

Winchester City Councillor Monthly Report February 2019



_____ Cllr Lisa Griffiths

**Ward Member for Alresford & Itchen Valley
Portfolio Holder for Health & Wellbeing
Winchester City Council**

Email : lgriffiths@winchester.gov.uk

Telephone : 01962 469854 or 07545 375632

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.

Firstly, an update on my 'Couch to 5k' progress. I've almost completed Week 7 – yes, I know, there have not been 7 weeks since the beginning of January, however running (mostly) every other day, that's where I'm at. I'm now running for 25 minutes continuously and surprisingly have more energy and a very happy frame of mind. Who would have thought that something which feels like torture on occasions, could also make me feel good? If you'd like something slower paced, there are seven different walking routes in the District, and over 6,000 walkers with a mixture of ages and abilities who walked at least an hour a week in 2018. All the walks are led by local people who find different routes and plenty of good conversation to build friendships and make the time pass quickly (and healthily).

The facts about WCC finances

The Conservative Administration will put their budget to Full Council on the 28 February 2019. This includes a Council Tax freeze for all District residents, except for the LibDem run Town Forum in the City where a 3% increase was approved. District-wide residents will receive doorstep glass recycling from October 2019 with no increase in their Council Tax.

Important aspects in the 2019/20 budget : (1) The new leisure centre at Bar End (it takes 12 minutes from Alresford to drive there, compared to 25 minutes to River Park) : financed through income from Everyone Active, who will run the facility on behalf of WCC. We also have financial contributions and collaborative partnerships to deliver specific aims and outcomes for our residents with The Pinder Trust (hydrotherapy), Allegra's Ambition (outdoor activity), Hampshire County Council and University of Winchester. (2) Central Winchester (or Silver Hill) : having purchased the Henderson site, WCC now own the majority of the land available. This puts it in a strong position to ensure we deliver what the City needs in terms of housing, open space, jobs and retail. (3) Housing Revenue Account : a programme to build 1000 homes – affordable and council - in the next few years.

Mayor of Winchester's Community Awards 2018/19

"Selfless" residents and organisations who have made a real difference to people and places in the district will be celebrated in the Mayor of Winchester's Community Awards for 2018/19. Those honoured included Sue Thomas, for her hard work producing the Alresford Music Festival, and Colin Dean, with his beloved black Labrador Isla, for unstintingly maintaining existing footpaths and creating new ones on Whiteshute Ridge.

Anyone can nominate an individual or organisation, with the emphasis is firmly on voluntary action. However, there is also scope to pay tribute to those who routinely go above and beyond the call of duty during the course of their paid employment. **The closing date for nominations for this year's awards is 12noon on Wednesday 6 February** - make a nomination, using the online form

here: http://www.winchester.gov.uk/forms/ShowForm.asp?fm_fid=490 or you can contact your ward councillor or local parish council with details of your nominee/s.

To discuss a nomination or any aspect of the Mayor of Winchester's Community Awards, please contact The Mayor's Secretary on 01962 848 259 or email Mayorssecretary@winchester.gov.uk

Promoting Alresford & Itchen Valley – tourist facts needed

WCC Tourism Team are starting a Fact Friday and Monday Teasers social media drive. They are looking for interesting facts to use as part of Facebook 'Fact Fridays' or 'brain teasers' on Mondays. If you have an image or image suggestion to accompany the piece, please email jcampbell@winchester.gov.uk and let's get us noticed!

Businesses vie for council's new Bishop's Waltham sites

Although you might not be interested in what happens in Bishops Waltham, one of the concerns on their local plan was the lack of provision for commercial development. So, a surge of interest being received by WCC as businesses vie for new units being developed on the site of the former depot in Bishop's Waltham just demonstrates that businesses are looking for new sites. Nearly 50 enquiries have been lodged by firms interested in the three new units on Lower Lane. The three units in Bishops Waltham will cover almost 8,000 square feet and the development will include 25 car parking spaces.

£1m CIL funding available

WCC would like groups from across the District to apply for a share of £1m funding to help support essential infrastructure projects, in areas outside the South Downs National Park. The opportunity to request finance for projects, to support or fund entirely, will initially run from 2019 to 2022. The first round of bids will run between January and March 2019 and the Council is inviting groups to apply for between £10,000 and £200,000 of funding for suitable schemes. Project must meet at least one of a range of criteria and the more criteria a project meets, the higher the chance it will successfully secure funding. Link here : <http://www.winchester.gov.uk/planning/community-infrastructure-levy-cil/apply-for-cil>. CIL bids will be evaluated in April, by an informal panel who will decide which schemes to recommend to Cabinet for a final decision

Next steps for Station Approach

A series of public drop-in consultation events will be held at the Old Winchester Registry Office on Station Hill to provide an update on the scheme as well as giving the public the opportunity to give their views ahead of the a planning application which is due to be submitted in early March.

Representatives from the architects, Lifschutz Davidson Sandilands as well as council officers will be available to answer questions and to give further detail on the scheme which is expected to bring £81m to the local economy.

The events will take place on : **Saturday 23 February 2019: 12:30 – 3:00pm and Tuesday 26 February 2019: 5:00 – 8:00pm at Winchester Registry Office, Station Hill Winchester.** A static exhibition will be on display at the Winchester Discovery Centre from Thursday 21 February to Thursday 28 February during their opening times, (9am – 7pm, Monday – Thursday; 9am to 5pm Saturday and 11am to 3pm Sunday) The public can attend the council's Overview & Scrutiny Committee meeting on Wednesday 20 March 2019 from 6.30pm, at Guildhall Winchester, when the committee will be examining the Station Approach outline business case.

Consultation :

The Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (SHELAA) is a technical document which provides information on sites; submitted by Landowners and Agents(**NOT** within the South Downs National Park), for potential housing, economic development, Gypsy and Travelling Showpeople, Self Build housing etc. in relation to their suitability, availability and achievability. The SHELAA will only identify sites which have been promoted to the Council, it does **NOT** allocate sites. The inclusion of the site in the SHELAA does not imply that the Council would necessarily grant planning permission.

Important Note: This call for sites has no minimum site size threshold in accordance with the revised National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2018) which requires local planning authorities to accommodate at least 10% of their housing requirement on sites no larger than one hectare. The **consultation starts** on 28th Jan 2019 and **runs until 8th March 2019.**

