

Housing Newsletter

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Housing Services e-newsletter May 2022

Welcome to the Housing Services e-newsletter



Tenants Handbook

The tenant's handbook as had some minor amendments. To view the handbook click [here](#)



TACT (Tenant and Council Together) AGM

The TACT AGM is taking place on Thursday 26th May, 10.30am – 12.30pm in The Walton Room of the Guildhall.

There will be a question and answer session with some of the main council contractors. Confirmed as attending so far are:

- YBC Cleaning Services Ltd
- CCS Mechanical & Electrical Services
- Idverde
- Osborne

If you are interested, would like to attend or know more about the meeting or

what TACT does, please contact one of the Tenant Involvement officers on; 0800 716 987 or [email](#)

More information can be found on the [website](#);

Get involved with housing – we listen and learn from what you say

Proof read for housing

Would like to join the Readers Panel to give feedback on this E-newsletter and future E-newsletter as well as letters that go to more than 50 customers, leaflets, newsletters and the annual report?

The Readers Panel which is made up of tenants and leaseholders have the opportunity to make comments and suggestion before we publish or write to our customers.

Joan from Denmead said:

'I find it interesting and helpful meeting other tenants - although this has not been physically possible recently, and hearing about other residential areas of the council. Living in the Southern Parishes is quite different from Winchester City!. As part of the Reader Panel I hope that I can be helpful in making Newsletters and leaflets easy to read and understand'

If you are interest in finding out more about the Readers panel please contact the Tenant Involvement team by [email](#) or call 0800 716 987

For more information visit the [website](#)

Training for our Tenants

4 tenants attended a course on **Effective Tenant Involvement and Community Engagement** at South Coast Training event in April.

This workshop showed the importance of effective engagement with tenants,

residents and communities, and allowed tenants from Housing providers throughout the South Coast area (both Council and Housing Associations) to interact and share ideas. The event was held at the Novotel Hotel in Southampton, and was a refreshing opportunity to return to some face to face networking and training for our involved tenants. All from Winchester enjoyed the day, and came away equipped with increased knowledge and learning to work with Tenant Involvement.

Thinking of having a bonfire?

Can you avoid burning, burn cleaner, burn safely?



Bonfires - a hot topic

Bonfires can cause harmful air pollution which can affect the health of your family and others in the local community. Instead of lighting a bonfire consider other ways to dispose of your waste including:

- compost or use a shredding machine to create mulch for your garden
- use our garden waste collection service [visit](#)
- take your items to a waste and recycling center [click here](#) to find your nearest site

If you do need to have a bonfire make sure you never burn plastic or

rubber and only burn dry, untreated wood. And do make sure hedgehogs are not buried among a pile of bonfire material and be safe!

For more advice please [visit](#)

Raising Fire Concerns

Knowing what to do in the event of a fire and understanding how to reduce fire risks at home will keep you and your neighbour's safe, and potentially save your life.

Please report any concerns about fire safety in your home.

- [Visit](#) (if you don't have an account simply use the guest option)
- Phone Housing on 01962 848 400
- Email housing@winchester.gov.uk
- Talk to a tenant representative from TACT – call the Tenant Involvement Team on Freephone 0800 716 987

Further information can be [here](#)

GARAGES AVAILABLE!

Are you looking for a garage in our district?
We have a number of garages to let in the following areas:

- Alresford
- Bishops Waltham
- Highcliffe
- Kingsworthy
- Swanmore
- Weeke
- Winnall



We have garages available to let in your area

If you are interested in renting a garage, and would like more information on

locations, charges, terms and conditions, how to submit an application please visit our website winchester.gov.uk/housing/garages or contact us by email garages@winchester.gov.uk or phone 01962 814 922



Extra Care can be extra fun!

Our three Extra Care schemes in the city centre are perfect for anyone aged 55 or over who has ongoing care needs but wants to remain living independently. You have your own flat with your own front door, but with the reassurance of knowing onsite support is available 24/7. Living in Extra Care provides a safe and supportive environment and the chance to be part of a thriving community. Communal lounges and dining rooms provide opportunities to meet neighbours and enjoy a range of activities so no one has to ever feel lonely. If you (or someone you know) are currently living in housing which is no longer suitable and need help with personal care, Extra Care could be the answer.

Visit the [website](#) for more details.

An award winning caring team!

Our Sheltered Housing team have received a well-deserved award from The Mayor, after being nominated by a tenant for all their work throughout Covid to keep everyone safe and supported. Pic



Digital garden competition!

If you are proud of your gardening skills, or would like to say well done to a green fingered neighbor, please enter our gardening competition. Simply send us a photo of your garden, vegetable patch, pots, containers or window boxes and include your name, address and contact number by [Email](#)

- First prize: £50 national garden vouchers
- 2nd and 3rd runners up: £25 national garden vouchers
- Best plant container: £25 national garden vouchers.

Further information can be found [here](#) [T&C apply](#)

Closing date of 3 August 2022.



Road verges

To keep our bees buzzing and wildflowers blooming, we've reduced cutting on a select number of road verges in New Alresford and Badger Farm. We launched this pilot scheme last year and are re-running it from March - September 2022 to keep biodiversity flourishing. If this continues to be a success, we'll look to expand the project to other areas.

Species-rich grassland decreased in Winchester by 19% between 2005 and 2018, and we want to change that for our pollinators, plants and our planet. Road verges are extremely important for wildlife. Cutting verges less often can support 700 species of wildflowers and provide nectar for insects, bees and butterflies...

Don't worry drivers... road verges close to junctions will be kept at a safe level so you can still see when driving around corners!

World Bee Day

Bees are essential to our wildlife as they help plants to grow, which provides food and habitats for other creatures... even a lot of the food we eat relies on the pollination they spread!

On Friday 20 May 2022, it's World Bee Day, a day to think about the importance of bees and to take action to help protect them. Their numbers have been declining, caused by loss of habitat and food sources as they've been exposed to pesticides and climate change.

There's a few small things you can do to make a big difference... you could build or buy a bee house, put a bee bath in your garden, go chemical free, support beekeepers, and plant flowers! Click [here](#) for more information

No Mow May

Take on the No Mow May Challenge this month to let flowers bloom and provide nectar or a home to pollinators and other insects...

All you need to do is cut back on mowing the grass for the month to allow plants to grow and create enough nectar. Then at the end of May, you can count all the flowers that have grown and take part in the conservation charity Plantlife's Every Flower Counts survey.

Find out more [here](#)

Every Flower Counts

Every Flower Counts is part of No May, and encourages people to let their flowers grow wild. You can then count how many have bloomed in a square metre patch of grass and fill in Plantlife's survey where you'll be told how

much nectar has been produced to feed pollinators: Find out more [here](#)



Get out get active

Winchester Park Yoga

Park Yoga is returning to Winchester this summer and will take place every Sunday morning at the Garrison Ground (the field right next to the Winchester Sport & Leisure Park – SO23 9NR).

The first session will commence on Sunday 1 May at 9:30am – 10:30am, and will continue every week until September. These community sessions are provided free of charge and led by a local, qualified instructor. Everyone is invited, including children, and all abilities are welcome. Just bring your mat, towel or blanket, and be part of something great.

For more information please visit the [website](#) for more information



Carbon Footprint Report

Our Sustainability team have been making excellent progress tackling the climate emergency!

The **Carbon Footprint Report 2020/21** has been published and it shows we've cut our carbon emissions by an amazing 26% compared to the year before.

In just a decade we've cut 41% of our carbon emissions, a large part of achieving this figure was due to this past year alone! A lot more is in store for the next few years, which will get us closer to our carbon neutral goals...

Find out more [here](#):

Electricals recycling

Thanks to all of you, in just one year of launching our scheme to recycle small electrical items, more than 4.6 tonnes of batteries and 17.22 tonnes of other items have been saved from landfill!

If you have unwanted small electrical items at home, there are plenty of options for what to do with them... You could reuse, recycle, donate, or sell anything from toasters to batteries.

Just pop them in a carrier bag and put them next to your waste or recycle bin on collection day.

[Find out more:](#)

About Winchester

The latest About Winchester Newsletter can be viewed [here](#) where you can read

- Plans to transform the city
- Climate emergency

If you have any feedback on this E-newsletter please [email](#) us

Latest News

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