

autumn 2007

# perspectives

**news** from  
around the  
winchester  
district

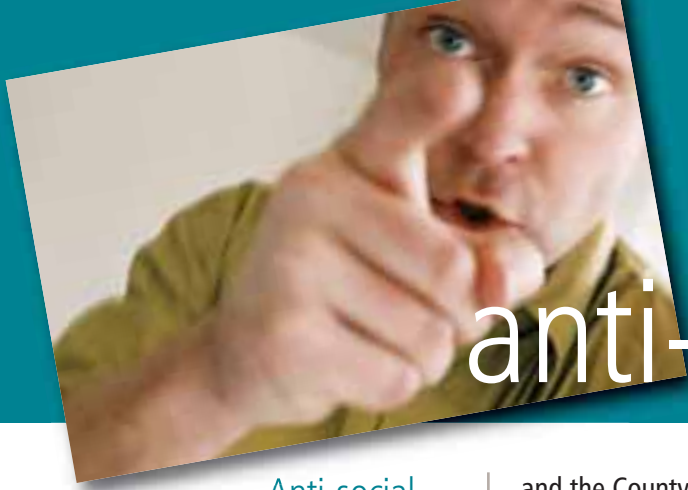
SEE  
PULL-OUT  
FOR

## inside this edition:

- tourism leads green drive
- who is your hero?
- winchester - a fair trade city?

your autumn **what's on**

 **Winchester**  
City Council



# help us **stamp out** anti-social behaviour

Anti-social behaviour can rear its ugly head in many forms. It can be verbal abuse, fly-tipping, misuse of fireworks or anything else that causes harassment, alarm or distress to people of a different household.

Fortunately the Winchester District has relatively low levels of these behaviours but where it does occur, we understand how important it is to stamp it out before it seriously impacts upon your quality of life.

## what the Council does about ASB

At the City Council we work alongside the Police, Fire and Rescue,

and the County Council to head up a Community Safety Partnership.

- The City Council's Neighbourhood Wardens work in Highcliffe, Winnall and Stanmore and have built up positive relationships within the communities particularly with young people and the elderly.
- In response to public demand the Alcohol Exclusion Zone was extended across the city centre, and in Winnall a dispersal order was introduced.
- Anti-social behaviour orders have been made against nuisance cases in the city.
- Harassment is taken very seriously and we evicted tenants in Kingsworthy for racial harassment. We also held a very successful harassment awareness day to highlight what the City Council can do to protect people.

- Acceptable Behaviour Contracts (ABC's), Parenting Contracts and Parenting Orders are agreed with ASB offenders, and when appropriate also with their parents.

## how do I complain or get advice about ASB?

- To report an incident that is occurring at the time and is not a crime, call the non emergency number 101. Call 999 if an immediate police presence is needed.
- For advice about anyone causing you harassment, alarm or distress contact the Council on 01962 840 222 and ask for the Acceptable Behaviour Co-ordinator.

## perspectives

**perspectives** magazine is produced by Winchester City Council.

If you would like to contact us about any of the services featured in this issue, please see the contact details given in each article. You can also write to us at **City Offices, Colebrook Street, Winchester, SO23 9LJ**, call Corporate Communications on

**01962 848 504**, or email [communications@winchester.gov.uk](mailto:communications@winchester.gov.uk). Telephone calls may be recorded.

The magazine is printed on TCF (totally chlorine free) stock, containing 80% recycled fibre.

Each copy of perspectives costs about 25p, including design, print and distribution to each household in the district.

Tape versions are available on request from **Winchester Talking Newspaper**, through our **Corporate Communications Unit**.



## call Crimestoppers – it's completely anonymous

Seventeen people a day are arrested in the UK because of calls to Crimestoppers. Calls are free and completely anonymous.

Crimestoppers recently launched a campaign against doorstep crime. Only one in ten victims of distraction burglars and rogue traders report these crimes so it is a real problem. If you're a victim and don't want to talk to the Police contact Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

For more details visit [www.crimestoppers.co.uk](http://www.crimestoppers.co.uk) or [www.mostwanted-uk.org](http://www.mostwanted-uk.org)

# ABC

as easy as

# 123



...well it seems to be for the Winchester District as we've reached just under 40% recycling rates already - **thank you everyone!**

The second phase of Alternate Bin Collection (ABC) is now in full swing and is already showing fantastic recycling rates thanks to all your hard work.

Early indications show that we are likely to achieve an annual rate just under 40%, which will make Winchester one of the top performing Councils in the country and is a great result for the district.

Thanks go to all residents who have worked with us on this scheme, which has seen people make changes to their behaviour and take steps to manage their waste in a different way.

Our recycling advisors have been busy helping people adjust to the changes. Anyone with queries can still speak to our **Recycling Advisors** on **0800 008 60 50**.

Information will also be sent out before Christmas with collection arrangements and more tips to help you keep up the great work with your recycling.

## tourism team leading green drive

Environmentally aware visitors to the Winchester District will be able to choose a place to stay by its green credentials from January 2008, thanks to a simple new scheme being rolled out by the City Council's tourism team.

The Green Leaf Tourism scheme, which was originally developed by New Forest District Council, has been imported and adapted for use in the Winchester District.

Based on a self-assessment checklist, it asks those who run hotels, B&Bs and self-catering accommodation to rate their levels of green commitment. The checklist covers areas such as encouraging car-free tourism, the use of local produce, energy efficiency and recycling and the way businesses make guests aware of their environmental objectives. Most importantly, however, it encourages owners to sign up for free training – supported by Tourism South East, the regional tourism agency - to help them develop a green action plan for their business.

All those who qualify for the scheme will be promoted in the 2008 visitor guide and on the tourism website [www.visitwinchester.co.uk](http://www.visitwinchester.co.uk) under the green leaf symbol so that visitors can easily pick out the properties which are most sympathetic to the environment.



So what has the City Council achieved, and how has the money been spent in 2006-2007? Our latest Citizen's Panel results show that 78% of residents are interested in summary financial information, and want to read about projects that we are funding in perspectives magazine and on our website. Some of the highlights of this year are listed below but full information can be easily found on our website [www.winchester.gov.uk](http://www.winchester.gov.uk)

Of the total council tax we collect for all the authorities we only keep 8% - our other funding comes from government grants, rents, fees and charges.

## high quality environment

Recycling results in 06/07 only reflect the first phase of the ABC programme, but we still saw recycling rates increase from 18.9% to 22.4% – and with the next phase going well in 07/08 we are already well on track to meet our national target of 30% recycling.

Parks and open spaces have been highlighted by 83% of you as being crucial in making somewhere a nice place to live. We agree and have an on going programme of improvement across our parks, that includes new bins, floral decorations, newly painted railings and new play equipment.

## efficient and effective council

Efficiencies have been made by the Council for a number of years but in the last two years more than £1.4m has been saved without dropping standards in services. Projects looking at office accommodation, staff sickness levels, website development, procurement, and many more have all saved money.

The satisfaction with our Benefits service has increased from 78.7% to 85% and the time taken to process new claims has decreased from 25.16 days to 17.7 days. 82% of our Council Housing tenants are also satisfied with the service they receive.

The general satisfaction survey for the district revealed that 57% of residents are satisfied with the service they receive from the council – work will continue over the coming years to identify areas where we can make improvements to increase this figure.

## safe and strong communities

Affordable housing in the district increased by 122 homes, exceeding the annual target of 75 new units a year.

A hugely successful 'exception site' – where local rural communities work together to help provide affordable homes for local people – was completed in Martyr Worthy, giving 10 local families the opportunity to stay in the village.

Our progress towards Decent Homes standards for our tenants has continued, with only 9% of homes currently remaining below standard. All homes will meet the new standards by 2010.

## economic prosperity

A Local Authority Business Growth Initiative grant of £408,000 was received this year from central government with £150,000 allocated for economic development. This was used in part to:

- Employ a Rural Towns Development officer to assist market towns in carrying out health checks and action plans
- Provide support and leadership in the business community to develop BID votes in Winchester City and Segensworth Business Park.
- Develop a programme to support the specialist shopping offer in Winchester including extra signposts, an information leaflet, part-time road closure to The Square to enable a cafe style atmosphere, and an enabling grant for the Christmas market run by the Cathedral
- Sponsor the first South Hampshire 'Meet the Buyer' event at the Rose Bowl

# financial

## INFORMATION

### Q. How much did the council spend?

#### A. £70 million

The gross expenditure of the Council was £70 million of which £20 million related to Housing (paid for out of a ring fenced account called the Housing Revenue Account). The remaining £50 million was spend on "General Fund" covering the whole range of activities of the Council.

This was funded mainly by government grants and other income in the form of fees, charges and non-housing rents leaving just under £12 million to be covered by business rates and council tax in almost equal proportions; making council tax just 12% of the total spend.

Business rates are collected locally and paid to the Government. The national total is then redistributed by Government when the grant

settlement is announced. Although Winchester City Council collected £37 million from its businesses in 2006/07, it only received £6 million of that in the redistribution.

### Q. How much is the council worth?

#### A. £476 million

At 31st March 2007 the Total Net Worth of the Council was £476 million: with total assets of £523 million and total liabilities of £47 million. Council dwellings are the main assets valued at £409 million.

The Council's reserves at 31st March 2007 included £9 million for future capital investment and £11 million revenue reserves earmarked for specific purposes. There was also a £2 million General Fund balance which is a working balance retained to cover any unforeseen expenditure.

### Q. Capital spending – how much have we spent on projects this year?

#### A. £10 million

The Council's capital budget finances the purchase of land and equipment that will provide economic benefits over a number of years. Major refurbishment costs and some grants are also included in Capital Expenditure.

The Council finances its Capital Expenditure from a mixture of Usable Capital Receipts, Capital Grants and Contributions, the HRA Major Repairs Reserve and other Revenue Provisions.

Examples of these projects include the refurbishment of River Park Leisure Centre, purchase of the bins and infrastructure for the Alternate Bin Collection scheme, and works to improve our council houses as part of the Decent Homes scheme.

# doors Open

## to winchester's discovery centre

For nearly two years, scaffolding and hoardings have covered the former lending library in Jewry Street - but now the exciting transformation is complete and members of the public can explore the new Discovery Centre.

A successful partnership project between Hampshire County Council and Winchester City Council, the Discovery Centre will be a focal point for reading, learning, socialising and entertainment.



It will be home to a bright and modern library service, bringing both lending and reference collections together on one site and with an extra £300,000 spent on new books.

In the express lending area will hang artist Alice Kettle's completed textile commission, the creation of which was enjoyed by 10,000 people during her installation at the Guildhall Gallery.

Other features include;

- Internet access and online learning suite
- Meeting rooms
- Refreshment facilities
- Study facilities
- Wi-Fi enabled

So take a trip to the Discovery Centre and enjoy the changes. You can find out more at [www3.hants.gov.uk/wdc](http://www3.hants.gov.uk/wdc)

**City Space:** Within the Discovery Centre Winchester City Council will be directly responsible for an area known as City Space which, through a rolling programme of exhibitions, will reflect the cultural life and history of the Winchester District.

Local artists who previously displayed their work at the Guildhall Gallery will be invited to create new shows here and it will also provide a perfect location for exhibitions drawn from the City Council's museum collections.

**Jewry Street: Faces and Places** will be the first show in City Space and takes a trip through time down the road that is fast evolving into Winchester's cultural quarter. The exhibition programme will encourage visitors of all ages to participate, with supporting activities including workshops, 'have a go' sessions, lunchtime talks and guided walks.

# is that food

An online 'scores on the doors' system for food safety in Winchester that launched recently has been a big hit for local foodies.

Hygiene ratings for all food businesses in the district are now public, so you too can check out your favourite take-away, pub or restaurant to see how it scores.



The website had more than 13,000 visits in the first two months. For more details go to [www.safe2eat.com/winchester](http://www.safe2eat.com/winchester)



# a bargain for christmas!

It is that time of year again when preparations are being made for the festive season and Christmas shopping is well underway...

Well why not come to Winchester for some retail therapy – not only will there be a fabulous ice rink and Christmas Market at the Cathedral, but you will also get free parking on Christmas Shopping Thursdays and in the run up to the big day. You can spend your hours scouring our many speciality shops without having to pay to stay late after work or to come into town on your way home.

### So here's the deal:

Free parking on Thursdays after 4pm in all City Centre Car Parks (except Colebrook Street) starting Thursday 15th November 2007 until Christmas

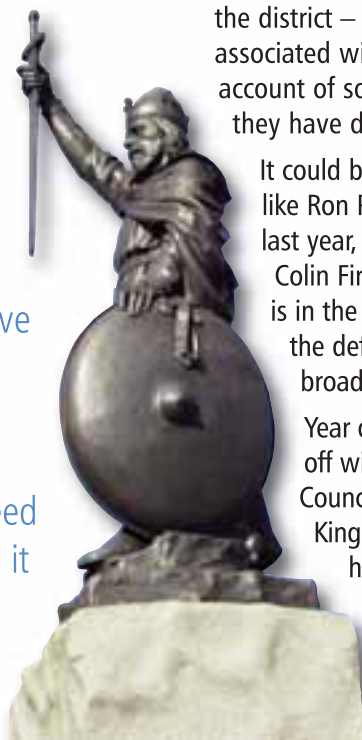
Free parking every day after 4pm from Tuesday 18th December until Christmas in all City Centre Car Parks (except Colebrook Street)

Park and Ride bus service to operate until 9pm each Thursday from Thursday 15th November until Christmas

For further information about our car parks visit [www.winchester.gov.uk/transportandstreets/parking](http://www.winchester.gov.uk/transportandstreets/parking)

# who's your hero?

2008 will see a series of 'Year of Heroes' events exploring some of the many characters that have played an important role in the history of the district. But we need your help to bring it right up to date.



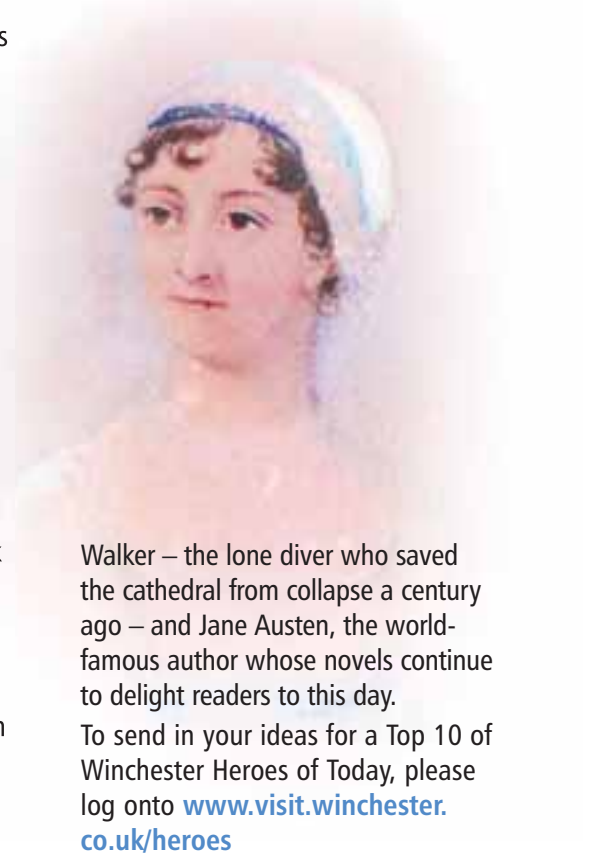
We want you to send in suggestions of your modern-day local Hero. He or she could be from anywhere in the district – or indeed, just associated with the district on account of something special that they have done.

It could be a colourful character like Ron Purse, who sadly died last year, or it could be the actor Colin Firth whose family home is in the district. You can take the definition of heroism as broadly as you like.

Year of Heroes 2008 will kick off with Hampshire County Council's major exhibition on King Alfred which will be held in the new

Discovery Centre from February.

It will also tell the story of William



Walker – the lone diver who saved the cathedral from collapse a century ago – and Jane Austen, the world-famous author whose novels continue to delight readers to this day.

To send in your ideas for a Top 10 of Winchester Heroes of Today, please log onto [www.visit.winchester.co.uk/heroes](http://www.visit.winchester.co.uk/heroes)



# Have a WINCHESTER DISTRICT **SPAA** experience



## university of winchester community **outdoor** sports centre

Building work has now started on University of Winchester Community Outdoor Sports Centre in Bar End and it is hoped that the new facilities – including athletics track and artificial hockey pitch – will be in use by April 2008.

The facilities are there for everyone in the Winchester District to use and will be available in all weathers and throughout the year. The first class surfaces and state-of-the-art floodlighting will enable sporting enthusiasts, young and old, to participate at all times of the day.

It is hoped that the Pavilion extension, housing the changing rooms for this centre, will be completed by December 2008.

The next stage will be the establishment of a multi sports club – including Winchester and District Athletics Club, Winchester Hockey Club and Winchester Football Club – as well as a management committee that will look at the business plan for the centre, marketing and membership.

The project has been funded by the University of Winchester, Winchester City Council, Sport England and Hampshire County Council. Winchester and District Athletics Club also raised £22,000.

**For more details go to [www.winchester.gov.uk/outdoorsportscentre](http://www.winchester.gov.uk/outdoorsportscentre)**

The Winchester and District Athletics Club has 450 members spread across their track, fields and endurance sections and hope to increase membership once the facilities are built. They need new coaches and volunteers to ensure that they can continue their successes in the future.

**To find out more contact [webmaster@wadac.org.uk](mailto:webmaster@wadac.org.uk)**

People in the Winchester District are amongst the most active in the country yet only 25% take part in sport for 30 minutes, three times a week.

The Sport and Physical Activity Alliance (SPAA) of which the City Council is a member, strives to increase participation in sports and physical activity and hopes through its work in the run up to the London 2012 Olympics to increase this figure significantly.

The SPAA has many projects on the go – all part of an action plan for the District – and was recently recognised as an example of good practice by Sport England.

The SPAA has also set up an Olympics Working Group and is looking for people to help the district both celebrate, and make the most of the opportunities presented by the Olympics.

For more details go to [www.wdsp.co.uk/spaa](http://www.wdsp.co.uk/spaa). The new website includes meeting minutes, strategies, contacts for sports clubs, news and special events and is well worth a visit.



# who runs this **place?**

The vision of a Youth Council for the Winchester district is set to become a reality after a hugely successful youth democracy event took place.

More than 80 young people from Westgate, Swanmore, Perins and King's secondary schools tried their hand at 'political speed dating' in a day of activities at St Mary's Stadium in Southampton.

The event, titled 'Who Runs this Place?' was facilitated by Solent People's Theatre Company and organised by the City Council working in partnership with Hampshire County Council Children's Services (Youth Service) and students from King's School.

To find out more visit [www.winchester.gov.uk/youthdemocracy](http://www.winchester.gov.uk/youthdemocracy)



## helping young people keep themselves out of **danger**

Five hundred primary age children from 11 schools in the District were faced with some difficult real-life scenarios at a recent event aimed at helping them stay safe.

Led by officers from Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service and assisted by the

City Council's Neighbourhood Wardens, the Junior Citizen event held at Worthy Down army camp was very popular and it is hoped it will become an annual event.



Organisations such as the Police, Trading Standards, and the Army held activities to educate the children in a fun and memorable way. The youngsters were faced with scenarios such as what to do if they saw smoke coming under the bedroom door, and how to recognise 'stranger danger' and were taught what to do in these situations.

# local housing allowance - simplifying your benefits

LHA is a simplified Housing Benefit system for people on low incomes who rent from private landlords, which will come into force from 7th April 2008.

The new scheme will be based on the number of rooms people are allowed, not the amount of rent they pay. The number of rooms allowed depends on who lives with the tenant.

LHA only affects those tenants renting from a private landlord who either, enter into a NEW private tenancy agreement, make a NEW claim for Housing Benefit, or have a break in their Housing Benefit entitlement on or after 7th April 2008.

The amount of LHA awarded depends on who lives with the tenant, what money they have coming in, and what savings they have. The LHA rates are set by an independent rent officer and are based on local rents. Payments of LHA (Housing Benefit) will be made directly to the tenant – it will be their responsibility to pay the full rent to their landlord.

The new rules will not apply to Local Authority tenants, tenants of registered social landlords (Housing Associations), tenants who have a registered or 'fair' rent, tenants whose tenancies commenced before January 1989, protected tenants (such as those in supported housing provided by social landlords, charities or voluntary organisations), tenants with tenancies of caravans, mobile homes, houseboats or hostels.

For further information on LHA contact the [Benefits Section](#) on 01962 848 539 or drop in to one of the LHA forums on 5th November 2007 and 15th January 2008 between 2pm and 8pm in the Wykeham Room at Winchester Guildhall.



## Improved trade waste controls at HWRCs



As part of a programme of improvements to Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs), Hampshire County Council will be stepping up trade waste controls at all sites over the next few months to prevent them being used for the illegal disposal of trade waste.

HWRCs are not licensed to dispose of trade waste but existing controls have been shown to have only a limited impact on the amount entering sites.



Disposal of trade waste at HWRCs negatively affects the service provided for Hampshire householders by adding to congestion, particularly at smaller sites. It also diverts staff away from their normal duties of running the site and segregating as much material as possible for reuse and recycling. With the increasing cost of waste disposal (including a rapidly increasing landfill tax), it is estimated that the overall bill to the taxpayer for traders using HWRCs illegally will soon exceed £1 million a year.

Studies show that the majority of trade waste is delivered in commercial-type vehicles such as vans and large trailers, and by restricting access to these vehicles, the new measures will reduce the amount of trade waste entering sites. As a result, onsite congestion and queuing times will be reduced and HWRCs will be quicker and easier to use.

It is recognised that some householders only have access to a commercial-type vehicle for their domestic use and provisions will be made for these householders to continue using sites as before.

Access for cars, and cars with trailers with a carrying capacity of less than 1.8m x 1.2m will be unaffected.

For details of alternative reuse, recycling and waste disposal facilities, including those for trade waste, please log onto [www.hants.gov.uk/recycling](http://www.hants.gov.uk/recycling) or ask for a leaflet from your local HWRC.

More information about the improved controls and when they will be introduced will be available from autumn 2007, and can be obtained online, in leaflet form from any HWRC, or by calling **0845 603 5634**.



# winchester - a fairtrade city?

The Winchester City Fairtrade Group was formed recently by Winchester residents involved in education, the churches, the retail sector and voluntary organisations. They are looking for people to help in a variety of ways to make Winchester a Fairtrade City.

But what is fair trade? Well it's trade with a difference; trade that improves the livelihoods of workers and farmers in the global South through direct sales, better prices and stable market links.

There are now more than 3000 fairly traded products available in the UK all identifiable by the

distinctive FAIRTRADE Mark guaranteeing that a product has been carefully checked and certified.

The Group is working to:

- Promote the concept of fair trade and increase the availability of Fairtrade products within Winchester City
- Raise awareness of the FAIRTRADE Mark
- Ensure continued commitment and drive towards gaining Fairtrade City Status for Winchester
- Encourage workplaces, schools, universities and places of worship to promote and use Fairtrade products
- Relate the principles of fair trade to local supply and sustainability

To gain Fairtrade City status a number of goals need to be met to show that there are significant levels of awareness and



understanding of the concept of Fairtrade; that Fairtrade products are widely available, bought and used; and that a commitment has been made to educational and promotional activities.

To help the Winchester City Fairtrade Group widen its circle of support and reach its aims contact

**Robert Hutchison:**  
[drd.hutchison@btinternet.com](mailto:drd.hutchison@btinternet.com)



# Live for the Future...



## local development framework **core strategy**

The new planning system introduced in 2004 has provided an ideal opportunity to take a fresh look at the Winchester District and how you wish it to develop over the next 20 years.

Earlier in the year we asked what you thought needed to change to make the District and the communities you live in more sustainable.

This information along with a whole range of facts and figures being gathered by the City Council will be used to prepare an 'Issues and Options' paper to be published in December, with comments invited from the beginning of January for six weeks.

This document will explore, in general terms, the levels of development that will need to be accommodated across the District; the type of economy we wish to promote, and the role of the various towns and villages in providing services, housing, and facilities for local people. In addition there is an increasing need to address the issue of climate change to see how Winchester District can reduce our carbon emissions.

So if you're interested in the future planning of the District keep your eyes open for the Core Strategy Issues and Options Paper – this will not give all the answers to where we want to be in 20 years time but will explore a range of matters from housing and jobs growth; protection of the built and natural environment; movement patterns across the district and how we can reduce our carbon footprint - you will have a range of options to comment on and you'll be able to suggest alternatives.

Go to [www.winchester.gov.uk/liveforthefuture](http://www.winchester.gov.uk/liveforthefuture) for more details where you can also sign up for our LDF e-bulletin to keep track of the process and find out when you can get involved.

