

ABOUT WINCHESTER

winchester.gov.uk

SPRING 2021

SHAPING UP FOR A BIG SPRING SPLASH



As the final phases of construction kick in, Winchester Sport & Leisure Park is beginning to look like the facility that we've been looking forward to using.

READ MORE ON
PAGE 3...



IN THIS EDITION...



MAY 6 ELECTION
Don't forget to register to vote (page 18)



COUNCIL PLAN - REFRESHED
How COVID-19 has re-shaped our plans (page 6)



YOUR FUTURE DISTRICT
Local Plan – have your say - (page 14)

A MESSAGE FROM ...

LUCILLE THOMPSON LEADER OF WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL

A year ago we were just starting to grasp that the spread of COVID-19 had the potential to cause huge disruption globally. And today, despite our sacrifices, many of us have sadly felt the worst of the pandemic's impact on a personal level. So if you have lost a loved one, felt the pain of protracted isolation, suffered as a result of contracting the virus, or struggled due to financial hardship caused by the impact of the restrictions put in place to contain its spread, then you have my heartfelt sympathy.

Spring is a time for looking ahead and, with the roadmap to a more familiar way of life defined, we're all hoping that these are the last months of restrictions. With so much changed in the last year, we know that our district's future will be shaped by the events we have all lived through. Making positives

out of negatives is, however, a national trait and, as you will read in the pages of this newsletter, we really have much to celebrate despite the year of adversity behind us and have refreshed our plan. With our refreshed Council Plan we will confidently meet the challenges of recovery ahead.

As Leader of your council I have seen the sacrifices everyone has made. I have also seen how our community has risen to meet the challenges of this pandemic. I am, and will always be, deeply moved by the spirit of togetherness that I have seen over the last year both in our communities and within the council. I have no doubt that together we will recover and rebuild and I am grateful to you all for all you have done to follow guidance and protect each other.

We have a wonderful district and your selfless acts mean that we can all soon begin to enjoy the benefits of living here once more.



Lucille Thompson

LAURA TAYLOR CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL

At the heart of effective public service lies the ability to change and respond. Your council has recognised this – with adaptability as one of our core values that you can see in our Council Plan.

Over the last year, despite the impact of the pandemic, we continued to build a new leisure centre – more acutely aware than ever before of the importance of health and wellbeing across all of our communities. We worked with Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunal Service to set up a

Nightingale Court so the backlog in judicial processes could be cleared, and we supported colleagues in other agencies and authorities to ensure that the A31 kept flowing when new regulations came into force following our departure from the EU.

Our staff were at work serving you every day – refuse and recycling continued; business grants paid; benefits enquiries processed; and the homeless supported off the streets into COVID-19 Secure accommodation.

As Chief Executive I have never been prouder of our teams, and the thanks that we see coming from our customers each week go a long way to reassure me that you have continued to get the service that you should expect – and that's what counts. As we all look forward to easier times, know your council is here for you.



Laura Taylor



LOOKING FORWARD TO WINCHESTER SPORT & LEISURE PARK



Built by your council, our state-of-the-art leisure centre will host spectacular pools, a splash pad for little ones, and much more...

50M COMPETITION POOL

- Eight lanes for regional swimming events
- Lane swimming, lessons and training

20M TEACHING POOL

- 'Warm-up' and 'cool-down' pool for learners and leisure swimming

SPLASH PAD

- Family friendly fun water play area for toddlers and parents

HYDROTHERAPY POOL

- Warm water treatments to offer pain relief for patients with long-term conditions

WIDE RANGE OF OTHER LEISURE FACILITIES INCLUDING

- Multi-purpose sports hall
- Four glass-backed squash courts
- Fitness suite with 200 stations
- Four treatment rooms
- Four physiotherapy rooms
- Fun climbing walls
- Spin studio
- Café with outdoor terrace



ACCESSIBLE TO ALL...

We pledged that this facility could be enjoyed by everyone – families with small children, teenagers, people dropping in before and after work, local clubs, elite athletes and, importantly, those with disabilities or who would benefit from the range of therapeutic facilities on offer. Aspects of the centre that are designed to ensure everyone is able to benefit from the facilities include:

- Door openings designed for sports wheelchairs
- Single level fitness and conditioning suite
- Independent access point to the hydrotherapy and physiotherapy suite
- Natural daylight with supporting artificial light throughout

- Contrasting shades and colours to support spatial navigations plus acoustic treatment of surfaces
- Acoustic screening in the open sports hall and background noise elimination in the pool area
- Self-control lift into the water and mobile floors for the 'warm up and cool down' pool
- Poolside platform lifts will allow the use of fully reclined flatbed trollies and wheelchairs
- Audible and visual Swiss Timing technology for competitions
- Two-metre wide changing room route
- Accessible toilets, showers and adjustable basins

EXCITED? See more [here](#).



"We've delivered on our promises to make sure that our new sport and leisure park will provide the very best experience that residents, athletes and trainers should expect from a state-of-the-art centre with first-class services."

Providing safe and secure access and usage of the centre is at the heart of everything we're doing - regardless of ability - and it's an integral part of the plan that we provide a facility for the whole district that treats everyone with the dignity and support they deserve."

CLLR MALCOLM PRINCE
CABINET MEMBER FOR SPORT, LEISURE AND COMMUNITIES



COVID-19

SIGNAGE, SANITISER AND SWITCHING ONLINE...

- We've been supporting high street shoppers to follow the all important 'Hands; Face; Space' guidance with social distancing signage and sanitising stations.
- Remember - you no longer need face-to-face contact to carry out those everyday transactions with our teams but there are online forms for everything you may need to do on the winchester.gov.uk website.
- We've also made parking safer – the RingGo payment system means you can cover the cost of parking on your mobile phone whilst sat in your car – no cash or button pressing needed – and at no extra cost!

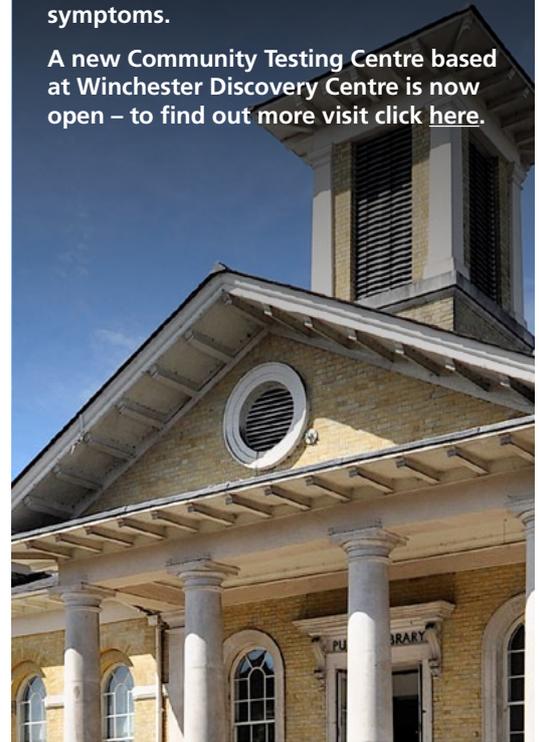


COVID-19 COMMUNITY TESTING

ARE YOU A FRONTLINE WORKER?

If you are a critical frontline worker, you can't work from home, and have contact with other people as part of your job, you can now get a rapid test for COVID-19 if you don't have any symptoms.

A new Community Testing Centre based at Winchester Discovery Centre is now open – to find out more visit [click here](#).



COVID-19: HELP IS AT HAND

If you are unable to get help from family or friends, just call the COVID-19 phone line between 9am to 5pm, seven days a week. This helpline is for all our residents – maybe you need urgent assistance with essential food or household supplies, collection of medication, or are struggling with loneliness – if so, please do pick up the phone and call.



CALL
0333 370 4000

YOUR COUNCIL IS (STILL) HERE FOR YOU...

You've been doing your bit, only leaving the house for essential trips and isolating when required to. Add to that maybe home-schooling the kids, adapting the dining table into an office space, or perhaps keeping your business running... a testing time indeed. In this most difficult of times we're making sure that we keep things running. We've been busy on the frontline of the national response:

- Manning your Local Response Centre to help local people with anything they need to stay at home safely call (0333 370 4000)
- Supporting the government's efforts to Test & Trace
- Supporting government drives to create testing centres – including the Worthy Lane Rapid Testing Centre and the new Community Testing Centre at Winchester Discovery Centre
- Visiting essential retailers of all sizes - from supermarkets to corner stores - to ensure COVID-19 secure measures are in place
- Supporting taxi drivers to make it safer to get food, go to work, or to get medical help by cab
- Supporting our street homeless into warm, safe overnight accommodation
- Distributing over £80,000 in grants to support community projects such as food banks that help local people
- Continuing the roll out of Business Rates Relief and business grants and helping businesses get online to offer a vital boost in sales during national restrictions
- Supporting safe shopping with our COVID-19 marshals & ambassadors while continuing to maintain hand sanitising stations and the cleaning of public toilets in our centres
- Rolling out RingGo pay-by-phone parking – no more handling cash or touching keypads needed...

And, as we continue to do our bit, you continue to do yours - we're seeing more people observing the social distancing prompts and donning masks – thank you!

COVID-19 AMBASSADORS & MARSHALS

out and about in the district's centres in shops, markets and supermarkets



961 vulnerable residents helped by our LOCAL RESPONSE CENTRE

120 Mayor of Winchester LOCAL HERO AWARDS

sent to community helpers



Direct support given to 1,300 businesses



53 placements of EMERGENCY ACCOMMODATION for homeless individuals

Support for the TAXI TRADE with advice on safe working practice during Covid



Providing support to the EVENT SECTOR in response to changing lockdown restrictions



Over 6 MILLION bins collected



COVID-19

YOUR COUNCIL HERE FOR YOU

£591,000 in Council Tax Hardship Fund distributed



Digital Islands ONLINE SUPPORT SERVICE to aid business recovery launched

2,432 Reassurance calls to elderly housing tenants



262 prescriptions hand-delivered



£36.9m and counting... distributed via business grants



32 editions of our weekly e-mailer to 15,634 residents



£28.2m in BUSINESS RATES Relief



Keeping PARK & RIDE safe and all-new PAY-BY-MOBILE parking



Guidance letters and LICENSING VISITS to support the tightening of measures in over 200 SUPERMARKETS AND RETAIL



246 SPOT CHECKS of businesses undertaken with HSE



408 visits to elderly housing tenants



COUNCIL PLAN UPDATE

COVID-19 has had a significant impact on the finances of local authorities across the country and we have had to take stock and fine tune the activities that support our priorities going forward. Our Council Plan has been refreshed – See [here](#)...



LEAVING THE EU

Leaving the EU has led to changes in the law - especially around exporting and licensing. If you're looking to clarify how this affects a business you run in our district, you can visit the business pages of our website to use online assessment tools to get a personalised list of actions for your business click [here](#).

IT'S CENSUS YEAR!

Heads up that you'll be asked to take part in the nationwide census this month.

The census is a once-in-a-decade survey that gives us the most accurate picture of households across England and Wales. It's been carried out every 10 years since 1801 - with the exception of 1941.

Look out for your letter – it has an online code to use so you can fill out your individual census questionnaire. By doing this you're helping to shape the district community for the next ten years as the results help us to plan and fund public services in our area. And of course - all information you give is confidential.

Find out – more at www.census.gov.uk and see www.censusjobs.co.uk for temporary jobs that are available!



THE NIGHTINGALE COURT

Winchester's Guildhall was originally built with courts, jails and a police station. Although these have long left, the civic building is currently home to Her Majesty's Court and Tribunal Service as they work to clear the backlog of legal cases that have built up during the pandemic. Since the end of October 2020 over 300 cases have been heard, the work continues each week....

FLY-TIPPING

Help us to tackle fly-tipping – if you find any rubbish, first of all see if you can spot a sticker...

We've introduced these to let you know when a fly tip has been reported for removal and to put off potential fly-tippers too. If you see a sticker, good news -the removals team are aware and will be on their way as soon as possible.

No sticker? Please report fly tip at on our website, on the Your Winchester App or by phoning 0300 300 0013.

In the past nine months, we have taken action against 13 offenders. This is in addition to issuing five Fixed Penalty Notices which incur a hefty fine.



A MATTER OF MONEY



A PANDEMIC IN POUNDS

As anyone who watches the news will know, the impact of COVID-19 has reached every household, business and public sector organisation across the country.

Councils have to balance their budgets based on the money they get in from income generating services like Council Tax, business rates and chargeable transactions and the budget required to spend on services and district wide projects. With people not venturing out of their homes for long periods our revenue has fallen dramatically too.

We have agreed a balanced budget following public consultation which is focused on maintaining services and continuing to deliver on key priorities over the coming months.

A government grant of £1.54m helped the council meet the cost of responding to COVID-19 last year.

COVID-19 COSTS

For 2021/2022, we're receiving a further £500,000 of central government grant to support our response to COVID-19. We'll:

- Use half of this to fund the immediate response work to support our communities (see page 5) in 2021
- The other half will be stored in the 'transitional reserve' so we can ensure we have funds available for additional support if needed.



"In a uniquely difficult year, with unforeseen additional costs and a dramatic fall in income, balancing the budget has been very challenging. I'm really proud that we have done this whilst maintaining investment in our key priorities, continuing to deliver important public services at the same time as responding to the pandemic. We will ensure the council's financial resilience in what will continue to be very difficult circumstances."

CLLR NEIL CUTLER OBE
DEPUTY LEADER AND
CABINET MEMBER FOR
FINANCE AND RISK



BUSINESS RECOVERY



HEROES IN HI-VIS

Your council has a range of teams out and about helping our community. Our COVID-19 marshals, ambassadors, environmental health teams and licensing teams are visiting district centres across the district. Working with BID Rangers and business owners, we're all aiming for the same thing – the highest levels of COVID-19 Security for lower infection rates and peace of mind for shoppers during those essential trips. Help us by following the guidance too. We're all in this together...



BUSINESS GRANTS

With £36.9m in grants and £28.2m in Business Rates Relief sent out to businesses across the district since the end of March, we hope our economy will be well placed for recovery as infection rates ease. More than 1,300 business owners have contacted the council's advice service over the last year for one-to-one help. And if you work locally and are looking for the latest information for your sector, you can sign up to our 'Back to Business' news emails by emailing ecodev@winchester.gov.uk - and do check out the business pages on the COVID-19 section of the city council website, they're being constantly updated.



TWO NEW FOODIE HOTSPOTS

Winchester city centre has long been known for its variety of high quality restaurants and we're looking forward to two brand new enterprises set to appear on the scene very soon....

SHOAL

Shoal - aptly named for the house speciality, fish & chips – is set to open on the ground floor of the Guildhall in April.

Owner Lenny Carr-Roberts, the chef-owner of two popular local pubs in Twyford and Crawley, says, "It's been a dream of mine to open a traditional British fish & chip restaurant for years where we can serve amazing fish, freshly baked pies, fresh-from-the-roisserie chickens and our homemade gelato! We even have a vegan 'fish & chips'! We hope that the whole city will be proud of this family restaurant and takeaway that's in such a fabulous location."



www.shoal.uk.net

INN THE PARK

One of Hampshire's most historic buildings, Abbey Mill, has been given a new lease of life following the departure of River Cottage Canteen in early 2020. The beautiful listed building will be unveiled as a multi-layered space called Inn the Park.

"We are so excited to be the new custodians of this incredibly historic site. We've seen our kids grow up here on this park, and have spent many a summer picnicking in these lovely gardens. It's our intention to bring a bit of joy to the park and get Abbey Mill back to the heart of the community. We want to have fun and breathe new life into this famous spot, offering a thriving creative hub for food, drink, art and events 'Inn the Park' ", says Mark Dodd, known to many locals as the joint owner of The Chesil Rectory with his wife Eleanor.



www.inthepark.co.uk

HELPING OUR DISTRICT'S HIGH STREETS

We've been supporting business during the pandemic to help them keep going during the periods of restrictions.

In addition to the Business Rates Relief and grants, we've been speaking to over a thousand business owners about what they need, and getting help to move their business online has been top of their list.

Businesses from Alresford, Bishop's Waltham, Denmead, Whiteley, Wickham and Winchester can now access advice from a team of digital and COVID-19 business specialists at Digital Islands until the end of March 2021 – their website (a treasure trove of information) will be available until the end of the year.

If you own a local business, all you need to do is register to access this help, which you can do 24-hours a day. On offer are business-focused webinars, workshops and one-to-one training.

Don't miss out on this benefit – Click [here](#) to find out more and register.



LOVE LOCAL - SUPPORTING OUR LOCAL BUSINESSES

We've teamed up with Hampshire Chronicle and Winchester BID to boost local businesses via the Love Local Business campaign. If you run a business, then you simply sign up to take part - the Hampshire Chronicle will promote your business for FREE and you have a chance to win a professional eCommerce website and four months of free advertising support for your business!

www.hampshirechronicle.co.uk/lovelocal



MILLENNIUM EGG HONOUR FOR THE LATE KEN MACARTNEY

Winchester City Council Chief Executive Laura Taylor awarded the prestigious Millennium Egg to the family of Ken Macartney in a poignant video ceremony in December. Known to many for Pavilion on The Square, Ken's passion for Winchester and his many achievements over the time he served the city's economy on the board of Winchester BID made him a worthy recipient of this, the highest accolade within the range of Winchester Business Awards. He is much missed locally.

The city council also sponsored the Winchester Business Award Digital Innovation category and this year saw Ridge & Partners LLP scoop the prize.



"It's been really rewarding to receive so much positive feedback from the thousands of businesses we've been in contact with over the last year – whether they've been receiving one-to-one support, accessing grant funding or Business Rates Relief, or because they've found the up-to-date information in our business bulletins invaluable. Making sure our residents know where they can still shop and what's still open and offering support for businesses who can't open their doors to get online, has offered businesses a real lifeline. As the district re-opens, we'll be encouraging local people to 'rediscover what's on their doorstep' and focusing our efforts on helping the district thrive again."

CLLR PAULA FERGUSON
CABINET MEMBER FOR LOCAL ECONOMY



CLIMATE CHANGE

ROUTES TO CARBON NEUTRALITY

We held our first ever virtual sustainability conference - Routes to Carbon Neutrality – in October 2020.

Speakers from Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust, University of Southampton, Sustrans and Marwell Zoo helped us cover a wide range of issues including: climate emergency declarations; threats to sustainable energy transition; decarbonisation of buildings; transport and gas; electricity grids; and sustainability in local businesses.

Over 250 people dialled in, an average of 68 people attended each session. Were you there? We can't wait to hold our second conference in October 2021 so please look out for your invitation to join us again!

This work will continue over the coming months and if you're keen to be involved email resident@winchester.gov.uk and we'll get you signed up for updates.



A FUTURE PORTRAIT OF WINCHESTER 2025

As part of our target to become carbon neutral by 2030, at the end of last year we teamed up with the University of Winchester, Solent University, and Wessex Green Hub to hold two think tank events. Building a vision for Winchester that focused on responding creatively to the climate emergency and developing 'The Future Portrait of Winchester 2025' was the order of both days.

We asked people to think about what the Winchester district might look like in 2030, and also what success might look like in 2025 when we will be halfway to our district-wide goal of carbon neutrality.

We're busy turning suggestions into action - the policy suggestions from the workshops will be ready for council members to consider at the next Housing and Environment Committee in the summer.

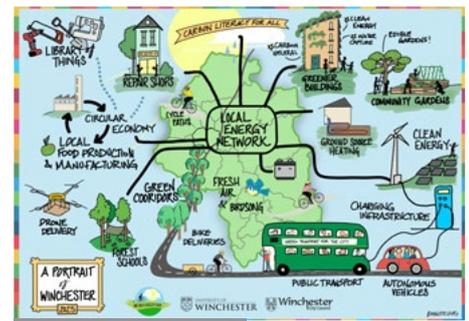


Illustration by Emma Paxton

CARBON NEUTRALITY ACTION PLAN IN NUMBERS

PURCHASED GREEN ELECTRICITY CUTTING COUNCIL'S CO₂ EMISSIONS BY **19%**



OVER **200 TONNES** LESS CARBON EMITTED FROM COUNCIL BUILDINGS AS A RESULT OF INCREASED HOMEWORKING



849 M² SOLAR PANELS BEING INSTALLED AT WINCHESTER SPORT & LEISURE CENTRE



986 TREES PLANTED



Tackling the **CLIMATE EMERGENCY**

£12.5M TO CUT CO₂ IN COUNCIL HOUSING



17 WILDFLOWER AREAS CREATED



£5m SECURED FOR NEW PARK & RIDE AT BAR END PROVIDING **287** ADDITIONAL CAR PARKING SPACES



34 ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING POINTS



A CARBON NEUTRAL COUNCIL **2024**



12% REDUCTION IN LIKE-FOR-LIKE COUNCIL CARBON FOOTPRINT LAST YEAR



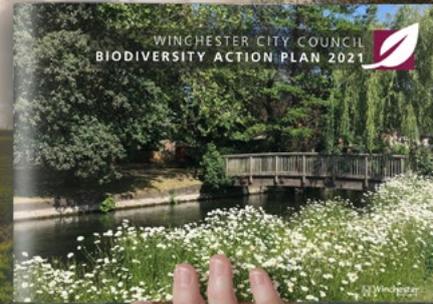
A CARBON NEUTRAL DISTRICT **2030**



BIGGING UP BIODIVERSITY

We're excited to get our new Biodiversity Action Plan underway to protect the district's habitats and species. With your help, we want to make sure that our environment is looked after for years to come.

To see the plan click [here](#).



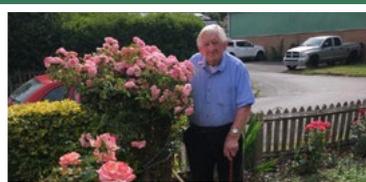
BLOOMIN' MARVELLOUS

The pandemic didn't put a stop to (socially distanced) tree and wildflower planting – since October 2019, we've planted 986 trees across our open space, housing land and car parks. We also created four new wildflower sites in Stanmore and Badger Farm whilst maintaining 13 other sites that have already become home to a broad range of wildlife species.



Cllr Lynda Murphy February 2021

And we're not the only ones who are green-fingered – check out our tenants' beautiful gardens...



Stan Upton - Winner!



Annie Miller - Runner-up



Stan Upton's creative planting



Annie Miller's colourful garden



Stan Upton's glorious garden



Sue Moreau - worthy Runner-up

“As we press on with our Carbon Neutrality targets, launching the Winchester City Council Biodiversity Action Plan 2021 is a huge step forward.

Our planet is currently facing an ecological emergency - here in Winchester our district is losing biodiversity at an alarming rate. We must all act now to reverse this decline. This document makes it clear what the city council will do to help turn the tide of biodiversity loss.

I am optimistic and excited not only about the great work already started to reach our goal, but also what we will be able to achieve working with others to benefit both wildlife and people.”

CLLR LYNDA MURPHY
CABINET MEMBER FOR
CLIMATE EMERGENCY



DECARBONISING CITY OFFICES

We always said the council would 'go first' in terms of going carbon neutral. We're tackling ceiling insulation, double glazing, air source heat pump and LED lighting which would save a potential 26 tonnes of Co2 and 156,000 kWh of electricity annually.

We've just been awarded a government grant of £258,000 by Salix Finance to cover all of this work which will be completed by September 2021.



REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE



We're going all out to reach our goal to be a carbon neutral district by 2030 – and a large part of that is down to all of us increasing the amount we recycle and reducing the amount we throw away as waste.

We're now recycling small household electrical items such as toasters, torches, or kettles (just pop them in a carrier next to the bin being collected). We're also collecting household batteries too (in small, clear sandwich bags on top of your bin).

If you have a large electrical item to dispose of, head to our bulky household waste information [page](#).

TURNING OVER A NEW LEAF

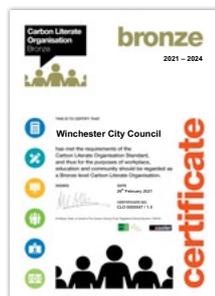
Join the 15,300 residents who have already switched over to the more efficient and robust wheelie bins we introduced for garden waste! As well as encouraging recycling – the green waste is turned into Pro-Grow soil conditioner which can be bought online at www.pro-grow.com

It's not too late to sign up – click [here](#) to order your bin...



NEWS JUST IN!

- We've achieved the city council's highest ever recycling rate!
- We remain in the top three performing Hampshire authorities for both recycling rate and amount of residual waste produced.
- We've reduced our residual waste tonnage per household by 12k per year (about 650 tonnes in total).
- We are now certified as a Bronze Level Carbon Literate Organisation!



PLUG IN, CHARGE UP AND GO...



COVID-19 didn't stop our parking and environmental services teams arranging for the safe instalment of 33 Electric Vehicle (EV) fast charging points at car parks right across the district.

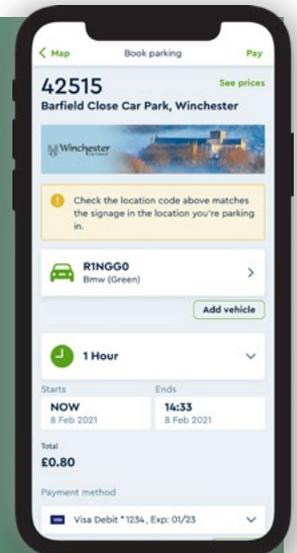
The new EVCP's can be found in Wickham, Bishops Waltham, Denmead, Harestock and Winchester, and soon to be in Alresford too. A rapid charge point is also available in the Worthy Lane coach park in Winchester.

A location map of the EVCPs in Winchester can be accessed [here](#)

CASHLESS BY CAR...

If you're driving in the district and you use one of our car parks you can now safely pay for parking on your mobile.

We're also improving the signage, safety and security of visitors to Winchester. A major upgrade to the CCTV systems is underway...



DURNGATE: DONE

The flood resilience construction work at Durngate is now finished – ready to defend our low lying city against this area's tendency to flood. We worked with the Environment Agency and Hampshire County Council who'll sign off the final system ready to put it into action if (when) St Swithun does his thing...



BEING A VIRTUAL MAYOR

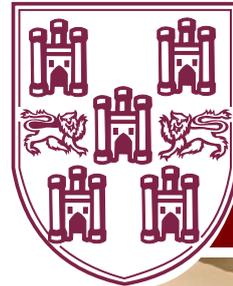
Being elected Mayor of Winchester is a huge honour.

COVID-19 and its associated regulations led to the cancellation of a significant number of engagements and sadly all of the grand ceremonial events surrounding the Mayoralty this year.

One of the most rewarding aspects of being Mayor in this pandemic year has been the honour of thanking local heroes throughout the city and district. This in turn has meant filming a Christmas address for care home residents and their carers, thanking school children over video for all they have done to keep others safe, and also sending awards to 113 local COVID-19 heroes voted by their neighbours in the autumn!

It has been a most humbling experience to see and hear about the many acts of selflessness and kindness towards our vulnerable and shielding neighbours from so many charities, volunteers, and community groups. We all have a part to play and seeing people pull together across our diverse communities has been an inspiration - a silver lining in an otherwise cloudy sky.

And life goes on - the nominations for the annual Mayor of Winchester's Community Awards are being reviewed. With an emphasis on tireless voluntary action, these recognise and celebrate the organisations and individuals who, day-to-day, give outstanding service to the people of the Winchester district and help make this such a wonderful place in which to live.



A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to be 'P. Cunningham'.

CLLR PATRICK CUNNINGHAM
821ST MAYOR OF WINCHESTER



Welcome to our new Honorary Recorder – Her Honour Judge Angela Morris



In January we welcomed our new Honorary Recorder - her Honour Judge Angela Morris. The post of Honorary Recorder is an important historic role which recognises and cements the relationship of the council with the law courts. The Honorary Recorder attends many of the council's civic events and the previous post holder His Honour Judge Keith Cutler, who served in this role since 2009, was thanked by the Mayor for his valuable contribution over the past 12 years.



DEVELOPMENT MATTERS

YOUR PLACE YOUR PLAN

The city council has to create a regularly updated plan that addresses how our district is developed in the future. The latest 'Local Plan' will take us up to 2038 and highlights where all types of development and infrastructure take place across the district – helping us to decide whether areas of land are deemed suitable for housing, industrial use, or rural preservation based on evidence we collect from local studies. We will be creating the plan using local feedback gathered from our consultations, as well as factoring in economic, infrastructure-related, and environmental elements.

Visit [here](#) today to have your say on the live consultation which runs until 12 April. There are also a number of virtual information events in March, bookable via our website...

What do YOU think
our Local Plan should focus on?

**YOUR PLACE
YOUR PLAN.**

Winchester District Local Plan
www.localplan.winchester.gov.uk

ONE GREAT WIN: A 15-MINUTE CITY?

"With recovery on the agenda, the way we develop our city and district is more important than ever before.

We're inviting your views on the Local Plan (to 2038) for the district, and sharing with you the recently commissioned city vision for Winchester to 2030, drawn up with the Town Forum, residents and organisations.

It's been exciting to see new and different groups involved in planning the future our district - and we hope you'll do so too."



CLLR JACKIE PORTER
CABINET MEMBER FOR BUILT ENVIRONMENT AND WELLBEING

Winchester Town Forum commissioned consultants Boyle & Summers to produce a new ten year vision for the city. A wide-ranging consultation saw ecology, movement, homes, lifetimes and culture emerge as the key themes and a series of handbooks has been produced – around the process, each topic and the final vision itself. For more information visit:

www.onegreatwin.com

We're now working to translate the vision into actions for the next decade – starting by asking for views on how the 15 minute neighbourhood concept (where local facilities can be accessed via a short cycle/walk from home) could be promoted in Winchester or adapted for the wider district (via the Local Plan consultation).



REVITALISING CENTRAL WINCHESTER THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT – WE HEAR YOU!

Thanks to those of you who let us know what you thought of the latest draft proposals for the Central Winchester Regeneration area.

We wanted to ensure as many people as possible had their say to make sure the final plans represent the views of a broad range of people across the district – the social media posts reached 488,189 people and between 11 November 2020 and 12 January 2021 we saw:

- 2,759 unique visits to the virtual exhibition
- 3,371 engagements on social media posts
- 44 stakeholders attending an online session
- 85 members of the public attending an online session
- 336 people completing a feedback questionnaire

The Central Winchester Regeneration site includes Winchester Bus Station, Kings Walk, the old Friarsgate Medical Centre and Coitbury House.

Of those who answered the question, ‘Overall, do you support the development proposals for the Central Winchester Regeneration area?’ on the feedback questionnaire, 68% confirmed that, yes, they did.

Cllr Kelsie Learney, Cabinet Member overseeing this project said,

“Thousands of local residents took the time to look at and give their thoughts on our plans to create a vibrant mixed-use development with high quality homes, flexible workspaces, a thriving night-time economy and new public spaces. Their support gives us the confidence to begin the transformation of this run-down part of our historic city and we can’t wait to get started.”

BISHOP’S WALTHAM’S IN BUSINESS!

Work started in October on transforming the Bishop’s Waltham depot site into three new business units for light industrial use. This is all part of our plans to support business growth in the southern parishes of our district. Work kicks off in March and by early 2022 they’ll be ready for their new tenants!



LATEST NEW HOME DEVELOPMENTS



NEXT GENERATION WINCHESTER

HELPING 18-35 YEAR OLDS WITH BETTER ACCOMMODATION

In February, we sent out a survey asking 18-35 year olds to tell us what they thought about local housing and their housing plans for the future. We want to make sure that we're building the right homes for the 'next generation' so we were delighted that over 550 people took part in our survey. This will really help to shape our housing policy, future house building and local housing options in our district. We'll be holding a focus group in the spring and inviting people to take part. To find out more visit [here](#).



BUILDING AFFORDABLE HOMES FOR THE FUTURE

Despite COVID-19, construction of new homes has continued in the district:

HOOKPIT FARM LANE

35 new homes will be unveiled in June 2021. The houses and flats of 1, 2, 3, and 4 bedrooms will be for shared ownership, discounted market sale and let at affordable rents.

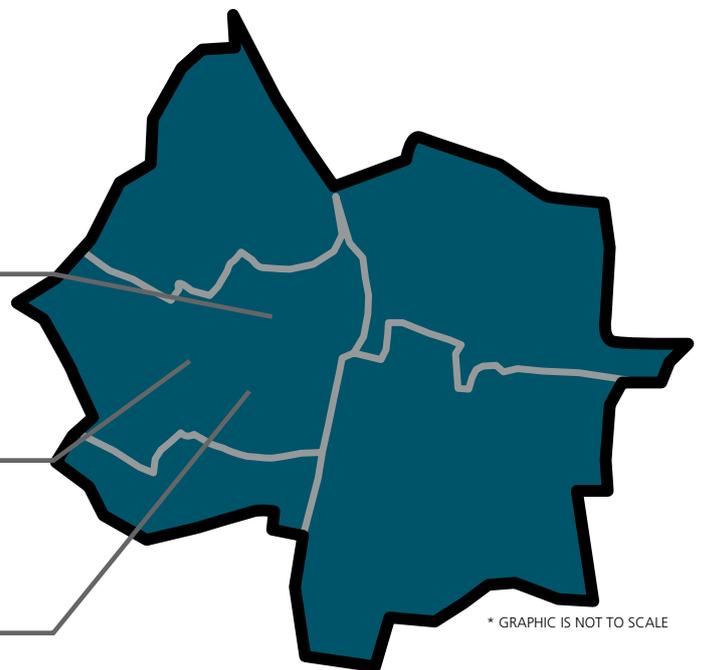
GATES GARDENS

At Rowlings Road in Weeke - seven new affordable homes for rent. All three two-bedroom houses and four one-bed flats are due to be completed in March.

THE VALLEY

Stanmore - 77 new homes are due to complete by May. This is a mix of:

- 23 two-bed flats for shared ownership
- 40 flats of one, two and three bedrooms (including two flats designed to be suitable for wheelchair users)
- 11 two bedroom houses
- two four-bedroom houses
- one three-bedroom bungalow designed for a wheelchair user



LOOKING AFTER THE HOMELESS THIS WINTER

To help look after our homeless this winter, we've provided an additional 10 bed spaces in a temporary housing project to ensure no one needs to sleep rough.

Due to the pandemic many evictions have been paused, except in exceptional circumstances. However, if you or someone you know might be at risk of homelessness, get in touch with our housing options team on 01962 848163.



LET'S FILL EMPTY HOMES TOGETHER!

An empty property is wasted accommodation which could provide a valued home to a family (and a useful income to the owner if let or sold). We're reaching out to you to tell us if there are empty homes in your area. To find out more about how you can help click [here](#).

TAKE THE LEAP – AND SAVE ON ENERGY BILLS!

Are you a low income household? The Local Energy Assistance Programme (LEAP), which provides free energy surveys to help you save money and keep your house warm.

Despite nationwide COVID-19 restrictions LEAP's services are continuing by telephone – click [here](#) to find out more or call 0800 060 7567 (8:45 – 5:30 Monday to Friday).



“Pandemic aside, nationally the housing question is a burning one for so many people.

Not having a home at all due to troubling family circumstances; waiting for accommodation to suit a growing family; setting out to live independently for the first time; getting on the property ladder; and finding a place where our elderly relatives can be well cared for – complex needs for our wide-ranging communities.

We're busy addressing it all – building over 100 new affordable homes that will be ready this spring; listening to what the next generation think our district needs; dealing with rough sleeping and providing for the elderly and vulnerable. Everything we do we are doing with an eye to the long term. Our new homes are being built sustainably, and our council homes are also benefitting from energy saving innovation and support for tenants. Everyone deserves a home they can be happy in. We're working to make that a reality.”

CLLR KELSIE LEARNEY
CABINET MEMBER FOR
HOUSING



DEMOCRACY IN ACTION



Despite the restrictions in place due to COVID-19 we've worked out ways to let you have your say – over the last year we've invited your views on how we spend our budget, the challenges of climate change, the developments in central Winchester, our new Local Plan and a vision for the city centre and what 18-35 year olds think 'Next Generation Housing' should look like in our district.

If you'd like to hear more from us about our plans and help us shape the future, please contact us at resident@winchester.gov.uk and tell us what you are interested in hearing about.

ELECTION UPDATE – HAVE YOUR SAY ON 6 MAY!

The government has confirmed that the elections will go ahead as scheduled for Thursday 6 May 2021 and we are working hard to put all the necessary precautions in place to ensure our polling stations are COVID-19 Secure. Some polling stations have been moved and you will get a letter in the post if this affects you and we will let you know where your nearest polling station is very soon.

There are several elections this year: the Police and Crime Commissioner, Hampshire County Council divisional members, and Winchester City Council ward members. You can see which city council seat is up for election in the map below.

Make sure you're registered to vote – the stations will be open, but more people than ever are registering to vote by post! Find out more [here](#).

Please note that all polling stations are open even if that ward seat is not up. Polling stations in Colden Common, Twyford and Upper Meon Valley will still be open for the Police and Crime Commissioner elections and Hampshire County Council elections.


Wear a mask to come into the polling station


Bring your own pencil if you can


The polling stations will be cleaned throughout the day

Winchester

Ward Members Up for Election (6 May):

- Worston & Micheldever:** Cllr Patrick Cunningham (Conservative), Cllr Stephen Godfrey (Conservative), Cllr Caroline Horill (Conservative)
- Alresford & Itchen Valley:** Cllr Russell Gordon-Smith (Liberal Democrats), Cllr Lisa Griffiths (Independent), Cllr Margot Power (Liberal Democrats)
- St Barnabas Ward:** Cllr Mike Craske (Liberal Democrats)
- St Bartholomew Ward:** Cllr Kelsie Learney (Liberal Democrats), Cllr Anne Weir (Liberal Democrats)
- St Paul Ward:** Cllr Paula Ferguson (Liberal Democrats), Cllr Kathleen Becker (Liberal Democrats), Cllr Dominic Hiscock (Liberal Democrats)
- St Luke Ward:** Cllr Derek Green (Liberal Democrats), Cllr Jamie Scott (Conservative)
- St Michael Ward:** Cllr Fiona Mather (Conservative), Cllr Lynda Murphy (Liberal Democrats)
- St Barnabas:** Cllr Mike Craske (Liberal Democrats), Cllr Kelsie Learney (Liberal Democrats), Cllr Anne Weir (Liberal Democrats)
- St Bartholomew:** Cllr Paula Ferguson (Liberal Democrats), Cllr Kathleen Becker (Liberal Democrats), Cllr Dominic Hiscock (Liberal Democrats)
- St Paul:** Cllr Liz Hutchison (Liberal Democrats), Cllr Lucille Thompson (Liberal Democrats), Cllr Martin Tod (Liberal Democrats)
- St Luke:** Cllr Derek Green (Liberal Democrats), Cllr Jamie Scott (Conservative)
- St Michael:** Cllr Fiona Mather (Conservative), Cllr Lynda Murphy (Liberal Democrats)

Other Ward Members:

- The Worthys:** Cllr Jackie Porter (Liberal Democrats), Cllr Malcolm Prince (Liberal Democrats), Cllr Jane Rutter (Liberal Democrats)
- Badger Farm & Oliver's Battery:** Cllr Eleanor Bell (Liberal Democrats), Cllr Brian Laming (Liberal Democrats), Cllr Hannah Williams (Liberal Democrats)
- Colden Common & Twyford:** Cllr Susan Cook (Conservative), Cllr Tony Bronk (Liberal Democrats)
- Bishops Waltham:** Cllr Robert Humby (Conservative), Cllr David McLean (Conservative), Cllr Steve Miller (Conservative)
- Whiteley & Shedfield:** Cllr Vivian Achwal (Liberal Democrats), Cllr Roger Bentote (Liberal Democrats), Cllr Jonathan Fern (Liberal Democrats)
- Southwick & Wickham:** Cllr Angela Clear (Liberal Democrats), Cllr Neil Cutler (Liberal Democrats), Cllr Therese Evans (Liberal Democrats)
- Upper Meon Valley:** Cllr Laurence Ruffell (Conservative), Cllr Hugh Lumby (Conservative)
- Central Meon Valley:** Cllr Linda Gemmell (Conservative), Cllr Frank Pearson (Conservative), Cllr Victoria Weston (Independent)
- Denmead:** Cllr Caroline Brook (Conservative), Cllr Michael Read (Conservative), Cllr Judy Clementson (Independent)

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Live on Microsoft Teams, audio streamed online and viewable on YouTube after the event, these are the meetings to tune into if you want to see local democracy in action! To find out more click [here](#).

 youtube.com/winchestercc



E-NEWS



Our commitment to reducing our carbon footprint means that all our newsletters are now fully online so if you don't want to miss out on the latest from your council do sign up for our e-news. To receive regular updates you can register by emailing: resident@winchester.gov.uk

OPEN FORUMS



Everyone is welcome to these open meetings where you can have a conversation with us around major projects like Central Winchester Regeneration or the Winchester Sport & Leisure Park build. Join in via a link we'll send you, or listen to the conversation as it's streamed live on You Tube or our audio channel. Our teams give an update on progress, explain the background around elements of development and clarify the timeframes that we are working to (and occasionally the impact of COVID-19 upon them).

IF WE HAVE MADE A MISTAKE, LET US KNOW



Despite the pandemic, we're still 100% committed to continuing our services and doing right by our customers but sometimes things can go wrong. We've taken a good look at our complaints procedure to simplify the process so it's easier for you to tell us when we have fallen short of your expectations. Click [here](#)

SOCIAL MEDIA



One of the best ways to keep in touch with 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. We'll be updating our Instagram account in the next few months too.

"With people locked down and isolated in their homes it's been a top priority for us to ensure that we continued to offer ways for residents and businesses to engage with the various consultations on our future.

We've seen record numbers of responses and have used new ways to reach new people. Listening to what you have to say and incorporating that into our plans has continued during COVID-19 – we've had to get more innovative in terms of how we capture your opinion!

We've also got a new Customer Charter to make it clear what you can expect from us. If something hasn't gone quite right and you're left feeling an issue is unresolved, we want it to be simpler and quicker to get your problem addressed."

CLLR MARTIN TOD
CABINET MEMBER FOR SERVICE
QUALITY AND TRANSFORMATION



Click [here](#) to view our **NEW CUSTOMER CHARTER**

YOUR COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

Do you want to hear more about what's going on in Winchester district? Sign up [here](#) to start receiving regular local news straight to your inbox.

E-newsletters give residents frequent updates on local issues, community initiatives, council news and virtual events and so much more.



SIGN UP TODAY!

CONTACT US

Your council is here for you and our teams are continuing to work hard to support you.

We are here to help you **Monday – Thursday 8.30am to 5.00pm, Friday 8.30am to 4.30pm**

You do need to make an appointment so call us first

Tel: **01962 840 222**

Waste: **0300 300 0013**

Housing: **01962 848 400**

Payments: **01962 848 512**

Email: **customerservice@winchester.gov.uk**

No tech at home? No worries... call us and we can make an appointment for you to come into our reception and get you connected with one of the team.

Don't forget to check Facebook and Twitter too, where you can keep up to date on all our news, services, details on how to join council meetings and receive help and advice.

 WinchesterCity

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