boost after it was listed at the top of the New York Post's list of '[The nine most magical Christmas cities in Europe](#)'. The city was named above European destinations like Zagreb, Coburg, Antwerp and Aarhus. Winchester welcomes more than four million day trippers throughout each year and the Christmas Market, which is run by Winchester Cathedral, attracts in the region of half a million visitors each year.

Central Winchester Regeneration – Archaeology Event

A number of you are interested in what/why/why not/how in relation to the regeneration of Central Winchester so might like to attend an information evening to hear from the specialist Archaeology Panel for the Central Winchester Regeneration area **on Tuesday 11 December**. The open event will be held at **Guildhall Winchester from 6pm - 8:30pm**. Independently chaired by Ian Murray, an award-winning journalist and editor, the evening will be a mix of information from the expert panel, round table discussions about the key topics on archaeology in the area and an opportunity to put questions to the members of the expert panel and hear their answers.

Wishing you all a happy Christmas and a wonderful 2019!