

Winchester City Councillor Monthly Report May 2019



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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.

Running. An obsession which has had to slow, due to twisting my ankle dog walking! If you need some encouragement, on Facebook you can find "Alresford Couch to 5k" which already has 139 members and only started up a few weeks ago. I haven't lost any weight, but I have changed shape, and the mental space it gives me is uplifting even if some days running feels a struggle. This is my time and space, whether that's 30 minutes or an hour. During this week of **Mental Health Awareness**, think about what you do for yourself – totally for yourself.

The Election result for WCC – not the outcome we were seeking, however I am still an elected Councillor for Alresford & Itchen Valley here to represent the views of residents, assist them in Council matters and speak out for Parishes or the Town as requested.

Hearing from you : Lots of people air their views, but there are those who go along in life, thinking the Council does what the Council wants, regardless of what people say. However, I had a very interesting conversation with a young man in his early 20s recently, who complained about the type of housing available compared to what he would wish for. He did admit that he didn't think his voice mattered. If you don't take the time to let us know, or respond to surveys, we don't have the evidence to support a case for change – whatever change that is. So my plea to you, is, particularly if you are younger – older people tend to be pretty good at letting us know what they think – let me know your gripe/wishes/needs and then I can build a case.

Citizens Advice Bureau : The CAB Winchester branch will move to the old WCC cash payment office in Colebrook Street early in June. Something they are very much looking forward to as it will provide access for all and an improved number of meeting spaces for them to help clients. They also have outreach service at the Alresford Surgery. You can email them at advice@winchesterdistrictcab.org.uk or telephone 03444 111 306.

They provide a free, confidential and impartial advice on issues debt, benefit claims, housing, legal agreements, consumer rights – in fact pretty much anything. Partly funded by WCC to assist residents, but they are a registered Charity. Their goal is to help everyone find a way forward, whatever problem they face. Perhaps you might leave them a gift in your Will or make a regular contribution to assist those in need? The volunteers who support clients are qualified to answer your questions, so they are an excellent first place to call if you need help or advice – for free!

Winchester Criterium : A warning, or invite to attend, Sunday 9th June Winchester will be very busy with cyclists. It's a great spectacle with professional cyclists young and old, as well as those who just ride the route for fun. You have to be entered to ride the route, but it's a good day out with lots going on.

SHELAA News : The plethora of sites submitted to WCC for the next phase of the local plan, which is around ensuring we have a continuing land supply for housing and economic growth is underway. The next meeting is due in June to review the submissions and look at where any allocation might be possible, if required! Land submitted in no way has any permission for development, it still has to be approved as part of the local plan and the strong local plan currently in place for the District means we are able to resist further attempts for development of sites.

Police and Crime Panel (PCP) : As you will be aware, one of the increases in your Council tax this year was by the Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC). This was approved by the PCP as the funding is allocated to recruit over 200 officers and PCSOs for the County.

The PCC is working with the Commissioner to ensure more Police Officers and their visibility in our communities, hence the recent visit to the Arlebury on the 27th April.

In the coming months, a new 101 system will be released – we are promised, greatly improving the service! We certainly hope so. You can report incidents on line, but if a crime is on-going use 999.

New Leisure Centre : Work is progressing at a pace , Wilmott Dixon are going at a great pace with the entire base of the centre set out, they have dug the pools and dividing boom pit (it's the mechanism which will allow the main 50m pool to operate as two 25m pools) and their office is set up on the Depot, adjacent to the Bar End site. They hold regular meetings where the public can ask questions and the WCC website will keep you up to date on progress. Due to open early 2021. To take a look around the new centre, go to <http://bit.ly/WinchSportCentre>

Station Approach : the outline planning application was submitted in April.