

ABOUT WINCHESTER

winchester.gov.uk

SPRING 2022



NEW LIFE IN OUR TIMELESS CITY

TURN TO PAGE 4
to find out more about
these exciting plans...



Plans to transform the city centre have taken a big step forward as we look to appoint our development partner to help deliver the vision developed with local people for the Central Winchester Regeneration (CWR) area.

This vision, as set out in the Strategic Planning Document, includes a welcoming, pedestrian-friendly quarter, new homes, flexible workspaces, retail and leisure facilities plus attractive outdoor areas.

The regeneration is set to bring significant benefits to people living and working in and around the district, and will create a positive legacy for the future generations of Winchester to enjoy.

**ARE YOU ELIGIBLE FOR A
COUNCIL TAX ENERGY
REBATE PAYMENT OF £150?**

see page 3



IN THIS EDITION...



CLIMATE EMERGENCY

Play your part and see our progress to date

PAGES 11-13



RECOVERY

Read about our Green Economic Development Strategy

PAGE 10



YOUR PLACE, YOUR PLAN

Help us shape our district's future

PAGE 24



Winchester
City Council

A MESSAGE FROM ...

LUCILLE THOMPSON

LEADER OF WINCHESTER CITY



If 2020 brought anything home to us, it's that the one thing that we can rely upon in life is change. And in this era of regrouping and recovery, our ability to achieve positive change through bold action is what will make or break our future.

At the start of the year, Full Council passed a motion that will see the council move to appoint a developer for the central Winchester area. This move is a clear sign that we have heard what local people are asking us to do and are driving forward to realise the vision that you have helped us to articulate in the Strategic Planning Document.

As the completed Winchester Sport & Leisure Park shows, we can get things done in Winchester, and what we do can make a real difference to your way

of life. A staggering 400,000 people have passed through the doors of the centre at Bar End since it opened only 10 months ago. And with Meadowside refurbished, more affordable homes completed, St Maurice's Covert progressing and the new Barfields 2 Park & Ride now open, we are making things happen for our district.

Change is of course, not always easy. Cabinet lost a dear friend and colleague, Cllr Lynda Murphy, in December last year. I am confident that her successor Cllr Hannah Williams, who was appointed as Cabinet Member for Climate Emergency earlier in the year, will build on Lynda's significant achievements in this area. We can't reach our

ambitious targets to be net zero as a district by 2030 without you – so do turn to pages 11 to 13 to see how you can help us achieve this, our most important priority.

In the meantime, we continue to make sure our services work for all our residents and businesses and our district is a place that everyone is welcome and can live a fulfilling life. So, I am delighted to let you know that Winchester City Council has agreed to support the 'City of Sanctuary' movement to ensure that this welcome is extended to people seeking places of safety.

Lucille Thompson

We continue to prioritise making sure our services work for all our residents and businesses and our district is a place that everyone is welcome ”



Earlier this year members passed a motion to declare Winchester City Council's support for the City of Sanctuary movement. This means we will seek to provide support, dignity and welcome to refugees and people seeking sanctuary locally. Visit winchester.cityofsanctuary.org/ to find out more.

SUPPORTING UKRAINE

Guildhall Winchester's clock faces have been lit up in the colours of the Ukraine flag (see inset above). To read Cllr Lucille Thompson's statement visit: winchester.gov.uk/ukraine-statement

A MESSAGE FROM ...

LAURA TAYLOR

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL



Supporting our communities through the impact of the pandemic has been our main priority but there's no doubt that everyone across our district is ready to embrace more positive times ahead.

The latest issue of About Winchester is packed with good news stories about how we're successfully recovering from the effects of COVID-19 and also the developing plans to ensure our district thrives. Taking forward our regeneration plans, working towards becoming carbon neutral and planning for sound economic success over the next decade – all eyes are set to the future.

Our residents are central to what we do. Everyone who lives and works in our district has a stake in our collective future and so it is of vital importance that as many of you as possible are involved in the issues that are important to you. Keep an eye out for consultations on our web

pages and social posts – our second Residents' Survey has also now been carried out and we're analysing the results to help us plot a course for your council that reflects what matters to you. And as we continue to develop our Local Plan there is still opportunity for you to express your views – see page 24 to get involved.

We're all making an effort to live and work more sustainably, and inside this issue you can find out what we're doing to help our residents and businesses do just that. From providing more Park & Ride opportunities (see page 10) to ensuring more council services can be accessed online (find out more on page 23), there are lots of different

”
Our residents are central to what we do. Everyone who lives and works in our district has a stake in our collective future...

ways we can all change habits to help reduce emissions.

Read on to find out what we've been up to and how you can help us improve life in our fantastic district.

EVERYONE COUNTS HERE

Cabinet have agreed to launch a new Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Forum to further strengthen our commitment to hear everyone's voice.

This marks a fundamental step in our journey to ensuring our district is a truly inclusive place where everyone can thrive and feel that they belong. We're looking to find out about inequalities in the district, understand the issues directly from local communities and partners and address them.



Do you have something to say on this topic?

If so, please contact your ward councillor – see pages 26 and 27.

COUNCIL TAX: EASING ENERGY COSTS

If your property is in Council Tax band A to D you're in line to receive £150 this April thanks to the Government's Council Tax Energy Rebate. The £150 cash payment will be made directly into your bank account to help ease rising energy costs which are impacting on many household budgets.

The Government has also provided further support for people who may not otherwise be eligible – for example if you're on a low income and your home is valued in bands E to H. We are awaiting more guidance and further details from the Government about how the rebate will be administered so please keep an eye on our website for information as it becomes available.

www.winchester.gov.uk/council-tax-rebate

INTO THE FUTURE FOR CENTRAL WINCHESTER

Transforming an important part of our historic city to see us into the future while respecting our heritage is a major undertaking.

Thousands of local people and businesses have been involved in detailed public consultation over several years, and the Central Winchester Regeneration Supplementary Planning Document captures that shared vision.

We're delighted to be working on appointing a development partner to drive forward our shared ambition and make this exciting dream a reality. Meanwhile, as promised, work has already started to make some important changes to the area...

LUNCH WITH THE LADYBIRDS IN OUR CITY CENTRE

We're working on creating a brand new open space on the site of the Friarsgate Medical Centre site to create brand-new public outdoor space whilst plans for the longer-term regeneration of the site are progressed.



The new park will be fully accessible to all, opening up the area to create a route between Friarsgate and The Broadway. Open areas with seating and lighting will allow small events to be held in collaboration with local cultural and arts organisations, and the green space will enhance biodiversity, creating a new habitat for pollinators and encouraging wildlife into the city centre.



LESS TRAFFIC, MORE GREENERY

Another key part of our shared vision for the future of the city centre is to reduce traffic, making the area more pedestrian friendly and cutting carbon emissions as part of our climate action commitment. As well as completing a new Park & Ride facility at Bar End (see page 10 for details) we're also working to relocate Winchester Bus Station and redirect traffic away from the centre.

NEW CREATIVE QUARTER

We've also been working on creating a cultural quarter in Kings Walk that will breathe new life into this underused part of our city. Eventually the buildings in Kings Walk will be demolished to make way for a pedestrian-friendly cultural area. Until these plans are finalised, the buildings will be transformed into flexible workspaces so independent creative enterprises and start-ups can join us in the city centre.

Keep up to date with the plans as they progress here:
www.winchester.gov.uk/CWR



WORLD CLASS CAMPUS: FOR CREATIVE LEARNING IN WINCHESTER

The council is in discussions with Winchester School of Art (part of The University of Southampton) about their ambitions for a potential campus expansion to create a national seat of learning on the site of the old leisure centre.

This proposal would cement Winchester's existing reputation as a strong educational hub with its considerable 'knowledge based' economy and vibrant creative centre.

We're currently considering comments made in response to an advert placed relating to the disposal of the open space on the site and a further report will be brought to Cabinet later this month.

BAR END DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

During the construction of Winchester Sport and Leisure Park, the council met regularly with the Bar End Forum – a group of local residents and ward councillors – to guide the way forward.

We developed a Design Framework setting out aspirations for the local area which included residents' calls for a local convenience store, a mixed use scheme, green space and access improvements.

Following a petition that was handed to Council at the start of the year from the local community, we have committed to further community engagement about the future of the Bar End depot site. A drop-in event will be held on 8 March between 3-7.30pm at the Winchester Sport and Leisure Park for local people to put forward their views, and we'll also offer an online link to make sure everyone can share their aspirations before we dispose of the site.



We're looking forward to enhancing city life in Winchester on several fronts. The Central Winchester Regeneration opportunity will see an improved public realm and tempting retail offer, deliver environmentally friendly options which actively reduce our carbon footprint, and retain young people in Winchester through innovative employment options.

But we're working across the whole setting – speaking to residents about the future of Bar End, giving the University of Southampton an opportunity to explore the potential of a new campus on the River Park site, and looking forward to work starting on St Clements Surgery this year.

Winchester must change to thrive and we're investing in our wonderful heritage city to make sure we're economically and sustainably fit for the future.

FULL STEAM AHEAD FOR ST CLEMENTS SURGERY

The NHS has given the go ahead for plans to build a new medical centre for Winchester's St Clements Surgery. Planning permission has already been granted, and work will start later this year on the site of the nearby Upper Brook Street car park.



CLLR KELSIE LEARNEY
CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING
AND ASSET MANAGEMENT



HELPING LOCAL BUSINESS WEATHER THE STORM

COVID-19 restrictions hit many local businesses really hard so our teams have been busy sharing information about latest support grants – and making sure they reach our district's businesses.

Since April 2020 over **£51.4 million**

has been given out, including funding to support businesses that had to adapt or diversify in order to survive.

This is in addition to the **£41 million**

of Business Rates relief that the council has applied to businesses across the district.



STYLISH SUPPORT

Savvy city centre boutique Sass and Edge used a grant to stay afloat and move the business forward explains Business partner Rachel Hunt:

"The grant gave us security as we had just taken delivery of our Spring/Summer stock and our first priority was to pay our suppliers. Having the business interruption loan gave us the space we needed to develop ideas and focus on social media as a way of keeping in contact with our customer base during the lockdowns. The success of this enabled us to move into larger premises on Market Street and take on more staff."



A TASTY TURNOVER IN MEON VALLEY

Ben Sawyers from Meon Valley Butchers used a grant of £10,000 to convert the traditional family-run shop into an e-commerce success story. By offering locally sourced products coupled with first-class customer service, his business is booming:

"During the COVID-19 restrictions we launched a new website with online shop to increase our customer base. Turnover doubled and we had to take on extra staff to meet demand! Even though our doors have remained open, online ordering is extremely popular and 2021 was our most successful Christmas to date. We've since opened a bakery in store and increased the range of high quality products you can't find in supermarkets."



SHOPAPPY: SUPPORTING YOUR FAVOURITE INDEPENDENTS

Support your local independents by using shopappy.com/Winchester to browse shop windows, book appointments and order products online.



Since the website launched, shoppers have:

- Made over **20,000** virtual visits to our district's digital high streets
- Browsed more than **7,500** products and services from more than **175** independent businesses.

ShopAppy was funded through the Government's Reopening High Streets Safely Fund. If you an independent business interested in signing up, please email: shoplocal@shopappy.com to register today!



WELCOME BACK!

We've been putting the Government's Welcome Back* funding to good use:

1 Encouraging visitors and locals alike to enjoy the historic market towns of Wickham, Bishop's Waltham and Alresford with new mini guides with colourful maps and local independent business listings, to help you explore each town's hidden treasures.

The mini guides will be available in mid-March from Winchester Visitor Information Centre and in various outlets in the market towns – they'll also be available to download from www.visitwinchester.co.uk



2 Funding two research studies into local festivals and street markets across the district, to help the council look at the potential to improve what's already on offer...



3 Revamping the old Debenhams store in the city centre. The shop windows are turning heads with new displays depicting important buildings and characters reflecting our city's history.



Don't miss out on business news

If you run a business locally, we may be able to offer support. Keep connected to your council by signing up to our business bulletin: www.winchester.gov.uk/business/winchester-business-bulletin

*The Government's Reopening High Street Safely and Welcome Back Fund European Regional Development Fund programme.

DISCOVER LOCAL TREATS



Winchester Visitor Information Centre in The Guildhall offers more than tourist information...

The district's finest independent producers and makers are showcased here. From local art, Winchester brewed beers and spirits, to delicious Alresford honey, New Forest fudge and Hampshire's luxurious pamper products. Pop in to browse between 10am-5pm Monday-Saturday.



WINCHESTER: LIGHTS IN THE CITY

Did you catch Lights in the City? The city's iconic landmarks and spaces were lit up with spectacular light installations and projections during Winchester's first ever Light Up event last month. The spectacle saw locals and visitors flock to the city, helping support our recovering evening economy.

And if you love a lightfest then heads up - Winchester Cathedral are hosting their own stunning illumination show 'Luxmuralis' between 7 and 12 March...



ST MAURICE'S MURAL St Maurice's Covert, located in the heart of the city centre, is set to receive a colourful makeover. Artists have been invited to submit designs for a new and inspiring mural to transform the covered space, creating a visual gateway to the Cathedral from the High Street.



We're working hard on two fronts at the moment – supporting business recovery here and now, and also laying down the foundations for a long term sustainable economy.

Considering the devastating impact of COVID-19 on the national economy, we're pleased to see so many of our businesses getting back on their feet. We're well known locally for our innovation and creativity, and we've certainly seen this play to our advantage – whether its businesses reinventing themselves with online offshoots and home deliveries, or our own ShopAppy virtual high street that's offering them a platform to sell from.

Over £50 million in grants and £41 million in Business Rates relief have played their part, and local people have rallied around district businesses – particularly the independents that we're so proud of. We've seen footfall recover quickly, and with so much to see and do in our centres, we encouraging day-trippers – this makes all the difference to our much loved shops, eateries, bars and attractions.

I'm optimistic about the longer term prospects here too – solid plans are in place to deliver sustainability and vital future jobs... Winchester has always been resilient and we're playing to our strengths by planning ahead.

CLLR MARTIN TOD
CABINET MEMBER FOR
ECONOMIC RECOVERY



SUPPORTING BUSINESSES TO KEEP YOU SAFE

As well as providing advice and financial support, we've also been busy helping local businesses navigate the complexities of new legislation and COVID-19 restrictions to keep their employees and the public safe. Over the past 18 months we have:

- Offered advice to over **2,500** businesses
- Visited over **400** businesses
- Sent out over **5,500** sets of targeted advice to businesses ranging from hairdressers to ice cream vans, and community centres to market traders



- Handled over **250** complaints about businesses
- Supported established food businesses to diversify into food delivery, takeaway or online sales during lockdown



- Engaged COVID-19 Ambassadors to patrol the city and offer advice to businesses and COVID-19 Marshals to check in on businesses supporting our evening economy
- Provided extensive advice on COVID-19 compliance to small and large events



If you run a business and are looking for advice on how to operate your business safely, visit: www.winchester.gov.uk/business/covid-19-support

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

Growing the local economy and tackling the climate emergency go hand in hand in the council's new Green Economic Development Strategy.

We've worked with key local partners to ensure the Winchester district is poised to capitalise on opportunities for green growth so we can ensure that generations to come will benefit from the type of jobs, goods, and services that will be needed in the next decade.

The strategy covers six themes, all with actions set to deliver positive outcomes for local people...



Innovative business and economy



Skills and competitiveness



Culture, creative and visitor economy



Connected, public and electric transport



Affordable, low carbon housing



Green infrastructure, biodiversity and renewable energy

Over the next ten years we're looking to increase business diversity, skills and productivity; develop more affordable and sustainable housing; enhance biodiversity; expand the use of renewable energy; and reduce traffic congestion and cutting carbon emissions.

Interested? Have a read here:
www.winchester.gov.uk/GEDS



BARFIELDS 2: OUR NEWEST PARK & RIDE



Changing the way we move about our district is fundamental to tackling climate change, so we've created 287 new Park & Ride spaces in Bar End, to encourage people to park outside the city centre, and improve air quality.

The new car park provides 16 electric vehicle charging bays and more will be added as demand increases. These are powered by

photovoltaic panels, meaning the car park operation is carbon neutral. A screening green wall has been installed and when established will help improve the air quality of the area.

Handy for the new sport & leisure centre and the attractions of Winchester, Barfields 2 offers a pleasant 15 minute walk into town along a riverside route, or a short hop on one of the regular Park & Ride buses... give it a go next time you make a day trip to Winchester!

NET ZERO

HOW ARE WE DOING?

A lot has happened since we declared a Climate Emergency three years ago, and with the help of our Carbon Neutrality Action Plan we've been working at full tilt to ensure our district can reach net zero carbon by 2030. We can't reach this target alone and we're looking for everyone to do their bit. Can you help by taking action in your community? Read on...

WHEN A NEIGHBOURHOOD TAKES ACTION...

Winchester Action on Climate Change (WinACC) and the Centre for Sustainable Energy (CSE) are supporting us to establish 'climate action hubs' across the Winchester district. Local communities and Parish Councils can get free advice on the best way to tackle climate change in their neighbourhoods, and, with more and more communities taking step towards carbon neutrality the goal for our district becomes more achievable.

Here's what happened when one Parish Council reviewed their report...

"When we received a copy of CSE's report on our very own parish carbon footprint we were amazed to see such a detailed analysis and immediately saw the potential benefits it had to offer, such as raising awareness locally and focusing on what residents can do to change behaviours."

Steve Percy, Itchen Valley Parish Council

Ever wondered what the carbon footprint of your local area is? You may be surprised! See here to find out more: www.winacc.org.uk/wecan/

“

"I'm proud to be continuing the legacy of my friend and colleague, Cllr Lynda Murphy, who has done so much to tackle the climate emergency in our district.

I'm passionate about reaching Net Zero, and as a teacher, I see first-hand how the generation who will be most affected by the action we take today, is our most passionate advocate for change.

They (and we, your council), can't do this alone. It's only when every one of us takes a few steps to make a difference that our goal can become a reality.

We've done so much – 80% of the actions in our Biodiversity Action Plan were realised in the first year – a staggering achievement and one that shows we're really (and rightly) committed to protecting our beautiful district so it stays a place that we can all truly thrive in. On a national scale we're doing well, but we're looking to do even better. Support us, and we'll keep on track to reach this vital target."

CLLR HANNAH WILLIAMS
CABINET MEMBER
FOR CLIMATE EMERGENCY



OUR GREEN CREDENTIALS

When it comes to the climate action, your council pledged to 'go first'.

Our deadline to become net zero is 2024 and over 100 staff have received Carbon Literacy Training making us one of the first BRONZE Carbon Literate Organisations in the UK. This earned us a seat on the Carbon Literacy Project event during COP 26 to share how we did it – we've now got our sights set on SILVER. In the last two years we have:



cut **468 tonnes** from our carbon footprint 2019/2020



reduced our CO₂ emissions by **19%** by switching to green electricity



invested **£15m** to cut CO₂ in council housing



installed **849m²** of solar panels at Winchester Sport & Leisure Park



received a BREEAM **excellent** rating at our new leisure centre



recycled **5,500** tonnes of garden waste



installed more than **40** new electric vehicle charging points in public car parks



planted **1,224** trees



adopted a Biodiversity Action Plan



achieved **80%** of all actions in Year 1



created **17** wildflower areas, each has introduced **25** native species



introduced kerbside glass, battery and small electrical items collections



increased glass collection by **100 tonnes** each month across the district



Winchester City Council sat on COP26 panel to share how we trained **126** staff and received the BRONZE Carbon Literate Organisation award



THE BIG SWITCH

Our district is leading the way when it comes to switching to sustainable power supply...

We've installed solar panels at Winchester Sport & Leisure Park which are expected to generate 156.3MWh of energy per year, equating to a reduction in emissions of 150 tonnes of CO₂e. And solar panels at Marwell Zoo and Biffa HQ generate an income for the council. A simple action that you can take to reduce your carbon footprint is to switch to a renewable energy supplier. Why not visit the Big Clean Switch to compare the best green energy suppliers: www.bigcleanswitch.org



DID YOU KNOW?

The recent assessment of all councils' climate action plans by Climate Emergency UK showed your council's plan to reach Net Zero is one we can be proud of. Our 'score' of 49% was above the average score for district councils of 43%, and the plan rated third of the eleven district councils in Hampshire and in the top third of all district councils in the UK (58th out of 181)!

Carbon Literacy Project



UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE UK 2021

HOW CAN YOU REDUCE YOUR CARBON FOOTPRINT?



Take some small steps and be part of a big difference:



Buy local and seasonal – with fabulous farm shops and one of the biggest Farmers' Markets in the UK we're spoilt for choice!



Grow your own – nothing beats the satisfaction of a window box crop, or sharing a particularly abundant harvest with friends, colleagues and neighbours.



Re-use and repair before buying new – repair shops are popping up across the UK. www.repaircafewin.com



Try online buying and selling sites like Vinted, Depop and Ebay. Your clothes may suit someone else and you may want to update your own wardrobe with the proceeds.



Only buy what you need – bulk buy deals are tempting, but if the food ends up in a landfill, the planet loses out.



Use public transport, walk or cycle for more journeys – you'll get fit as well as benefit local air quality.



Switch to a renewable energy supplier. www.bigcleanswitch.org



Replace lights with the most efficient bulbs (e.g. LEDs).



Look into getting your home properly insulated – the heat that escapes is costing you money as well as expending energy unnecessarily.

For lots more ideas about how to reduce your carbon footprint visit www.52climateactions.com

DRIVING THE CLIMATE MESSAGE HOME

Wickham resident, John Ridge, used his old car to highlight the climate emergency by decorating it with slogans before scrapping it through charity Give A Car, then donating the money to GreenPeace.



The vehicle was past its sell-by date and I wanted to destroy it in the most environmentally sound, irreversible and most useful way. I believe we should all be part of the solution, not the problem."



REDISCOVER
THE GREAT OUTDOORS
ACROSS THE WINCHESTER DISTRICT

**STEP
INTO
SPRING**

**ENJOY THE COLOURS
OF SPRING ACROSS THE
WINCHESTER DISTRICT...**

...with snowdrop displays, daffodils and bluebells colouring our parks and gardens. Explore the district with one of our trails - available from the Visitor Information Centre or online from [visitwinchester.co.uk/trails](https://www.visitwinchester.co.uk/trails)

**EGG-CELLENT TREATS
IN STORE FOR EASTER**

The Easter bunny will be out and about at many attractions over the Easter holidays and there will be plenty of activities and events for children of all ages. To help plan your day out, check out [visitwinchester.co.uk/whats-on](https://www.visitwinchester.co.uk/whats-on)

For more inspiration and ideas for great days out see [visitwinchester.co.uk](https://www.visitwinchester.co.uk)

RESPECT
PROTECT
ENJOY 
OUR WINCHESTER DISTRICT



RECONNECT WITH FAMILY & FRIENDS

Get the whole family together or reconnect with friends to celebrate lighter evenings and warmer weather with a special meal at one of our cosy country pubs, independent cafés or award-winning restaurants across the district. From river valley to downland, heath to forest, the countryside across Winchester district offers diverse growing conditions. So you're guaranteed to find menus with the freshest, in-season and locally produced delicacies.



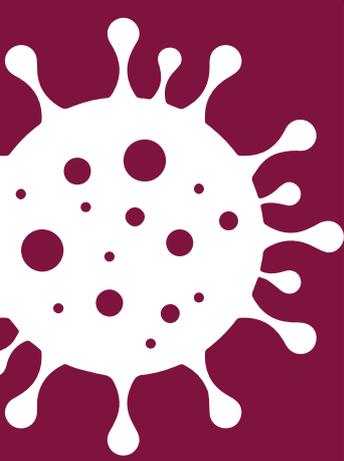
SEASONAL STYLES

If you're looking to update your home furnishings, give your garden a makeover or refresh your wardrobe, then enjoy a shopping trip to the city or one of our market towns where you'll find an abundance of independent boutiques and homeware stores to inspire you.



Sign up to our e-newsletter for the latest news, events, special offers and competitions at

visitwinchester.co.uk



COVID-19 UPDATE

By the end of 2021:

1,000

vulnerable residents helped by our Local Response Centre

£594k

of Council Tax Hardship Fund distributed

272

prescriptions hand delivered

58

placements of emergency accommodation for the homeless

1,300

businesses given direct support (see page 6)

600

licensed premises given information on Plan B restrictions

7.5 million

waste collections during the pandemic

135

Mayor of Winchester Local Hero Awards sent to community helpers



MILITARY MIGHT

The Winchester district has a rich military history and we're proud to reaffirm our connection by re-signing the Covenant with our local Armed Forces Community. www.winchester.gov.uk/covenant

INTERESTED TO LEARN MORE?

Click here to download a history of Winchester's links to military history...

www.winchester.gov.uk/vw-military-trail



PART OF A COMMUNITY GROUP?

If you're part of a local voluntary or community group, you can apply for small grant funding for equipment, facilities and activities for a wide range of local groups from sports clubs to mental health support, counselling services and reading groups.

So many of us have felt the impact of loneliness during the pandemic – building a sense of community can make a huge difference to the quality of life in your neighbourhood. Here's how and joining a local group made all the difference to one new member:



"Thanks to the reading club I've gained the confidence to read in public and ask questions and make my own choices in restaurants."

Emma

If you're keen to improve life locally, you can also apply to the Town Community Fund and the Communities Positive Change Fund for match funding.

And that's not all – community groups and businesses who need funding for projects

that help tackle the climate emergency can bid for up to £4,000 of match funding through the Crowdfund Winchester Greener Futures Fund.



For details about our grant schemes visit www.winchester.gov.uk/grants-for-not-for-profit-organisations

For the latest funding news, follow us on social media:

Grants at Winchester City Council
 @WCCGrant

OUR SPENDING PRIORITIES FOR THE YEAR AHEAD

BALANCING THE BOOKS, INVESTING IN OUR DISTRICT AND ADDRESSING THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY...

The pandemic placed real pressure on your council's finances, but after a tough year we have proposed a positive budget which spends more on public services and keeps increases to council tax, council housing rent and other charges well below inflation. In the year ahead we will invest:



£100,000

to continue the Council Tax hardship grant scheme



£250,000

to introduce electric bin lorries and/or buses to the city



£150,000

to launch food waste collections in 2023



£40,000

to promote walking and cycling



£185,000

on cleaning our towns and tackling fly tipping



£25,000 to support our commitment to the City of Sanctuary movement



£450,000

on essential maintenance to historic monuments



We'll also be offering a **£10** discount on garden waste subscriptions for residents in receipt of benefits



LOCAL DEVELOPMENT HELPING OUR COMMUNITIES

In our district, 30 community projects have already been allocated from CIL funding, including new playground equipment and improvements to community centres, sports facilities and open spaces. Recent CIL funded projects include the installation of new playground equipment at Wickham and a parkour facility at Littleton Recreation ground.

Why are we telling you this?

Well, the current round of bidding is open until 31 March 2022, for grants of between £10,000 and £200,000!

Could your community benefit?

For more details and to apply visit www.winchester.gov.uk/CIL



CASH FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



Playing Out is a national movement to restore children's freedom to play out in the streets and spaces where they live. Visit www.playingout.net for free resources and advice on how to spark change where you live, or contact us to support you in purchasing a starter kit here: www.winchester.gov.uk/community-recreation/find-a-play-area/playing-out

AFFORDING A HOME MATTERS



The Valley in numbers

54 council homes

23 shared ownership properties

1 community orchard

2967m² of party wall insulation

7172m² of external wall
insulation

Snug Architects and Forohaus

THE VALLEY, STANMORE

A century after the first council houses were built in Stanmore, the popular neighbourhood has welcomed a new development of affordable homes.

Part funded by a £6 million grant from Homes England, the scheme was built by local company Drew Smith Ltd and all the new homes were designed to be as low carbon and energy efficient as possible in line with our commitment to becoming a carbon neutral council by 2024.

New residents Nathan and Lauren say the shared ownership scheme allowed them to leave rented accommodation and get onto the property ladder, something they previously thought impossible:



“

“We met while studying at Winchester and after several years of working and renting in the city we had given up hope of being able to afford to buy our own place here. Thanks to shared ownership our monthly payments are actually lower than we previously paid in rent! We are so happy in our new home. It’s spacious, comfortable, modern and, best of all, it’s ours.”

”

HOOKPIT FARM, KINGS WORTHY

With many young people struggling to afford to live in the communities where they grew up, the need for more affordable homes to rent and buy is just as crucial in rural as well as urban areas.

That's why a development of 35 new affordable, environmentally friendly homes in Kings Worthy was prioritised for people with a strong local connection to the area

Making the most of their rural location, the new homes stand adjacent to Top Field, a beautiful outdoor area managed by the council that features wildlife habitats, wooded areas, a wildflower meadow and footpaths.

35 affordable homes or
25 council homes
8 shared ownership properties
2 discounted market sales properties



LOOKING AHEAD

We have exciting plans to develop more affordable and environmentally friendly homes across our district. In fact, by the end of 2023 the following schemes will be completed...

54 new homes in North Whiteley (work is underway on the delivery of 21 two-bedroom homes, 29 three-bedroom houses and four four-bedroom properties)

73 new flats and three new houses in Winnall, plus a transformation of the public space and the creation of a pocket park for the whole community to enjoy (pictured).



EXTRA CARE ONE BIG FAMILY

Helping people to live as independently as possible for as long as possible is at the heart of our three Extra Care Schemes in Winchester.

Chesil Lodge, Danemark Court and Matilda Place are retirement communities where residents from age 55 upwards enjoy the independence of their own apartment, company when they want it, and the reassurance of knowing care is on hand if or when it's needed.



These communities aren't care homes; residents live totally independently, making their own choices and managing their own lives. For those who need extra support, there is onsite care available 24/7, plus a dedicated member of staff to help with day-to-day issues such as maintenance and repairs, benefits and utilities.

Living in one of these three purpose-built communities is a very sociable experience. There's always something



“

“There's such a lovely sense of community here we're like one big family! Not only is the accommodation superb but there are activities and trips out to enjoy. I love sitting in the lounge having a laugh with the other residents – they're not just my neighbours they're my good friends.”

Frank, Chesil Lodge resident



going on for those who want to take part. From a fun game of bingo in the communal lounge, a shared meal in the dining room, to soaking up the sunshine with friends and neighbours in the communal garden; there's no reason for anyone to ever feel alone.

The restrictions of the pandemic saw some older people in our communities feeling really isolated. If you think a loved one might benefit from supported living in one of our Extra Care Communities, please visit:

www.winchester.gov.uk/extra-care



**SUPPORTING
MORE PEOPLE IN
PRIVATE RENTED
ACCOMMODATION**



COVID-19 has been a tough time for people on low incomes, and we're keen to make sure we do all we can to make sure private rented tenants are protected from the risk of losing their home.

Using Government funding we've appointed a Tenancy Sustainment Officer to offer help and make connections with services to prevent vulnerable people getting evicted. If this is something that you're concerned about, please visit www.winchester.gov.uk/tenancy-sustainment



Between June 2021 and February 2022:

8 prosecutions resulting in:
£3,740 in fines
£4,086 in costs

TACKLING FLY-TIPPING



Fly-tipping isn't just an eyesore, it damages our environment and poses a threat to humans and wildlife. This is why we work so hard to tackle the issue, and why culprits can face fines of up to £50,000 and a possible prison sentence.

One individual who thought they could illegally dump a pile of building rubble at Hill Farm in Durley last year, has recently been handed a £1,000 fine.

Help us stamp this antisocial behaviour out - if you see a fly tip, please report it at www.winchester.gov.uk/waste-recycling/flytipping

If you need to dispose of large items of furniture, you can take them to your Local Household Waste Recycling centre free of charge or book a bulky waste collection on **01962 670 706**.

OPEN SPACES MATTER



The green open spaces in our city, towns and villages play an important role in enhancing our lives and enabling local people to live active and healthy lifestyles. We protect these areas to ensure they continue to benefit local communities and the environment.

Our latest Open Spaces Assessment lists play areas, parks, recreation grounds, sports fields and green areas across the district, and outlines how we plan to ensure more are provided as the population increases and new homes are built.



"We're working tirelessly to ensure that would-be fly-tippers are deterred and people who perpetrate this blight upon our landscape are made accountable for their actions.

Each time we see someone brought before a court of law, censured by a judge and fined, a member of the public has reported the issue, and we've investigated the evidence, cleared the site safely and worked hard to bring them to justice.

We won't stop our efforts to put an end to this antisocial behaviour. We are lucky to live in such a beautiful district and we're grateful to those of you who report fly tips to us – your actions, plus our CCTV cameras placed in hot spots are helping us keep it this way.

Do be wary of bogus waste collection outfits – their actions can lead to trouble for the householder down the line if the evidence is traced back – just one more example of why this environmentally irresponsible behaviour is socially toxic too."

CLLR ANGELA CLEAR
CABINET MEMBER FOR
COMMUNITIES AND WELLBEING



BONFIRES A HOT TOPIC

Bonfires can be a real neighbourhood nuisance, with air pollution affecting our health, as well as ruining precious time spent outdoors.

So, instead of lighting a bonfire, please consider these other ways to dispose of your waste:

- Compost or use a shredding machine to create mulch for your garden
- Use our garden waste collection service – visit: www.winchester.gov.uk/waste-recycling/garden-waste-collection-sign-up
- Take your items to a waste and recycling centre – visit: www.winchester.gov.uk/waste-recycling/household-waste-recycling-centres to find your nearest site

It goes without saying, if you do need to have a bonfire, please do make sure you never burn plastic or rubber and only burn dry, untreated garden waste.

For more advice please visit:
www.winchester.gov.uk/environment/nuisance/bonfires



Thinking of having a bonfire?

Can you avoid burning, burn cleaner, burn safely?



IN 20/21 OUR RECYCLING RATE ROSE TO 40.5%...

...making us the second best performer of all the Hampshire authorities, whilst the amount of household waste we collected and sent to landfill was the lowest in the county – at 475 kg per household per year.



PLATINUM JUBILEE

Celebrating the four day weekend on 2-5 June with a party or community celebration to mark 70 years of HM the Queen's reign? See www.winchester.gov.uk/community-recreation/queen-s-jubilee-celebrations for advice and guidance on running your event and how to apply for a grant to help with funding.



BREEDING BAN, FINES AND COMMUNITY SERVICE: PUPPY FARM SLAMMED



We have successfully prosecuted an unlicensed dog breeding business which sold at least 193 litters of 38 breeds over a five year period between 2013-2018. Two puppy farmers have been banned from breeding dogs for six years, must undertake 60 hours unpaid community work, and in total were fined over £292,000.

If you are looking at bringing a four legged friend into your home, always check that the person selling the dog has a valid licence by visiting www.winchester.gov.uk/environment/animal-licences/dog-breeding-licence alternatively why not visit a local rescue centre and give a deserving animal a loving home?

ONLINE ACCESS OPEN ALL HOURS

We've made it as easy and convenient as possible for you to access our services and request or report something, wherever you are and whenever you need to.

You can save yourself a phone call or a trip to our offices by simply visiting www.winchester.gov.uk and the Your Winchester portal to access hundreds of useful services 24/7 from Planning to Parking and Housing to Bin Collections.

Going digital isn't just hassle-free, it's safe too. You can make online payments securely for Council Tax, housing, garage rent, parking fines, Licensing applications and renewals, Business Rates, Garden Waste service renewals and parking season tickets.

NO INTERNET? NO PROBLEM

If you don't have access to the internet at home, you can use a computer in the reception area at the Customer Service Reception in Colebrook Street. Just call us on **01962 840 222** to arrange a convenient time for you to pop in.

HAPPIER TO CHAT ON THE PHONE?

Here are our key telephone numbers that will take you direct to the service you require:

**Customer
Service Centre**
01962 840 222

Housing
01962 848 400

**Waste and
Recycling**
0300 300 0013

Visitor Information
01962 840 500

Parking
01962 848 346

Benefits
01962 848 539

Building Control
01962 848 176

**Out-of-hours
General
Housing**
01962 865 407
01962 865 405



PARKING QUERIES

If you need to sort a parking query, apply for a permit or pay a penalty charge notice, just visit www.winchester.gov.uk/parking

If you want to talk to someone face-to-face, please see the box right for details of how to do this.

WANT TO TALK FACE-TO-FACE?

Using our website is the quickest and easiest way to get an answer to your query or make a payment, but we understand that sometimes you just want to talk to a member of staff. We're happy to arrange an online video meeting for you to chat with members of our team 'face-to-face' – call us on **01962 840 222** to book a video appointment. If you are hard of hearing or have other special requirements and need to come in and see someone in person, please call us first to arrange a visit and save a wasted journey.



"The pandemic heralded a challenging time in local government – service pressures and budget cuts are never far from the headlines – but it has also taken us on a steep learning curve that's helped us streamline our services so more customers than ever before can transact with us at their convenience.

All of our services can be carried out online and more of you are taking advantage of this than ever before. Our teams are still here for you, and if you need to chat an issue through, you can always call a service up for on the spot advice – we'll also arrange a follow up video call if it's needed.

In terms of how we're doing budget-wise, our pragmatic approach continues and we continue to work to make sure we balance the books so we can keep essential services going for you, our customers."

CLLR NEIL CUTLER OBE
DEPUTY LEADER OF
WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL





LOCAL PLAN IT'S 'YOUR PLACE, YOUR PLAN'!

Winchester's Local Plan guides us in shaping the future of our district. It outlines what can be built where, and shapes future development plans up to 2039.



"This Local Plan development phase will be remembered as one that raised the bar in terms of engaging local people in the way their local areas develop.



We set out to do things differently – and really worked hard to ensure that we appealed to younger people, families and people whose voices don't always get heard when it comes to expressing what their local areas need. The innovative digital consultation system encouraged younger people, who are very familiar with such technology to add their opinions. It is very important for them to be involved as they are the future of the city.

Your council has been awarded two prestigious gold Royal Town Planning Institute awards as well as winning the overall South East Region, for our innovative approach to the new local plan, but we're not resting on our laurels – we need more local people to have their say to make sure the district develops into a place we can all thrive. Thank you to the 2,200 people who spoke up when we launched the Your Place, Your Plan engagement programme – please continue to work with us as we move forward to the next consultation phase – and if you haven't contributed then it's not too late to do so. We are very keen to encourage all to join the consultation process and make it truly 'Your Place, Your Plan'."



CLLR RUSSELL GORDON-SMITH
CABINET MEMBER FOR
BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Last year we held our consultation online about the new Local Plan and we were delighted to receive over 2,200 comments. Your council has been awarded two prestigious Royal Town Planning Institute awards for planning excellence in plan making, as well as winning the overall South East Region category. The feedback has been analysed and discussed with our Local Plan Advisory Group (LPAG). Under the spotlight are:

- **Shaping the vision**
- **Housing**
- **Sustainable transport**
- **Carbon neutrality**
- **Biodiversity**
- **Living well**
- **Conserving and enhancing the historic environment**
- **Creating a vibrant economy**

Read all about it by clicking on this link and searching for the LPAG meetings on 29 September, 24 November and 13 December 2021 – the minutes are published, so you can see all our progress to date.
www.winchester.gov.uk/LPAG

The next LPAG meeting will take place on 9 March at 6pm.

Images from Unsplash: top left Simon Harmer, circle Annie Spratt, top right Yana Tes,



GOT A QUESTION FOR OUR COUNCILLORS?

We're committed to listening and as part of this we make sure that local people get a chance to air what matters to them by asking questions at our public committee meetings.

If you wish to attend one of the council's meetings (whether to speak or just observe) simply visit www.winchester.gov.uk/councillors-committees/public-participation-at-meetings or email democracy@winchester.gov.uk to find out more.

If you have a question that you would like to ask at an ordinary full council meeting then here's what to do...

Please email democracy@winchester.gov.uk questions must be received by midday 5 working days before the day of the meeting.

Public questions and responses are published on our website: www.winchester.gov.uk/council-questions

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO GET INVOLVED!

We're using all your feedback and also talking to Parish and Town Councils to develop a draft Local Plan, which we are due to publish the draft plan in August, so you'll have further opportunity to have your say before we finalise the document. Then it goes to an independent inspector who will then oversee a 'Local Plan Examination'.

Register for updates by emailing planningpolicy@winchester.gov.uk and visit www.localplan.winchester.gov.uk for details of new consultations and latest news.

WINCHESTER TOWN FORUM

All City Councillors sit on the Winchester Town Forum and it meets 5 times a year – the next one is on Thursday 17 March. Topics under discussion commonly include regeneration, upkeep of historic monuments and ensuring the public realm is well maintained. If you're a city dweller and you'd like to hear the debates – or pose a question to the Chair and Members – you can find out more here: www.winchester.gov.uk/winchester-town-forum

Since September 2019: **48** questions have been asked by members of the public in our ordinary full council meetings

NORTH WHITELEY RESIDENTS WE NEED YOU!

North Whiteley is being developed with 3,500 homes, two primary schools, a secondary school, retail and a community centre constructed across parts of Whiteley and Curdridge. We're undertaking a Community Governance Review to help pin down Parish/Community or Town Council area boundaries and there are lots of options available.

If you would you like to help bring about improved community engagement, better local democracy and more effective and convenient delivery of local services we want to hear from you. We are looking for local volunteers to join The North Whiteley Advisory Group. Please contact kvincent@winchester.gov.uk or call **01962 848192** to find out more.

HOW ARE WE DOING?

In 2019 2,000 people across the district responded to our last survey, letting us know what mattered most to them.

With the pandemic more manageable, we've undertaken the research earlier this year, knocking on over 1,600 doors and also carried out a Young Persons' Survey. Over 500 people aged 18 to 24 have been quizzed about what's important to them. All results will be published later in the year, and the findings will help shape our priorities for the future.



TURN THE PAGE for the Winchester City Council ward map

WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL WARD MAP

Wonston & Micheldever



Cllr Patrick Cunningham Cllr Stephen Godfrey Cllr Caroline Horrill

Conservatives Conservatives Conservatives

Alresford & Itchen



Cllr Russell Gordon-Smith Cllr Isaac

Liberal Democrats Conservatives

The Worthys



Cllr Steve Cramoysan Cllr Malcolm Prince Cllr Jane Rutter

Liberal Democrats Liberal Democrats Liberal Democrats

Badger Farm & Oliver's Battery



Cllr Jan Warwick Cllr Brian Laming Cllr Hannah Williams

Conservatives Liberal Democrats Liberal Democrats

Colden Common & Twyford



Cllr Susan Cook Cllr Tony Bronk

Conservatives Liberal Democrats

Bishops Waltham



Cllr Michael Kurn Cllr David McLean Cllr Steve Miller

Conservatives Conservatives Conservatives

Whiteley & Shedfield



Cllr Vivian Achwal Cllr Roger Bentote Cllr Jonathan Fern

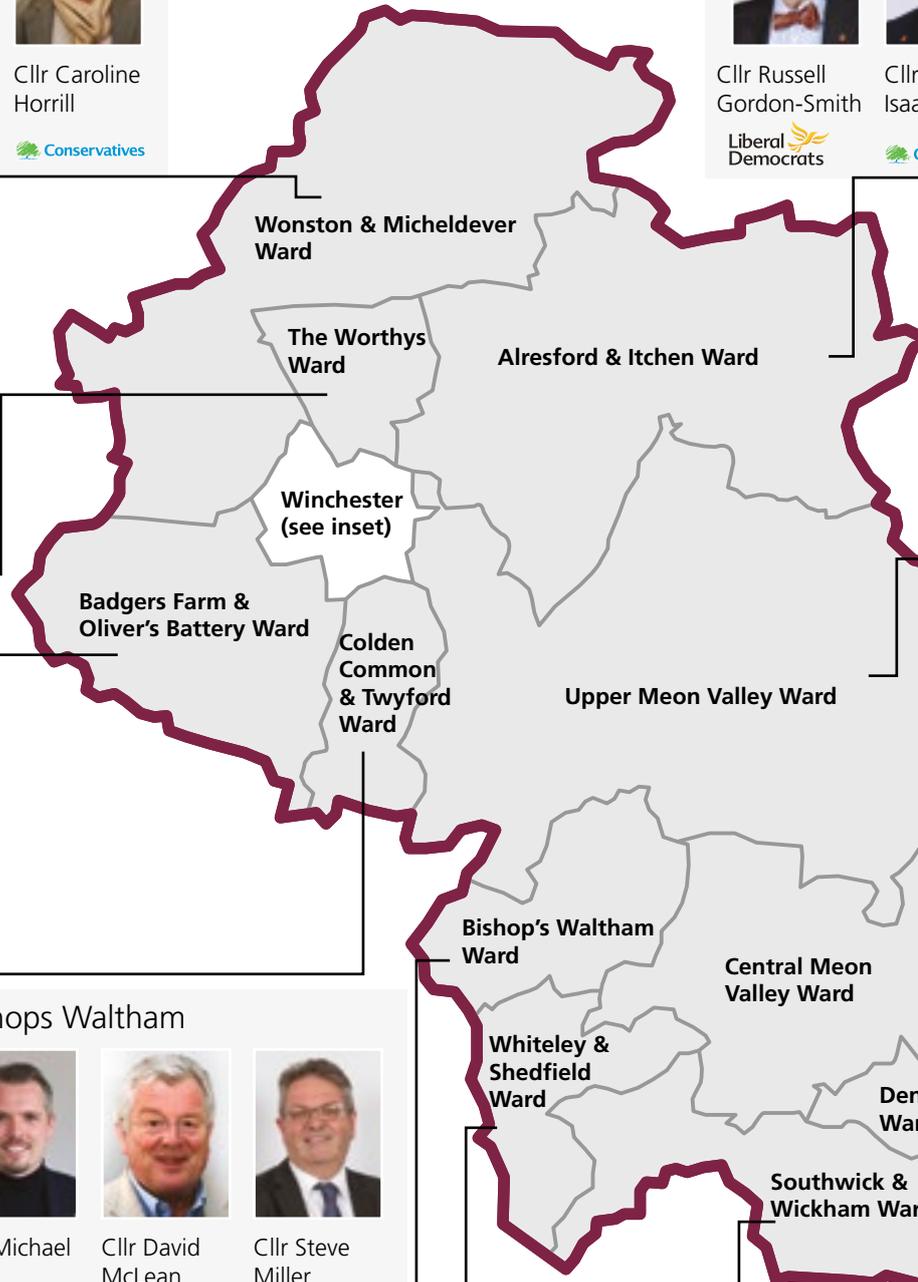
Liberal Democrats Liberal Democrats Liberal Democrats

Southwick



Cllr Angela Clear

Liberal Democrats



USE YOUR VOTE ON 5 MAY 2022

Local elections will take place on 5 May in all wards apart from St Luke. Make sure you're registered to vote at www.winchester.gov.uk/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



Lower Meon Valley



Fiona Macs
Cllr Margot Power
Conservatives Liberal Democrats

Upper Meon Valley



Cllr Laurence Ruffell
Cllr Hugh Lumby
Conservatives Conservatives

Central Meon Valley



Cllr Linda Gemmell
Cllr Frank Pearson
Cllr Victoria Weston
Conservatives Conservatives Independent

Denmead



Cllr Caroline Brook
Cllr Michael Read
Cllr Judy Clementson
Conservatives Conservatives Independent

St Michael & Wickham



Cllr Neil Cutler
Cllr Therese Evans
Liberal Democrats Liberal Democrats

A SNAPSHOT OF THE MAYOR OF WINCHESTER'S DIARY

- 26 Mar** Winchester Music Club Concert
- 23 Apr** Season Opening Day of Hyde Abbey Bowls
- 24 Apr** Winchester Scouts St Georges Day Parade and Service
- 30 Apr** Chairman of Hampshire's annual Concert
- 1 May** Winchester City Bowls Club season opening day

www.winchester.gov.uk/mayors-diary

St Barnabas



Cllr Mike Craske
Cllr Kelsie Learney
Cllr Anne Weir
Liberal Democrats Liberal Democrats Liberal Democrats

St Bartholomew



Cllr Paula Ferguson
Cllr Kathleen Becker
Cllr John Tippett-Cooper
Liberal Democrats Liberal Democrats Liberal Democrats

St Paul



Cllr Christopher Westwood
Cllr Lucille Thompson
Cllr Martin Tod
Liberal Democrats Liberal Democrats Liberal Democrats

St Luke



Cllr Derek Green
Cllr Jamie Scott
Liberal Democrats Conservatives

St Michael



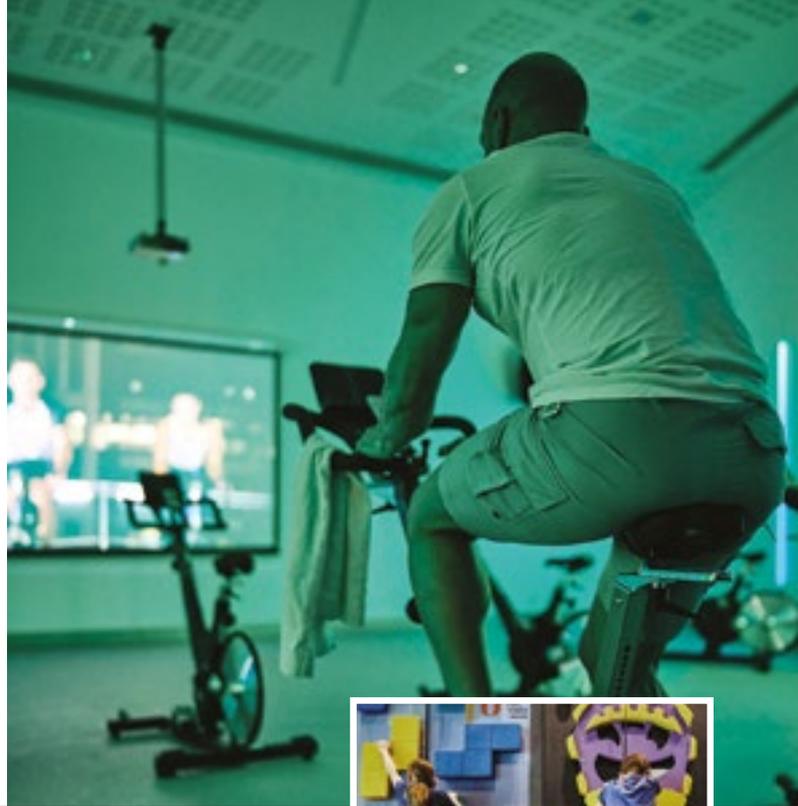
Cllr Chris Edwards
Cllr Charles Radcliffe
Vacant
Liberal Democrats Liberal Democrats

KEEPING BUSY

AT WINCHESTER SPORT & LEISURE PARK

From somersaulting to swimming and climbing to cardio, there's no doubt the new facilities at Winchester Sport & Leisure Park are a hit!

Since the city's newest sport and leisure venue opened in May 2021, we've welcomed a whopping...



400,000+
visitors

1,230
people registered
on the swim scheme

5,945
climbers on the
Top Rock facility!

MAKING A SPLASH

The new centre hosted the Swim England South East Championship in November. Over **19,000** supporters watched online as Lewis Burras a swimmer from our local club, Winchester City Penguins, won the men's 50m and 100m freestyle events, becoming the second fastest British Swimmer in the 50m race.



"The centre is magnificent, we are lucky to have a facility like this in our town offering lots of activities to engage in."

MO



"I take part in Winchester Gold Circuits every Saturday. The water is very warm and I really like my Hydrotherapy pool instructor."

LUCY

FOOTBALL FANATIC?

We've partnered with ActiveMe 360 to deliver two weeks of football activities this Easter, for girls and boys aged 6-13 years between 11 and 14 April, and from 19 – 22 April.

Join in the fun at Whiteley, Bishop's Waltham, Colden Common, South Wonston, Kings Worthy, Stanmore, Newlands or Winchester City for just £5 per week. Email hello@activeme360.com for details.



HELP IN A HEARTBEAT

Both Winchester Sport & Leisure Park and Meadowside Leisure Centre have joined The Circuit, a national network connecting the location of defibrillators to NHS ambulance services. The movement looks to ensure that in those crucial moments after a cardiac arrest, this life saving piece of kit can be accessed quickly to help save more lives.

