

ABOUT WINCHESTER

winchester.gov.uk

SPRING 2020

DIGGING DEEP FOR THE CLIMATE

Paul Waddon and daughter Siobhan planting trees at Newlands Walk, Waterloooville.

In June 2019, Winchester City Council declared a climate emergency and committed to set out within six months our action plan to make our organisation carbon neutral by 2024, and the wider district carbon neutral by 2030.

Well, we agreed the action plan just before Christmas, and we're all set to go. From this point forward, every thing we do will be planned looking through the lens of the climate emergency. Inside you'll find out more about what's already started to happen and your own place in the picture. We can't do this without you.

Meanwhile – we said we'd be working with partners and residents to make this work and volunteers, residents, businesses and local organisations all came together to plant 334 new trees over two days at Newlands Walk Open Space, Waterloooville.

Thanks to all the volunteers, Winchester Action on Climate Change (WinACC), the University of Winchester, IBM, HSBC and the teams from other local businesses who couldn't wait to roll up their sleeves to get started! Turn to pages 4 & 5 if you'd like to see what else we've been up to...

NEWS IN BRIEF

MEDIEVAL TOILET FLUSHED OUT

Archaeologists unearthed a 13th century medieval cesspit and what could be the remains of early toilet wipes recycled from textile fragments when they excavated the Chesil Lodge site.

LOCAL ELECTIONS - 7 MAY

To make sure you're registered to vote go to:
www.gov.uk/register-to-vote

DOG BREEDERS BANNED

Unlicensed dog breeders who reared 193 litters have been fined more than £600,000 due to action by Winchester City Council. Turn to page 14 for more.

DID YOU KNOW?

In 1944 Southwick House was the nerve centre for the final planning of D-Day - see back page to get involved in VE Day 75th anniversary celebrations.

IN THIS EDITION...

CLIMATE CHANGE UPDATE

Pages 4 & 5



WINCHESTER SPORT & LEISURE PARK: LATEST

Page 7



WIN A DAY OUT ON THE WATERCRESS LINE!

Page 19



A WORD FROM...

LUCILLE THOMPSON LEADER

Welcome to the spring edition of About Winchester!

Since our last newsletter we have put together our plan to reduce our carbon emissions in line with our declaration of a climate emergency last June.

Just before Christmas we published our action plan which concentrates on three key themes – transport, energy and housing. We have already started on our tree planting programme and are taking steps to ensure that the energy used in our council buildings comes from a renewable source. You can read more about these and more actions that we will be taking in this newsletter.

We have also adopted a new Council Plan setting out our priorities for the next five years. Action on the environment will be at the forefront of everything we do, but improving the services that we offer to residents is high on our agenda too. We want to make a real difference to the quality of the lives of all our residents and this is a blueprint that gives us the ability to do just that.

Over the last six months we have been changing the way we engage with you and making our meetings more accessible. We have introduced public questions at meetings of Full Council and are now audio live streaming our major meetings which are also available on our website. We have been very encouraged by the attendance of

individuals and local groups at our meetings which shows that there is a willingness to talk to us and we are certainly willing to listen.

We still face many challenges and by the time you read this we will have set the budget for the next financial year. But we know where we want to improve and, with your help, we will work together to move forward in the spirit of collaboration and partnership.



LAURA TAYLOR CHIEF EXECUTIVE

In this edition we share some of the work that your council does but there are a host of services that we provide every day, for example:

Our customer service centre answers 2,800 calls every week.

The council's planning team received 3,393 applications last year.

Our environmental health team deals with 1,300 food businesses.

We look after nearly 30,000 trees.

Our new Council Plan puts tackling climate change at the heart of all we do and over the next few months we will make it easier for you to access the services you want online 24/7.

We want to make sure you can help shape the services you receive from us so if you would like to

be part of the conversation going forward, then email: resident@winchester.gov.uk and we'll sign you up for news and consultations – you can also get this newsletter via email to help us reduce our carbon footprint going forward.



HIGHLIGHTS

4 Declaring a climate emergency was just the beginning 

5 Holding back the elements

6 Air quality is improving - but there's still more to do

7 A greener Winchester Sport & Leisure Park

9 Sporting success celebrated in style

10 More of the homes, less of the carbon 

11 A day in the life... of our Housing Income Team Leader

14 Your bin collection just got greener 

15 Mayor of Winchester

16 Council Budget 2020/21

17 Having your say is easier than ever 

18 What's on around the district

19 Spend a day in Alresford

COUNCIL PLAN

2020-2025

The new Council Plan was adopted in January 2020 and sets out the key ways we'll be improving our district's environment, well-being, housing and economy while putting climate change at the heart of all we do.



LIVING WELL

We want all our residents to live healthy and fulfilled lives and ensure the district offers the right mix of facilities for all ages and abilities.

[Page 8-9 for more](#)



HOMES FOR ALL

Our district needs homes that are affordable and built in the right areas for changing communities.

[Page 10-11 for more](#)



VIBRANT LOCAL ECONOMY

Our district is home to a host of successful businesses with high levels of employment in both urban and rural areas. Our high streets, towns and business centres also need to attract new investment providing low carbon offices, workspace and transport links.

[Page 12-13 for more](#)



YOUR SERVICES. YOUR VOICE

High quality, accessible, good value services are needed to address the changing needs of our customers. And we want you to have the opportunity to make your voice heard and are able to see and understand how the council makes its decisions – and feed into them.

[Page 16-17 for more](#)

Our Council Plan is on the homepage of our website: winchester.gov.uk



DECLARING A CLIMATE EMERGENCY WAS JUST THE BEGINNING



Over the coming months you'll see more and more from your council to promote action on climate change - we're focussing on reducing our carbon emissions and encouraging others to reduce theirs, and are taking action to promote climate resilience.

In March, we are bringing together children from schools across our district for the first ever Climate Emergency Parliament, providing a platform for the voices of young people to be heard. In June we will hold a conference to set out how we can work together across the district to deliver this vital agenda.

We will measure and report all we do so you can hold us to account for our promises.

Here's what we've been working on in the last six months:

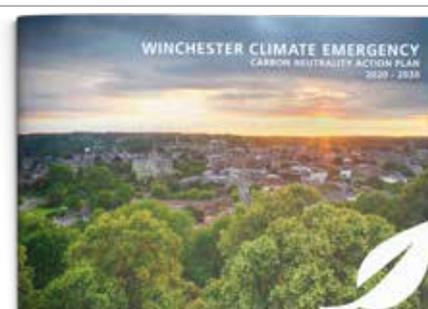
- In December 2019, we installed 22 solar panels on the council's depot in Winnall, which will generate up to 7,000 kilowatt of eco-friendly energy each

year – that's the equivalent of charging 630,000 mobile phones!

- Ecologically considerate naturalised planting – tree planting across the district, and we have plans to both safeguard the Garrison Ground as playing fields and create wildlife habitats too.
- Increased recycling – we've introduced glass recycling collections to 50,000 households across the district and are looking at improving garden waste collections too.
- Changes to the way our developments are shaped – turn to page 7 to find out what measures have been taken to lessen the environmental impact of Winchester Sport and Leisure Park.
- Steps to see the council change its contracting policies so low carbon is at the heart of all services, whether we carry them out or they are delivered by

someone else on our behalf – a good example is the improved Biffa bin lorries.

- Changes to how we manage parking will see further improvements to air quality.
- Plans to increase the number of electric vehicle charging points across the district to fuel the (commendable!) growing appetite for low carbon vehicles.



Interested?

Have a look at the plan - it's on the homepage of our website so you can see what we're planning to do and how you can get involved in future proofing the planet for future generations.

HELP US MEET THE DISTRICT CHALLENGE

Help us get the whole district to become carbon neutral by 2030 by ticking off some of these handy ways to lower your personal carbon footprint...

- 1 Buy local and seasonal – our district is known as ‘Hampshire’s larder’ so we’re spoilt for choice!
- 2 Defrost your freezer regularly – dealing with all that frost build up means your freezer expends more energy...
- 3 Wash your lightly soiled clothes in cold water – you won’t be able to tell the difference! Or use the economy wash cycle .
- 4 Take showers instead of baths and install water-efficient shower heads.
- 5 Replace your old boiler with an energy efficient alternative.
- 6 Re-sell your old clothes or donate them to charity shops and buy second hand too – our city and market towns have some fabulous outlets...
- 7 Let the train take the strain and enjoy ‘no-fly’ holidays.
- 8 Cycle or walk for short journeys and leave your car at home – your fitness watch report will reward you!
- 9 Turn off the lights and unplug devices when you leave a room – you’ll be surprised the difference it makes over a year.
- 10 Turn the heating down to save energy and trim money off your energy bills.

“Our Carbon Neutrality Action Plan is live. We are going to reduce, eliminate or offset our own carbon emissions and support you and others to do the same – and the work has already begun.”

CLLR LUCILLE THOMPSON
LEADER



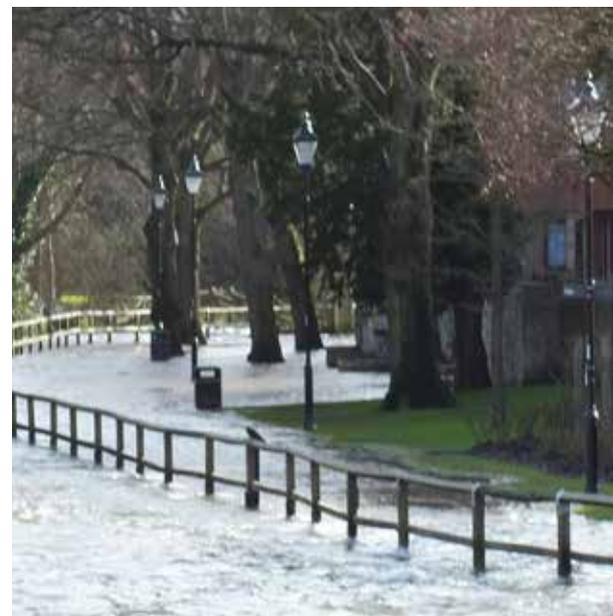
HOLDING BACK THE ELEMENTS

Remember the floods of 2013/14? So do we...

Efforts to stop the city flooding continue with clearance work to enable construction of the final section of a major scheme at Durgate. From Easter we’ll be installing three new sluice gates on the River Itchen, completing our network of defences across the north of the city to help to control flooding, especially by City Mill and The Broadway.

Work will take about six months and is being done in partnership with Hampshire County Council and the Environment Agency.

In the meantime, across Winchester district we continue to pay particular attention to July 15 – when folklore says our local Bishop, St Swithun may react to a downpour with a further 40 days of rain!



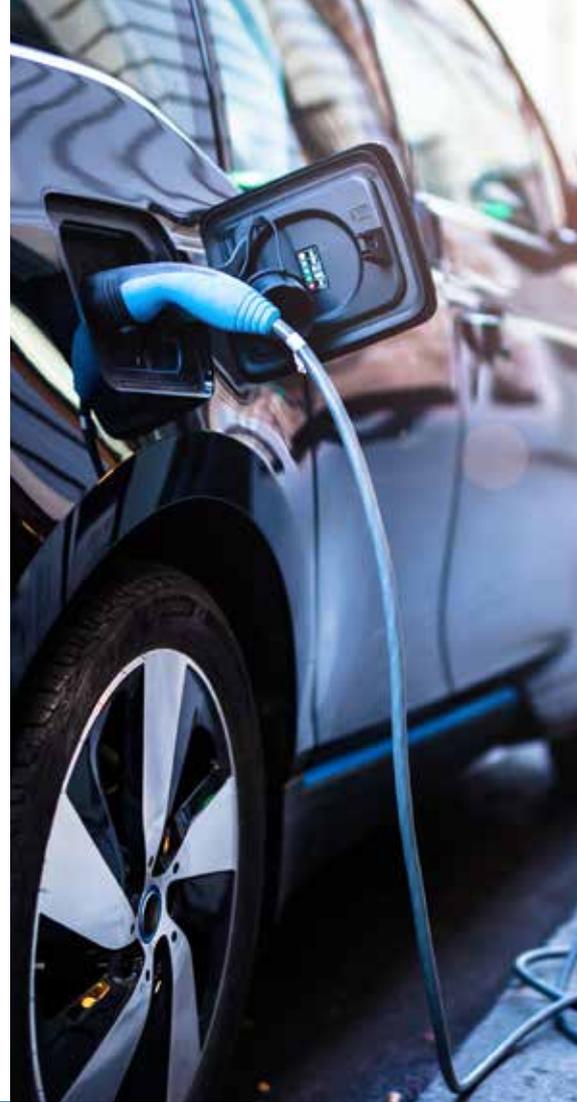
32 NEW ELECTRIC CAR CHARGE POINTS FOR THE DISTRICT

We're looking to make life easier for the increased number of electric vehicle owners, by installing 32 new charge points in car parks across our district.

Most of the points are 'fast' 22kWh chargers which means they take between three to six hours to fully charge an electric car, depending on the vehicle's battery size and charge state. There will be two rapid 50kWh chargers in the city to enable a move to electric taxis.

And this is where you will be able to charge up:

- Winchester Coach Park
- Winchester – Guildhall area
- Winchester – St Peter's car park
- Winchester – Chesil Multi-Storey car park
- Winchester – Colebrook Street car park
- Winchester – Tower Street car park
- Winchester – Middle Brook Street car park
- Winchester – The Brooks shopping centre car park
- Winchester – Worthy Lane car park
- Bishop's Waltham – Basingwell
- Bishop's Waltham – Lower Lane
- Wickham – Wickham Square
- Wickham – Wickham Station
- Alresford – Alresford Station
- Alresford – Perins School
- Harestock – Priors Dean Road
- Denmead – Kidmore Lane



CLEANER AIR IN WINCHESTER

Part of our commitment to local people is that we will measure and report on performance when we've set out to do something. You may be aware that we're determined to deliver air quality improvements – with some hotspots across the city's Air Quality Management Area being targets for change.

Our measuring kits include some 37 air sampling devices - known as 'NO^x tubes' which measure levels of nitrogen dioxide. And the results are encouraging - more areas of central Winchester are now meeting national standards

for nitrogen dioxide (NO²), an environmental pollutant. Some locations in our 'Air Quality Management Area' - Andover Road, Chesil Street, St Cross Road and Alresford Road, are now within legal limits for NO².

And our squad of NO^x tubes will shortly be joined by a new recruit on St George's Street. From the spring a clever new monitoring device will be measuring levels of PM10 and PM2.5 – fine particulate matter that can be present in the atmosphere, supporting our work to further clean up the city's air.

RINGING IN THE CHANGES

A new strategy for parking, designed to cut congestion and pollution, and to encourage low carbon ways to access our town centres, has been developed following consultation with local people.

In Winchester, the strategy adopts a 'three-ring' approach that is intended to encourage people to park outside our central Air Quality Management Area. The central, inner, and outer rings will be subject to different levels of parking charges – with the outer rings, including Park & Ride, being the cheapest. Income from parking charges will be reinvested into improved parking and public transport options.

Special plans are being developed tailored to the needs of Wickham, Denmead, Alresford, Whiteley and Bishop's Waltham.



A GREENER WINCHESTER SPORT & LEISURE PARK

Down at Bar End, Winchester's new state-of-the-art sport and leisure facility is really starting to take shape. The leisure centre, set to open in early 2021, now has floors and a complete steel frame.

Leading sports facility operator Everyone Active will be running it when it opens and the team is

working hard to develop a mix of activities that will engage all age groups and abilities.

The aim is for the building to be one of the greenest of its kind in the UK – and we are pleased that it is on track to achieve a BREEAM rating of excellent.

NEWS IN BRIEF

BIKES ARE BACK!

Winchester Criterium is coming to the city centre on 14 June. See back page to get involved.

GETTING TO YOUR NEW LEISURE CENTRE

The new facility will be linked to the city by cycle and walking routes offering safe and eco-friendly ways to travel.

PARK & RIDE EXPANSION

We're looking to expand Park & Ride options in east Winchester with 130 new spaces at Bar End later this year.

WHAT WILL THE NEW CENTRE INCLUDE?

- A 50m pool
- Separate training pool with movable floor
- Eight court sports hall
- Four squash courts
- 200 gym stations
- Two large studios and one spin studio
- A hydrotherapy suite
- Eight treatment rooms
- Clip and climb facility.

SUSTAINABILITY FEATURES:

- PV panels that will generate 156,350 kilowatts a year
- Heat recovery units
- Energy efficient heating system
- Improved walking and cycling access
- FSC certified timber
- Water efficiency measures
- 200 trees planted on site

“This ambitious community facility is taking shape and I’m confident it will herald a new era for the well-being of our communities. I’m particularly proud of the changes we’ve made to ensure we minimise the environmental impact of the building, and I’m very much looking forward to seeing the place in use – and using it myself!”

DID YOU KNOW?

100,000 electric cars are expected to be on UK roads by 2021 with all petrol and diesel cars phased out by 2035.



CLLR MALCOLM PRINCE
CABINET MEMBER FOR
SPORT, LEISURE & COMMUNITIES



LIVING WELL IN WINCHESTER DISTRICT

We've made it our priority to make sure people in our district can live well.

Your new leisure centre at Bar End is being created with crèche facilities, accessible changing rooms and a hydrotherapy pool so it's somewhere all can enjoy.

In the south of the district, we've confirmed a new 10 year contract for Meadowside Leisure Centre in

Whiteley alongside investment to improve the facility's upper floor which will enable more fitness activities.

It's part of our day-to-day work to maintain the many open spaces and parks across the district, and we're also looking to create more safe cycle ways and pathways so it's easier to hop on a bike or opt to get from A to B by foot.



GARRISON GROUND PLAY SET TO STAY

The Garrison Ground at Bar End has been used by generations as playing fields. And in a time when development is very much the order of the day, we've made a move to make sure this is how things remain.

The council has been working with Fields in Trust to create a binding legal agreement which will secure the use of 6.65 acre area of land as playing fields and for recreation long into the future. Local groups will benefit from two football pitches after the new leisure centre is completed. And they won't be the only site users – measures to encourage biodiversity will create new habitats for wildlife. We hope they enjoy watching the matches...

DIALLING UP THE FUN - SAFELY

Winchester City Council looks after 25 play areas across the district and local children have seen some of their favourite spaces get much more exciting. A climbing wall, a zip wire, a fireman's pole and trampolines have been installed and they are already proving to be a hit with the city's youngest residents. Check them out for yourselves...

WHAT'S NEW?

Gordon Avenue play area

- Castle play unit
- Boat play structure
- Trampoline
- Swings
- Balance trail

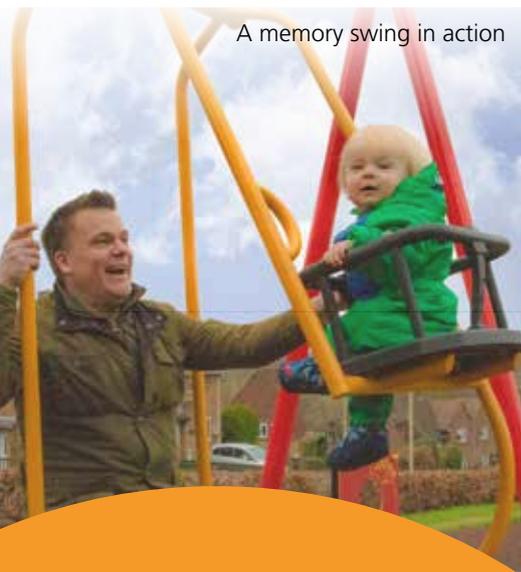
Winnall Manor Road play area

- Zip wire
- Trampoline
- Memory swing
- Castle and knight theme

Teg Down Mead play area

- Two slides
- A fireman's pole
- Climbing wall
- Monkey bars

A memory swing in action



COMMUNITY SPORT

And all the time we're out there in the community working face-to-face with you, our residents. Our Sports Development team focuses on providing sport sessions in the community – whether that's Tri-Golf Tournaments, Walking Netball or the Paralympic Personal Best event we run each summer – the accent is on ensuring that everyone can get involved.

Follow Active Winchester on Twitter and Facebook.

 [activewinchester](#)
 [@activewinch](#)

"Everyone deserves to live well – I'm privileged to be responsible for Community & Well-being services which make real impacts on local people's lives. It's not all about physical health, the impacts on your mental health are important to us too."



CLLR JACKIE PORTER
CABINET MEMBER FOR
BUILT ENVIRONMENT & WELL-BEING

RUN FOR YOUR LIFE

WINCHESTER HALF MARATHON

20 September

Winchester city centre
winchesterhalf.co.uk

parkrun WINCHESTER

Saturdays 9am to 10am

North Walls
parkrun.org.uk/winchester

parkrun WHITELEY

Saturdays 9am to 10am

Whiteley Meadowside
parkrun.org.uk/whiteley

WALKING NETBALL

Monday 1pm to 2pm

River Park Leisure Centre
winchester.gov.uk/sport/sport-sessions/walking-netball

WALKING FOOTBALL

10am to 11am

River Park Leisure Centre
winchester.gov.uk/sport/sport-sessions/walking-football

12 WEEKS TO LIVING WELL

Changing your lifestyle or adapting it when you're struggling with health problems can feel overwhelming. Our exercise referral scheme is a 12-week programme based at River Park Leisure Centre - your GP or health professional can refer you if they think you'll benefit from physical activity to improve your health and well-being.

It's all tailored to your personal needs and can include things like assisted circuits, swimming classes and health walks. You get three free consultations during your programme and the costs of attending specific sessions are subsidised while it lasts.

Keen? Please contact Jess Clark, Active Lifestyles Officer, on 01962 848 700 or email at activelifestyles@winchester.gov.uk to chat it through.



The winners joined by two-time Olympian GB Sprinter and Commonwealth Medallist Ashleigh Nelson.

SPORTING SUCCESS CELEBRATED IN STYLE

Sporting heroes in the district were celebrated at our special awards ceremony in February. The Sport and Physical Activity Alliance hold the awards to celebrate the achievements of local amateur sportspeople and celebrate the work of volunteers.

WINNERS

- Junior Sportsman
David Cutler
(Winchester Boxing Club)
- Junior Sportswoman
Kayla Van der Merwe
(Winchester City Penguins Swimming Club)
- Senior Sportsperson
Matilda Nicholls
(Sailing - Andrew Simpson Watersports Centre)
- Disability Sportsperson
Caitlin Hatfield
(Winchester City Penguins Swimming Club)
- Coach of the Year
Zoe Baker
(Winchester City Penguins Swimming Club)
- Volunteer of the Year
Ann Stanhope
(Winchester parkrun)
- Service to Sport
Chris Westbrook (Hursley Park Cricket Club) **and Roger Cooper** (Upham Football Club)
- Club of the Year
Winchester Rugby FC
- Team of the Year
Hursley Park Women's Cricket Club
- Changing Lives through Physical Activity
Verity Wright (RunVerity)
- Making a Difference
Kim Achurch
(Whiteley parkrun)
- School of the Year –
Otterbourne C of E Primary School



VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Ann Stanhope

Come rain or shine, Ann Stanhope gives up her Saturday mornings to support Winchester parkrun. Ann plays a key role in helping to organise the weekly running event which helps hundreds of people get active. Ann's tireless dedication to parkrun includes passing on her volunteering skills to Duke of Edinburgh participants. Ann, it's appreciated!

“Our district needs homes that meet the changing requirements of all our residents throughout their lives. Our Homes for All strategy provides options that will work, looking to make sure that no one is left behind.”

Dean Copse Cottages, Knowle



CLLR KELSIE LEARNEY
CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING
& ASSET MANAGEMENT

MORE OF THE HOMES

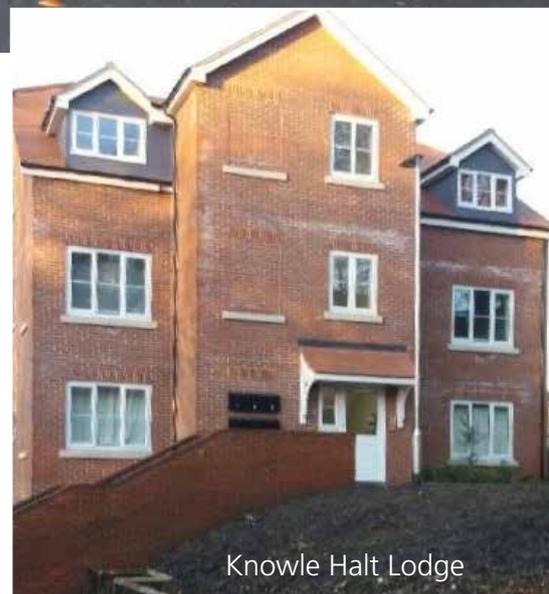
LESS OF THE CARBON

We have an ambitious target to build 1,000 new council homes by 2030. We'll ensure we build a range of size of house and provide different ways for you to rent it from us so everyone has a home to live in, and that it is done in a way that fits in making the district greener.

Recently 13 homes were built in Knowle including Knowle Halt Lodge. This is a block of six one-bedroom flats all of which benefit from various sustainable features.

Project Manager in the New Homes Delivery team, Deborah Sunley said,

“One of the best features of Knowle Halt Lodge is that it uses air source heat pumps instead of gas boilers and it also benefits from higher levels of insulation and high performance glazing. All of this combined helps to reduce emissions and energy use and means tenants will have cheaper energy bills.”



Knowle Halt Lodge

Take a look: Our Homes for All strategy is on our website – just click on the 'Housing' button in the services area on the home page.



SUPPORT WHERE IT COUNTS

Many things can lead to homelessness. And once someone has become homeless, it's often really hard for people to re-establish themselves in our community.

To help give support where it counts, 12 self-contained flats in Sussex Street have been renovated and specialised support service Two Saints is helping make sure the residents get the help they need to start living independently. This is part of a 'Housing First' approach which sees people offered accommodation as a first

step to overcoming the issues they are facing.

Regional director of Two Saints, James McDermott said,



"This new accommodation will make a real difference and provide the right support to people experiencing homelessness and it's the first step on their journey to finding more permanent accommodation."

Supported by both Winchester City Council and Hampshire County Council, the new centre marks the city council's commitment to end rough sleeping by 2023.

TURN UP THE HEAT WITH LEAP!

Could you be eligible for a heating upgrade in your home? A new scheme called LEAP provides free energy surveys to people on a low income or those suffering from fuel poverty. We're working with Agility Eco to provide funding for heating upgrades to eligible homes; making buildings warmer, cheaper to heat and reducing their carbon footprint.

So if you are struggling to afford to heat your home, are receiving Tax Credits, Housing Benefit, or have a long term illness or disability give LEAP a call to see if they can help.

Call: 0800 060 7567* (Freephone) to book your free home visit, or apply online: applyforleap.org.uk

*8:45am – 7:00pm Monday to Friday, and 9am-12pm on Saturdays.

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF... OUR HOUSING INCOME TEAM LEADER



Zadia Green works in the Housing department at Winchester City Council as a team leader for our Income Team - we asked her to tell us about her work...

Tell us about your job

Our team is responsible for collecting the rent from Winchester City Council tenants and issuing helpful reminders so they remember to pay their rent on time. Most of our tenants need very little prompting but if they experience financial difficulties we step forward to offer help and support. It's about avoiding having to go down a legal route – at worst this can lead to taking possession of someone's

home, and no one wants that to happen.

How did you become a housing officer?

I went to Cardiff University to do an MA in Archaeology as a mature student. I was really keen to return into employment after being a student and so started temping in the housing department in 2001; it was such a change - from studying ancient Greek houses to modern social housing!

I found the work so interesting and loved the team. I went on to become a Tenant Participation Officer, working on tenant newsletters and supporting tenant groups. Then my next job at the council was as a Housing Officer where I eventually honed in on specialising in rent arrears cases.

What may surprise people?

It's the fact that you do not just wear one hat. When people hear about what our team does, they often think we just chase debt like credit card companies - but we do so much more. It's all about listening and giving support. And it's not all about money either

– what lies behind someone not paying their rent is often a combination of factors. People can be struggling with their mental health, fighting personal battles to change their lifestyle and dealing with difficult family circumstances. We always treat people as individuals and try to direct them to the right support to help resolve their problems.

Most rewarding part of the job?

Easy - the most rewarding part is making a difference to someone's life. When you have worked hard with a tenant who has been struggling and they make the final payment clearing their rent arrears. This marks a real milestone from being in debt to being in financial control. Our customers are the reason we are here and it's really rewarding when at the end of the process they are in a better position. They often call to thank us for all our help which really lifts your day!

DID YOU KNOW?

 Just under half of Winchester residents have an NVQ Level 4 qualification, higher than the national average

80% of residents are in high skilled employment; professional, technical and skilled trades

 Ten primary schools, two secondary schools, one college and infant school in the Winchester district have been rated outstanding by Ofsted

 In 2019, Peter Symonds had 1,533 students progress to university, with 543 students accepting places at top 'Russell Group' universities.

 2 universities, 15,000 students

- University of Winchester
- University of Southampton's Winchester School of Art

 Sparsholt College – Ofsted rated 'good' with outstanding features

“Our district is known for its successful economy and high levels of employment – but we can't rest on our laurels. It's time to seek out new investment in our high streets and business centres – and low carbon related projects are at the heart of our future plans.”



CLLR ANNE WEIR
CABINET MEMBER FOR ECONOMY

REVITALISING THE HEART OF THE CITY

An open forum in September brought people up to date on plans to transform the area around the bus station. Main “must have” themes were discussed, echoing the vision set out in the central Winchester regeneration Strategic Planning Document (SPD). Local people let us know that they wanted the area to have:

- a mix of uses with links to creative industries;
- high quality public realm;
- trees;
- places to sit and green spaces;
- pedestrian and cycle friendly routes and to be car free

There were also lively discussions around parking, independent retail and plans to build social networks.



The feedback is already shaping the development of options for the site within the framework of the supplementary planning document. More public engagement is already taking place and detailed options will be published later this year.

WINCHESTER'S FIRST DESIGN FESTIVAL SET TO SHOWCASE THE CITY'S CREATIVITY

The city's first ever design festival will showcase the area's thriving creative industries in the Autumn half term. This new event in the city's calendar aims to attract talent and investment into the region, and inspire young people to pursue a career in the sector.

Winchester City Council has agreed a one-off grant of £20,000 to help kick-start the event, which will run from 23 October until 30 October 2020 across multiple sites in the city centre. Intrigued? Check out the Winchester Design Festival Facebook page for the latest developments.

 [winchesterdesignfestival](https://www.facebook.com/winchesterdesignfestival)



[festivalsinwinchester.co.uk](https://www.festivalsinwinchester.co.uk)



HISTORIC SPACE GETS TLC

Cutting through from the High Street to Market Lane you will start to see change as the first phase of work to improve St Maurice's Covert takes place.

New paving, benches and street furniture are going in now. New lighting, redecoration and a display of the removed gravestones will be coming next.

Undercover cycle stands will remain while those in the open are being re-provided elsewhere.

We listened to what local businesses and residents said the space needed and architects Scott Whitby Studio drew up the ideas in response.



BISHOP'S WALTHAM IN BUSINESS

Encouraging a wide range of employment opportunities across the district is a key priority and we're providing three new units in Bishop's Waltham for 'light industrial use'. The work at Bishop's Waltham depot fits in with our plans to develop workspaces in areas with sustainable transport links. Renewable heat technologies and rainwater collection at the depot will be installed to reduce the carbon. Construction is expected to be completed in late 2021.

Interested? Email: eadmin@winchester.gov.uk or call 01962 848222.

BUSINESS FRIENDLY

Your council's innovative work to grow the economy across the district has been recognised by the Federation of Small Business.



We took home a business friendly award for two events where local businesses set the agenda to identify practical ways to improve the city's profile.

Two ideas from these events are already having an impact:

- From March, free public wi-fi will be available in Winchester city centre providing residents and visitors with fast, efficient internet connectivity.
- A brand new festival celebrating our creative sector is planned – see article left.



RETAIL THERAPY

There is an abundance of independent shops and eateries in our district, offering everything from exceptional clothing to handmade food goods; gifts to home wares. Winchester and our market towns are a haven for quaint bookshops and fine art stores, there is always something unique to discover. We work with Winchester BID and others to promote this vibrant sector.

Take a break during a day of shopping and enjoy a local cup of coffee with a freshly baked cake in one of our cafés, or enjoy a seasonal menu in a cosy restaurant or bar – you'll be supporting local jobs and businesses to boot.



YOUR BIN COLLECTION JUST GOT GREENER!

You'll soon be seeing greener bin lorries and a new household service to collect small electrical equipment for recycling in the district thanks to our waste contractor Biffa.

A new vehicle fleet will replace older lorries with Euro6 compliant vehicles which emit lower levels of harmful exhaust pollutants.

Biffa has already stepped up the use of narrower vehicles to improve access to places that are hard to reach in the bigger lorries.

The adoption of new technology on board the lorries is also planned to provide real-time information about how collections are going. If there

is an issue, the software alerts the team at the depot HQ to issues and they can quickly respond. This will help the council's Customer Service team communicate any issues to residents who are contacting us with a query.



DID YOU KNOW?

Performance of the current service is **improving month-on-month**. The latest figures showed the number of missed bins reported was fewer than 0.1% of collections – half of what it was a year ago.

Since the **new glass collection** service was launched we've **collected 756 tonnes of glass** (to December 2019) across the district!

DOG BREEDERS BANNED

On 31 January this year two unlicensed dog breeders left Southampton Crown Court having been disqualified from breeding puppies for six years and fined over £615k under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002. Dave Griffiths, Winchester City Council's Senior Animal Welfare Officer spoke about the case,

"This is a high profile win in terms of making sure premises in the Winchester district are licensed, but our day-to-day job can be one of the most rewarding you can imagine. Returning stray dogs to their owners and inspecting licensed premises has a hugely positive impact on the quality of life for animals.

"Ours is a rewarding field to operate in, we see selfless dedication of the teams working in animal welfare charities, dog rescue societies, vets, kennels and of course the big hearted owners who are prepared to give a rescue dog that life transforming second chance."

Dave's team have recently been awarded two Gold RSPCA Awards: for both animal licensing and their work with stray dogs.

And it's that licensing work that's hit the headlines following a tip off to the council from someone who saw suspicious looking activity around puppy sales. Dave explains, "When we monitored social media posts selling litters of puppies it became clear that the people posting were breeders. We contacted them directly to warn them of the need for a licence but they continued to operate without one so we continued gathering evidence. Although posts appeared to be from different people, the contact details kept pointing to the same individuals. In all, we discovered 193 litters were advertised for sale over a five year period – so the operation was on a serious scale."

Summing up at Southampton Crown Court on 31 January, Judge Henry addressed the court, "The illegal operation had been carried out for some time. The defendants

had been warned of the need for a licence and said they were giving up breeding but kept going for a number of years. They kept no records of the lucrative business, and they used other people's names without permission to sell the puppies."

Dave reflects on the case, "These cases take a huge amount of time and resources and when you do get a result like

this it makes it worthwhile. We hope this will send a message to others that we will not accept illegal dog breeding in the district."



Dave Griffiths and client

To report cases of animal cruelty to the RSPCA call 0300 1234 999. While the council's Animal Welfare team does not directly investigate animal cruelty complaints, we are happy to discuss issues and point you in the right direction. Contact them on 01962 848097 or email us at health@winchester.gov.uk



MAYOR OF WINCHESTER

Cllr Eleanor Bell became the 820th Mayor of Winchester in May 2019. To date, the Mayor has attended over 200 engagements including 15 Christmas services! Each year, the Mayor chooses a number of charities to promote. Cllr Bell is supporting The Firefighters' Charity, Winchester First Responders, The Winchester Hospice and the Children's Society.



Handing out awards at Paralympic Personal Bests 2019 event

The Mayor has been reflecting on her busy time in office...

“

It is an immense privilege to represent our district. This enables me to meet so many people who are doing amazing work which often goes unrecognised. I'm honoured to be able to help highlight these activities as well as raise money for excellent causes.

”



At the opening of Bella Crafts



Lending support to the White Ribbon campaign

WINCHESTER GUIDED TOURS 2020



Walking tours of Winchester for locals and visitors alike.

Upper and lower city tours: a great introduction to Winchester and its history: daily April-Oct.
Special Interest tours: Winchester's heritage in depth.

Even as a Winchester local I learned loads! (Review June 19)

BOOKING INFORMATION:
Tickets & starting point:
Visitor Information Centre
The Guildhall
The Broadway
Winchester SO23 9GH
Tel. 01962 840500
E: tourism@winchester.gov.uk

All guides are fully qualified.
www.winchestertouristguides.com

Chawton House

New for 2020...



Exhibition: *Man Up!*

Discover stories of eighteenth-century women who stepped into a man's world

New permanent galleries:
Early Women Writers

Explore new galleries dedicated to key figures from Chawton House's unique collection of women writers.



Open from March to December
Included with general admission
Chawton House, Chawton, Hampshire, GU34 1SJ

www.chawtonhouse.org

[Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/ChawtonHouse) [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/ChawtonHouse) @ChawtonHouse

COUNCIL BUDGET 2020/21

We have been doing things a bit differently lately. This year for the first time, we asked you to try to balance our budget. About 100 of you tried our budget simulator.

We then took the 100 responses you gave us and asked you some specific questions about the difficult choices we have to make given the backdrop of cuts in central governments grants to all local authorities. Our online consultation saw double the number of responses compared to previous years. We received over 3,000 comments.

Cllr Neil Cutler explains,

“Our Council Plan gave a clear commitment to improve service quality whilst balancing the budget and addressing the Climate Emergency. I’m really pleased to be bringing forward proposals that support all of these aims, for example £750,000 for climate change and a further £247,000 to survey our 30,000 trees in the district. Trees are a vital part of our ecosystem, but need systematic care and maintenance.”

Our proposal to introduce charges on a Sunday in the most central car parks was supported during the consultation so we will introduce this in

the city’s Air Quality Management Area whilst maintaining free provision in all other car parks and introducing Sunday Park & Ride services.

We will improve the garden waste collection service introducing wheeled bins with more garden waste taken at each collection. Only people that use this service will pay for it, as we’ll introduce an annual charge like many other councils.

Despite our best efforts, due to the continuing reduction in government grant, we propose a Council Tax increase of 3% but this budget demonstrates our clear commitment to managing the council on a sound financial basis.”



Cllr Neil Cutler and
Richard Botham,
Chief Finance Officer

“Our focus is about prioritising what counts. We’re inviting local people to have their say about what matters to them, and we’re focussed on making sure that our district can meet the challenges it faces in the next few years and the long term future.”



CLLR NEIL CUTLER
CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE & RISK

COMMUNITY ACTION? GRANTED!

CROWDFUND WINCHESTER

We are working with online platform Crowdfunder to help local people and organisations raise investment for great ideas. Using an innovative match-funding approach, projects must pitch online to attract extra funding of up to £2,000. Bidders must be able to secure backing for 25 per cent of the required target. The council has a £120,000 fund to support this exciting new initiative.

Who can apply?

Social enterprises, local businesses or not-for-profit organisations are amongst the groups that can apply. Projects need to support the council’s priority areas. For more information, including the eligibility criteria visit our Crowdfund Winchester - crowdfunder.co.uk/programmes/projects-that-matter-winchester



COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE FUND - BIDS WELCOME

Organisations from across the Winchester district are seeing real benefits from £600k that’s been allocated for good causes from our Community Infrastructure Levy fund. Projects receiving a boost include: Abbotts Barton and Hyde Scout Group for a new Scout & Community Hall and Littleton & Harestock Parish Council to help fund a local Parkour sports facility.

Can my organisation apply?

Bids can now be made for between £10,000 and £200,000 to support physical improvements to local areas such as playgrounds, green spaces, and sports facilities. Organisations such as parish councils and community groups can apply for the entire cost of a scheme, or for part-funding. The deadline for applications is 31 March 2020. Visit: winchester.gov.uk/apply-cil



WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD?

LOCAL PLAN

Making sure that we meet the whole district's needs for housing, jobs and local services whilst protecting our environment is one of the council's biggest responsibilities. Our Local Plan is the document that sets out the policies we will use to make planning decisions in the future. Our current plan is being reviewed to make sure it is still right for the district and meets our long term needs up to 2036.

Every community will have a say on the draft policies. Keep an eye on our website and social media pages or sign up for council updates here:

winchester.gov.uk/local-plan-newsletter

VISION FOR WINCHESTER

Winchester, like all similar cities, faces a number of challenges so it has to adapt to change. The city council's Town Forum is commissioning a new 'Vision for Winchester' that looks ahead to 2030. A consultation will start in the spring and we will invite you to let us know what aspects of local life you value and what you think could improve.

HAVING YOUR SAY IS EASIER THAN EVER

We are making it easier than ever for you to have your say about what we do. Here are some of the ways you can let us know what you think:

Decision Days

These new public meetings see the Cabinet Member with responsibility for a particular area of council business discuss the issues in public. Two recent Decision Days saw the green light for new parking controls in Highcliffe and the Garrison Ground in Winchester to become a 'Field in Trust' (see page 8).

Open Forums

Currently used to create two-way dialogue around major regeneration projects, these open meetings are used to update people on progress, explain the background around elements of development and clarify the timeframes that we are working to.

Complaints

Of course we want to do a good job for our customers, but sometimes things can go wrong. We've taken a good look at our complaints procedure and are currently streamlining the process so it's easier for you to tell us



when we have fallen short of your expectations. We now have a single email address that you can use from today: complaints@winchester.gov.uk

Online

One of the best ways to keep in touch about what's going on is to check out the website – winchester.gov.uk or follow us on Facebook and Twitter by searching for @WinchesterCity

You'll also find information about who your local councillor is so you can contact them direct.

E-news and consultations

You've let us know that you like to receive these paper newsletters but we would like to get as many people as possible to sign up for our E-news - it's part of our commitment to reducing our carbon footprint. To receive regular updates you can register by emailing: resident@winchester.gov.uk

LISTEN UP!

Not everyone has the time to attend council committee meetings so we've started to live stream audio broadcast full council and committee meetings on our website. We also offer a catch up service with recordings stored online after each meeting. winchester.gov.uk/councillors-committees

"Our goal is that councillors and council officers look outwards – listening, learning and continuously finding ways to do a better job for local people. We want to build on the progress we've made to find even more ways for people to have a stronger voice in council decision-making, making it even easier to get involved and be heard."

CLLR MARTIN TOD

CABINET MEMBER FOR SERVICE QUALITY & TRANSFORMATION



WHAT'S ON...

VISIT WINCHESTER

5 MARCH

MADAM BUTTERFLY

OperaUpClose return following their sold out performances of La Bohème, with a new English version of Puccini's Madam Butterfly.

theatreroyalwinchester.co.uk

7 MARCH

WINCHESTER COMEDY GALA

An evening of comedy featuring Hal Cruttenden, Mike Cox, James Dowdeswell and James Gill.

winchestercomedyfestival.co.uk

7 - 22 MARCH

DIY SCIENCE

Discover awesome hands-on science that you can do at home.

winchestersciencecentre.org

21 MARCH

WINCON

WinCon is Winchester's very own comic, nerd and pop-culture convention.

hants.gov.uk/wdc



4 APRIL - 3 SEPTEMBER

SUPERSIZED BRICK ADVENTURE

An astonishing larger than life brick adventure will feature up to 40 models of curious real-life creatures.

marwell.org.uk

20 - 24 APRIL

WINCHESTER FASHION WEEK

A week-long celebration of fashion and style in the stunning city of Winchester!

winchesterfashionweek.co.uk

20 - 24 APRIL

HAMPSHIRE PRIDE

A time for all of Hampshire to join together and celebrate the LGBT+ community.

hampshirepride.org

30 APRIL - 3 MAY

WINCHESTER CHAMBER MUSIC FESTIVAL

Keep an eye on winchesterchambermusic.com

winchesterchambermusic.com

16 MAY

WINCHESTER MAYFEST

Mayfest is a celebration of music, dance, and song, in venues across the city.

winchester-mayfest.org.uk



17 MAY

WATERCRESS FESTIVAL

Over 80 stalls showcase the very best local food and drink.

watercressfestival.org

5 - 19 JUNE

THE GRANGE FESTIVAL

Experience world-class opera in a spectacular English country house setting.

thegrangefestival.co.uk

6 JUNE

ALRESFORD MUSIC FESTIVAL

Experience world-class opera in a spectacular English country house setting.

thegrangefestival.co.uk

6 JUNE

WINCHESTER PROSECCO FESTIVAL

The UK's Biggest Festival For Prosecco Lovers.

proseccofestival.co.uk

8 - 14 JUNE

WINCHESTER COCKTAIL WEEK

A celebration of the art of mixology.

winchestercocktailweek.co.uk



14 JUNE

WINCHESTER CRITERIUM & CYCLEFEST

An celebration of cycling for all the family, includes the adrenaline-fuelled race through the city streets.

winchestercriterium.org

28 JUNE

STRICTLY COME DANCING'S NIEL JONES

Family-friendly festival of a Street Performance and Outdoor Arts.

theatreroyalwinchester.co.uk

3 - 5 JULY

HAT FAIR

Family-friendly festival of a Street Performance and Outdoor Arts.

hatfair.co.uk



For more information visit:
visitwinchester.co.uk

Marwell Zoo



WORLD EXCLUSIVE
4 APRIL - 2 SEPT

SUPERSIZED!

AN ASTONISHING LARGER THAN LIFE BRICK ADVENTURE

Book online at
marwell.org.uk

Marwell Zoo is owned & operated by
Marwell Wildlife, reg. charity no. 275433.



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ALL ABOARD!
FOR A SPECIAL CELEBRATION
WITH THOMAS & FRIENDS™

10TH APRIL - 19TH APRIL
8TH AUGUST - 16TH AUGUST
MID HANTS RAILWAY 'WATERCRESS LINE'
ROPLEY, HAMPSHIRE, SO24 0BL

FOR TICKETS
Visit: dayoutwiththomas.co.uk



#DAYOUTWITHTHOMAS

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SPEND A DAY IN ALRESFORD

With its pastel painted Georgian houses, independent shops, and a variety of pubs and award-winning tea rooms, it's little wonder that Alresford is one of the top destinations in the Winchester district.

History

Henri de Blois, brother of King Stephen and Bishop of Winchester, is credited with the idea of building the Great Weir or dam and designed the T-shaped town that would soon become New Alresford in the 12th/13th century. By the 14th century it had developed into a prosperous market town but much of the medieval town was destroyed in a fire in 1689-90. The town was mostly rebuilt in the 18th century with many of the Georgian buildings remaining today.

Eating out

Alresford boasts a range of eateries to tempt any palate. If cosy country pubs are what you're after then look no further than the four character-filled establishments that grace the centre.

Shopping

From children's toys to a treasure trove of collector's items, exploring Alresford's independent shops is a unique experience.

Entertainment and events

Alresford is famous for the Mid Hants Railway more commonly known as the Watercress Line that operates between the town and Alton. The railway operates regular services with a variety of steam trains running on the line. Don't miss the annual Watercress Festival – this year's event takes place on 17 May.

Download a free pocket guide from visitwinchester.co.uk



FOOTBALL FUN IN THE EASTER HOLIDAYS

We're helping kids get active this Easter with free football coaching sessions at locations across the district, and there's even final a tournament at the end of the project.

Sessions will be held in:

Weeke; Stanmore; Kings Worthy; Highcliffe & Winnall; Bishop's Waltham; Denmead; Wickham; Whiteley; Colden Common; Compton; Micheldever; Alresford.

Follow Active Winchester on Twitter and Facebook for updates and more information.

[activewinchester](https://www.facebook.com/activewinchester)
[@activewinch](https://twitter.com/activewinch)

WIN A DAY OUT WITH THOMAS ON THE WATERCRESS LINE!

This year the Watercress Line is celebrating the 75th anniversary of Thomas the Tank Engine with a programme of magical events.

You can win a fantastic family pass (two adults and two children) for a Day Out with Thomas between 10 - 19 April 2020. Experience the thrill of a ride on a real steam engine, meet Thomas and his friends, shake hands with The Fat Controller and be entertained by Rusty & Dusty.

To enter the competition, please answer the following questions and send your entry along with your contact details to: Newsletter Competition, Corporate communications, Winchester City Council, Colebrook Street, Winchester, SO23 9LJ

- 1) **How old is Thomas the Tank Engine this year?**
 - a) 65
 - b) 70
 - c) 75
- 2) **Who is Thomas the Tank Engine's friend?**
 - a) The Slim Controller
 - b) The Short Controller
 - c) The Fat Controller

CLOSING DATE: 31 March 2020

Full terms and conditions are available at: winchester.gov.uk/competition



On May Day bank holiday a three-day weekend of national commemoration will mark the 75th anniversary of VE Day. We're encouraging our district communities to honour the extraordinary sacrifices made by people at this time, and celebrate in memory of the euphoria that came when peace was proclaimed.

To find out how to get involved visit: veday75.org

Look out for more information on local commemorations in the coming months.

WINCHESTER RESIDENTS' WEEK

18-26 APRIL

Explore what's on your doorstep with exclusive offers for residents.



visitwinchester.co.uk/residentsweek



01962 840 500
visitwinchester.co.uk

[Twitter](#) King Alf | [Facebook](#) KingAlfWinchester | [Instagram](#) KingAlfWinchester #lovewinchester

BIKES ARE BACK!

Winchester Criterium & Cyclefest, one of the south's biggest cycling events, is back and bigger and better than ever before with more races and fun opportunities for anyone to get into cycling.

The fast paced Criterium race is the best of its kind in the region. Entries are now open for those wishing to race with categories ranging from juniors to elite. Sign up early by visiting the website today.

And it's not just for racers - The Broadway and Abbey Garden are hosting Cyclefest - a family centred hub activities for everyone. Hundreds of people are expected to take to the streets in a family cycle ride before the Criterium races begin.

winchestercriterium.org



CRITERIUM & CYCLEFEST 2020
INCORPORATING THE SOUTH REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

14 JUNE 2020



| [f WinchCrit](#) | [t WinchCrit](#) | winchestercriterium.org | info@winchestercriterium.org



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winchester.gov.uk
resident@winchester.gov.uk
01962 840 222

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SOUTH DOWNS NATIONAL PARK