

## **Winchester District Councillors Report October 2020**

### **Staying Connected in Winchester**

You can now stay connected in Winchester city centre using our new free Wi-Fi service, available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

To access the Wi-Fi search for the WinCityFree Wi-Fi network signal on your device and tap connect. You'll be online in no time at all and able to check your email, or visit your favourite websites without worrying about data charges. Find out more [here](#).

### **I need help. How do I get Support?**

There's a team of people ready to support anyone in our district who needs a helping hand. Call the Hampshire Coronavirus Help and Support Line on 0333 370 4000 between 9am to 5pm, Monday to Thursday and 9am to 4.30pm on Fridays. This helpline for vulnerable residents remains available to those who need support, such as access to food and essential supplies and to provide comfort to residents who may be feeling lonely as a result of shielding or self-isolating.

More support can be found on our website: [winchester.gov.uk/get-help](http://winchester.gov.uk/get-help)

### **Getting Winchester Back to Business**

The lockdown and the measures since July have put new pressures on businesses and consumers alike but Winchester City council is helping local businesses get back on their feet by:

- Setting up a helpline and email support to guide businesses through the available support – we've already helped over 870 businesses directly
- Keeping the wider business community informed with special editions of the Winchester Business Bulletin and industry e-newsletters
- Creating 'Back to Business' information packs specifically aimed at helping businesses reopen
- Netting £93,000 from the Enterprise M3 Supporting High Street Fund to provide outdoor seating to high street restaurants and signage to support social distancing across the district's centres
- Offering practical advice to local daytrippers and supporting tourism businesses through reopening via Winchester Visitor Information Centre's team
- For further information or guidance please contact: [ecodev@winchester.gov.uk](mailto:ecodev@winchester.gov.uk) or telephone on 01962 814915.#LOVELOCAL

### **Climate Change – Acting Locally**

Last year, Winchester City Council declared a climate emergency and agreed an action plan to make our organisation carbon neutral by 2024, and the wider district by 2030.

## RoutesTo Carbon Neutrality Our Sustainability Conference

Our first virtual Sustainability Conference on Thursday 1 and Friday 2 October where were joined by guest speakers including, Chris Goodall, author of 'What we need to do now' and 'How to live a low-carbon life'. It was a chance to locals to hear about our plans to tackle the climate emergency and ambitions for carbon neutrality and to ask questions to speakers, officers and the administration. It was a great success with a wealth of experience and knowledge form the speakers and highly engaged residents.

## A Fresher City

With restrictions on travel over the last few months, fewer people used their cars and we saw an increase in walking and cycling in the city. As a result air quality improved and although we can all travel more now we want to encourage everyone to use their car less, so we are:

- Pressing ahead with the development of nine cycle routes and 13 walking routes across the city
- Better coordinating freight deliveries to reduce congestion and delays in the city centre
- Working with bus operators to look to increase Park & Ride bus frequency and expand bus routes across the city where demand is highest
- Welcoming a £5.85m grant from the Enterprise M3 Local Economic Partnership to support a new deked, 300 space Park & Ride car park at Bar End to reduce city centre traffic and carbon emissions

All of these plans have emerged from the City of Winchester Movement Strategy, which we have worked on closely with Hampshire County Council.

## Bag to Bin

Our new garden waste service starts in February next year, but you can order your new collection bin now. There are still 25 collections every year and you can choose between our compact bin at £39 a year or our large bin at £59 a year. These new large bins hold more than 2.5 times the capacity of the old sacks.

To sign up to have your garden waste collected as of February 2021 please visit [winchester.gov.uk/garden-waste-collection](http://winchester.gov.uk/garden-waste-collection)

## **Crowdfunding Winchester – Grants Supporting Our Communities**

Crowdfunding is a different way to raise money for good ideas and it's one that means communities can support ventures that directly improve life locally. The city council is currently running three funds and we match the money you raise up to the value of £2,000!

1. This fund supports community projects and businesses within the Winchester district that are implementing change, tackling the climate emergency or supporting our

people who are isolated, on a low income, homeless, suffering from mental health problems and affected by physical inactivity.

2. Our Town Community Fund is for projects within the five unparished wards that benefit the local community.
3. The Greener Future Fund supports projects aimed at reducing the carbon footprint of a particular area. Applicants are asked to show how their work helps to achieve transport improvements, save energy, enhance properties and encourage behavioural changes.

How to get involved? Visit: [crowdfunder.co.uk/crowdfund-winchester](https://crowdfunder.co.uk/crowdfund-winchester) for more information

### **Great news - Glass Recycling Soars**

We're recycling record levels of glass every month thanks to you. Since we started a household box service, we've seen on average over 100 tonnes more glass being collected each month. Following the introduction of smaller bin collection lorries to 600 houses on narrower and 'difficult to access' streets, even more households are recycling their glass from home.

### **Greening Campaign**

Be one of our first five communities to sign up for the 'Greening Campaign' and we'll give you £150 to help you get underway. One small village in Hampshire saved 64 tonnes of CO2 in phase one and created a picture of 64 hot air balloons over the village to visualise the success of just making small lifestyle changes.

To apply please email: [climateemergency@winchester.gov.uk](mailto:climateemergency@winchester.gov.uk)

### **Last Months Flash Floods**

Last month we saw a months rain fall in just 25 minutes and it served as a stark reminder how Winchester's low-lying position can be problematic when the heavens open and an investigation by Hampshire County Council is underway. Meanwhile, we've started construction work on a major new flood defence for Winchester at Durngate to help protect the city centre, homes and businesses from high water levels and help control flooding. The new sluice gates will be able to hold back up to 250,000m<sup>3</sup> of water, the equivalent to around 3.2 million bathtubs! Work is expected to be completed in December 2020 and Durngate car park will be closed during this time.

If you're a resident or business affected by flooding,

please contact our customer support team on 01962 840 222.