

URGENT NEED FOR MORE HOMES TO RENT

Winchester City Council has a programme to build new homes, and continues to deliver at a higher rate than many areas in the country. There is continuing work to identify land on which further council owned housing can be built in the District, including our area. It is important to focus on homes that are realistically attainable for all residents. This objective is particularly important for our ward to ensure that the local workforce can live locally.

As a Prospective City Councillor, Irene Spencer, presently a Town Councillor, said, "I will work with the Housing Portfolio Holder to ensure we address the issues faced by residents in Alresford and Itchen Valley Ward. In the past few years we have seen new homes in Itchen Abbas and also on Mitford Road, but we need homes specifically targeted at the rental market. Affordable housing is not 'affordable' for many residents in our ward where house prices are so high - we need more housing available to rent."

Cllr Ernie Jeffs added, "Irene is absolutely correct that we need to do more to provide housing for local residents which really are affordable and provide the independence that people want."



Cllr Ernie Jeffs at Mitford Road site with Prospective City Councillor, Irene Spencer

NEWS IN BRIEF.....

- **EVENING BUSES:** Do use the evening bus service and remember **it's half price travel after 7pm.**
- **HOW TO REPORT MISSED BINS:** Hopefully it is rare that bins **aren't emptied but if they aren't, call 0300 300 0013** or report online www.winchester.gov.uk, using **"Report Missed Bins"**.
- **FLY TIP REPORTING:** Again, you can report via telephone or **online (as above), using "Report"**. **Cllr Lisa Griffiths says, "We have 3 prosecutions pending and a 100% prosecution success rate - don't mess with us!"**

NO, NO, NO – PLEASE?

While it's tempting to park up on the pavement to drop something off, Cllr Lisa Griffiths said, "Residents with pushchairs, wheelchairs and mobility scooters are frustrated to find their path blocked by vehicles and have asked me to **help stop this.**"

So, a little reminder – when you park, or a driver delivers, please make sure it is not in such a way that may cause someone to **have to divert onto the road. It's illegal to park on the pavement!**

MASTERPLAN DELIVERS NEW DEAN CAR PARK

The Masterplan exercise, which brought together the individual land owners of The Dean site, has successfully secured benefits for the whole town. In January Winchester City Council approved the purchase of the land for a new 47 space car park, with completion in late 2018. Prospective City Councillor, Irene Spencer, commented, "Your City Councillors and I are delighted that this element of the Masterplan will be delivered this year, and that all 47 spaces will be fully available to the public, on a pay and display basis."



Cllr Ernie Jeffs and Prospective City Councillor, Irene Spencer, review the progress in The Dean

CONSERVATIVES REJECT ALLOWANCE INCREASE

Conservative councillors on Winchester City Council have rejected a proposal by an independent remuneration board to **increase their councillors' allowances** by 8%. At a meeting of full Council in January, Councillor Ian Tait, who represents St Michael Ward in the City, proposed that the substantial increase should be rejected, when public finances are so stretched and staff are not receiving such a substantial increase. While almost all LibDem councillors voted for the 8% increase in allowances, Conservatives out-voted them, so saving £20,000 per year. Allowances are paid out of your taxes, so must not be wasted.



The last Cabinet meeting was held in Alresford and will be held around the District in future

NEW CANCER TREATMENT CAMPAIGN

Steve Brine MP met up with Victoria's Promise this January, the charity set up to support young women through their cancer treatment and beyond.

They launched their campaign in the first week of the new year to raise the £100,000 to bring their services to RHCH so that the young women treated there will benefit from the support the charity is presently giving the young women at other hospitals in Hampshire and London.

You can find out more via www.victoriaspromise.com/vp2w

SCHOOL FUNDING

The Government has delivered on its schools funding increase promise. As a result of the changes to the local funding formula for 2018/19, Hampshire schools have an increase of 2.6%, with Winchester schools specifically receiving an increase of 3.7%.

MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE - KERBSIDE GLASS RECYCLING COMING SOON

Winchester residents should soon be able to recycle more types of waste as the City Council starts planning to collect glass as part of the regular kerbside collection. The Conservative administration is to include a monthly District-wide kerbside glass collection as part of the waste collection negotiations for the new contract that starts in 2019. In addition, we are working with Hampshire County Council and other councils to expand the range of plastics and other waste that can be recycled locally.



Cllr Jan Warwick

Councillor Jan Warwick, the City Council's Environment lead said, "Until now, it has just been too expensive to introduce glass collection, but initial discussions for the new contract have indicated that we can improve our recycling rates without **wasting taxpayers' money**. There is a lot of support among residents to increase what can be recycled, with glass collection being top of the wish list. We think that residents are willing for us to spend a bit of their money in order to **improve the service that we deliver.**"

A free container will be supplied to each household that wants one and there will be no **additional charge for using this service**. The existing 'bring sites' (bottle banks) will remain in place unless they are no longer needed once the new service has bedded in.

NEW LEISURE CENTRE AT BAR END

The plans for the new sports and leisure park at Bar End are firming up. Over the last few months, local residents have been working closely with the City Council's **design team, sports groups and other partners to define the Urban Design Framework** – which sets out what may happen in each part of the whole area. The outline business case has emerged alongside this, so the Council is now in a position to start procuring a construction company and an operator for the whole leisure park.

Councillor Guy Ashton, who represents residents of St Michael Ward, which includes **Bar End**, said, "The interest shown in this venture, by those who will be impacted by the project, has been tremendous. I have led the engagement activity, so I am delighted that the City Council is taking full account of the wishes and concerns **of the project's neighbours.**"



Cllr Guy Ashton

STRONG AND COMPETENT LEADERSHIP IN OUR COMMUNITY

VISION FOR CENTRAL WINCHESTER

You have been having your say on what should happen to the centre of Winchester. After 20 years of local disagreement, the new Conservative administration at Winchester City Council has engaged with local residents, businesses and other stakeholders to create a new vision for how to improve the rundown part of our beautiful City.

Council Leader Caroline Horrill said, "The inspiring way that so many people have joined in the process to influence what happens next in Winchester, fills me with hope for the future. While the Supplementary Planning Document will soon be adopted, after we have reflected the comments that we receive, there will be many further opportunities to shape each step of the way. We will certainly use this open approach to development for all our major projects, so everyone can play their part."



The Cabinet directing people during the closure of the Bus Station for refurbishment

MAJOR OVERHAUL FOR JUNCTION 9

Steve Brine MP has warmly welcomed news that the M3 J9 will be redesigned under plans to create dedicated free flow lanes which will allow drivers travelling between the M3 and the A34 to avoid using the junction roundabout.

The roundabout itself will be redesigned into a new 'dumbbell' layout, which will increase capacity, improve safety and make journey times more reliable.

More than 6,000 vehicles currently use the junction each hour during peak times, and local residents have long been aware of the queues and congestion.

Steve Brine said, "I am delighted at this long-awaited news, and the proposals to separate out the long-distance traffic passing by Winchester from our local traffic.

"I am also pleased to see that improved access for pedestrians, cyclists and equestrians are also very much part of the plans."

Subject to confirmation, construction could start in 2021 and take around two years to complete.



Today's Junction 9

www.stevebrine.com/junction9

FOCUS ON RHCH

Steve Brine MP has said the focus needs to be on securing RHCH, following news that there will not be a new Critical Treatment Hospital built between Winchester and Basingstoke.

Senior clinicians have been in discussions about the future configuration of services, and concluded that a new centre was not affordable and would have impacted other health services across the area.

Steve Brine said: "We have to maintain a sensible and balanced discussion about the future of acute care that, above all else, ensures the local NHS is there when we're acutely unwell."

www.stevebrine.com/prioritynhs

QUESTION TIME AT CITY SCHOOL

Steve Brine MP visited St Faith's C of E primary school in December, as a follow up to a group of Year 4 and Year 5 children visiting Parliament in September.

The Winchester MP held a special question time session, which was decorated with key backgrounds and props that the school borrowed from Parliament's Education Centre on their visit.

Steve Brine said: "What a delightful visit, and all credit to the school for making use of the excellent accessories provided by the Education Service. I really enjoyed the session, and hope the children took a lot out of it."



Steve Brine MP at 'Question Time' with pupils from St Faith's School

STRONG AND COMPETENT LEADERSHIP IN OUR COMMUNITY

Name

Address

Home/Mobile No

Email

Please let us know of any local issues which are of concern to you:

HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT US:

- Join the local Party
- Stand for Council
- Display a poster at election time
- Deliver leaflets
- Vote by post

We would like to keep in touch with you about any issues raised and our work locally. Please tick the relevant boxes below to indicate how you would like to receive this information.

Address Email Telephone

The information you provide will be used for these purposes only, and will be used only by the Conservative Party, including its candidates, representatives and associations. We will not give information to anyone else.

Please return to:

Winchester Conservative Association,
The Conservative Office, Manor Farm,
Itchen Stoke, Alresford SO24 00T

BUSINESS RATES RELIEF FOR LOCAL BUSINESSES

The high business rates increase in the Ward, and across the District, was felt considerably by some local businesses. Quite rightly, they raised the alarm at the rates uplift they received.

Reassuringly, WCC has successfully rolled out payments to businesses who qualified for relief – no fuss, just good service, reassuring businesses by supporting them so they could continue to operate.

This service will continue in the coming years. Prospective City Councillor, Irene Spencer, said, **“Our local businesses are vital to our community so it’s good to see the Council taking prompt action.”**



Cllrs Lisa Griffiths and Ernie Jeffs with Prospective City Councillor, Irene Spencer, at the Abbas Business Centre in Itchen Abbas

THE ALRESFORD TIP

Thank you to all the residents who responded to the Post Lite, delivered before Christmas. 100% of respondents wanted it kept open! The majority supported a small charge to use the tip if it means the service can be retained.

Cllr Lisa Griffiths said, “I know that Hampshire County Council is working closely with local MPs and the Government to seek a change in legislation. To allow Waste & Recycling Centres to be saved, HCC are looking at various mechanisms to make them viable and a small charge may be the answer.”

THE STRONG LOCAL TEAM FOR ALRESFORD & ITCHEN VALLEY



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