

Housing Newsletter

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## **Housing Services e-newsletter August 2021**

**Welcome to the Housing Services e-newsletter**

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## My Winchester Tenancy

It's never been easier to access our services at the touch of a button. saving you time waiting on the phone. You can now access the following services

- ▢ Check your account balance
- ▢ View and print rent statements
- ▢ Report a non-urgent repair
- ▢ Check repair appointments
- ▢ Make payments
- ▢ Update your personal information
- ▢ Send and receive messages

Click here <https://mywinchestertenancy.winchester.gov.uk/> to register for this quick 24/7 service.

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## Winchester Summer Sports Programme

Winchester City Council is in partnership with coaching provider Active Me 360 which is providing a 3-week summer sports programme, taking place across; Bishops Waltham, Denmead, Knowle, Whiteley, Weeke, Stanmore, City Centre, Colden Common and Kings Worthy in your local area. Each day will be packed with fun games, and an opportunity for you to take part in a range of different sports. Suitable for girls and boys aged 6-13 years old, and just £2.00 a session.

If you would like to book contact [ActiveMe 360](#) or simply book online by clicking [here](#).

On Monday 16 – Friday 20 August



the team will deliver a range of exciting sports, games activities and challenges. [Please see timetable](#)

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## Listening bench at Bishops Waltham

Osborne Property Services kindly installed a listening Bench, presented by Bishops Waltham museum, for local residents to share their stories of yesteryear.



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## Can I get Pension Credit

You may be eligible for Pension Credit if you've reached State Pension age. Working out your State Pension age can be tricky, but you can check your qualifying age here <https://www.gov.uk/state-pension-age>

Claim [online](#) if you already claim your State Pension and have the following details to hand:

- ▢ National Insurance number
  - ▢ Bank account details
  - ▢ Information about your income, savings and investments
  - ▢ Information about your pension (if you have one)
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- Details of any housing costs (such as mortgage, interest payments, service charges)
- Partner's details (if you have a partner)

Pension Credit tops up your weekly income to £177.10 if you're single or to £270.30 if you have a partner. You may receive more if you have a severe disability. For more information please visit [www.gov.uk/pension-credit/what-youll-get](http://www.gov.uk/pension-credit/what-youll-get)

As an added good reason to claim, you'll be able to have a free TV Licence if you are aged over 75 and receive Pension Credit guarantee.



## Digital Garden Competition

1st prize Jan Budd of Swanmore. Jan moved in over a year ago and the garden looked like a jungle. Working on the garden during lockdown has been a saviour.

Joint 2nd prize Margaret Kerton of Twyford. Margaret spends many hours tending to her garden and pottering in the greenhouse, Margaret has made good use of all space in her garden.

Judith Taylor of Alresford has utilised an old bench in the corner of her garden which is not safe to sit on but provides perfect place for a floral display.

Best pot Rosemary Jefferys of Weeke. This display is so full and provides an eye catching display beneath the window.

Well done to all who entered this year's garden competition





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## Climate Emergency

Winchester City Council declared a climate emergency in June 2019. We are committed to becoming a carbon neutral council by 2024, and are aiming for the wider district to be carbon neutral by 2030. Read our action plan [here](#).

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## **New Homes**

### Hookpit

The new development is adjacent to a landscaped open space featuring wildlife habitats, wooded areas and wildflower meadows. This is known locally as Top Field. The scheme comprises one, two, three and four bedroom homes. It also includes a network of footpaths linking to the Watercress Way and the main amenities in Kings Worthy.

The mixture of homes at Hookpit Farm includes 25 affordable rent, eight shared ownership and two discounted market sales for people with a strong local connection to Kings Worthy, which have all been allocated.

Top Field, will be managed by the council's natural environment and recreation team. The area will include significant ecological preservation work, such as wildlife habitats, wooded areas, and a wildflower meadow. Over 100 slow worms have been relocated for protection.

New homes are thermally efficient. They include solar panels, contributing to the council's ambition for the district to be carbon neutral by 2030

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## Shared Ownership

Have you seen these new homes built by Winchester City Council in Stanmore? A stylish development of two bedroom apartments available for shared ownership. Please contact [Kate Dowling](#) 01962 848 184 in the New Homes team for further information. One could be yours, it's easier than you think!

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## Next Generation Winchester

Next Generation Winchester project has been established to explore the challenges faced by younger people (aged 18-35) who may want to work and/or live in the Winchester District. The Next Generation project explored the options available for young people and families and provide an opportunity to influence housing policy, future house building and local housing options across the district. We carried out a survey which can be viewed [here](#).

On 14 July, we (virtually) hosted the Next Generation Winchester focus group. Together, we explored the barriers of buying a home in Winchester. The majority of respondents of our survey were working full-time, and were living at home with their parents.

They told us that their three main barriers surrounding living in Winchester were:

- Cost of buying or renting □
- Feeling safe in their community □
- Saving for a deposit.

70% of respondents to the focus group said that they aspire to own their own home and are already saving for a deposit.

This is really encouraging, and we went on to discuss different ways in which young people can live and work in and around Winchester. The recording of the Next Generation Winchester focus group can be found [here](#).





## Tenant Involvement

Tenant Involvement has carried on during the pandemic, joining meetings virtually from their own homes. For some, IT equipment has been a barrier to fully engage with meetings, but the council was able to loan IT equipment to ensure we maintained engagement with our virtual meetings.

July saw the first hybrid tenant meeting, with a group of tenants in a meeting room and virtually joined by more tenants and presenting officers. This is a way of working the Tenant Involvement Team are looking to make this a permanent way of working for all future meetings.

If you are interested in coming to a meeting, but are unsure about attending face to face, the option of joining virtually may suit you. If you haven't attended a meeting virtually before don't let that put you off, the Tenant Involvement Officers will happily talk you through how to join the meeting and what to expect. You can contact the team either by [email](#) or phone; 0800 716 987.

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## COVID 19 update

For the latest guidance for COVID 19 visit our [website](#)

If you have any feedback or suggestions for future articles you would like to see in the housing e-newsletters please [email](#)

### Latest News

Visit the Winchester City Council website for the [latest press releases](#)



