

# ABOUT WINCHESTER

winchester.gov.uk

AUTUMN 2020



## WE'RE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER...

Over the past six months, our district has come together to support those who need it the most. We've seen more than 40 local community groups delivering support to neighbours across the district, a huge increase in donations to food banks, heartfelt support for NHS staff, and a new found appreciation for teachers... it really has been a time of reflection for us all.

Your council has been here for you during these extraordinary six months. Whether it's ensuring bin collections keep running or helping us manage social distancing in our high street, we're constantly gaining insights from you, our residents, as you tell us how things work for you. We're using this feedback to make things better in your district – and focussing on building a positive future for residents and businesses.

Thank you to all of you who've followed the guidance. We are all relying on each other to keep the district's infection rate down.

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# A MESSAGE FROM ...

## LUCILLE THOMPSON LEADER OF WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL

A lot has happened since I last wrote to you in April.

In Winchester City Council's Local Response Centre we've been listening to local people who have been impacted by the virus. People who have lost loved ones, families facing an uncertain future due to employment problems, and those who have really felt the burden of isolation as the weeks continued... it really has not been an easy time for so many of our residents and businesses.

I've been reassured by something that we felt was here already – community spirit. Our district benefits from diverse communities, and what we've seen in the parishes and city alike shows me that by pulling together we can recover from this and come back

stronger than ever. That's why this year we're introducing The Mayor of Winchester's Local Hero Award. If you know someone in your community who deserves recognition for looking after others during lockdown, we want to hear about it – see page 15 to see how you can nominate.

Some of the practical impacts of the last months have also been positive – our centres and roads were freed from heavy traffic with a demonstrable improvement in air quality as a result. We're building on this by making changes in line with the Movement Strategy that will see fewer cars in our centres and make walking and cycling in the busy town centres more pleasant. To get to where we are today, all of us have made huge

sacrifices to the way we live, and as we look to continue to contain the virus we're all also still relying on each other.

Thank you all for everything you have done so far.



*Lucille Thompson*

## LAURA TAYLOR CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Over the last six months, your council has been responding to the fast changing needs of all our communities – making sure the right help gets to our more vulnerable residents, and adapting our services so wherever possible, they carried on running throughout the months of lockdown.

We've also been pressing ahead on things that matter for the future of our district – like continuing to build homes in Stanmore and Kings Worthy, progressing the sport and leisure park and central Winchester developments, and continuing with council meetings throughout – making sure you, our residents can fully contribute to the decision making process.

Things eased up in some ways over the summer – many businesses across our district's centres have opened again, and we've welcomed the recent opening of play parks, gyms and leisure centres – especially as wellbeing has never been more important.

Further challenges lie ahead for us all – the council has dealt with an increase in calls regarding Universal Credit, we have supported thousands of businesses in Grant aid and we faced a £5 million in year deficit with a further financial budget gap for next year already likely. Read more on page 12 as this challenging financial future may mean changes in the way we deliver services to you.

However, as we enter the autumn, things look set to change again and our priority – putting the right measures in place at the right time to support our residents and businesses and keeping you informed of changes – remains the same.



*Laura Taylor*



# TODAY IN THE DISTRICT

Things were feeling a bit more familiar recently, but announcements this week mean we must stay vigilant to keep the virus at bay.

If you're popping into one of the district's centres you'll see additional signage and stencilled pavement markings to support social distancing. A pedestrian one-way system is also in place along Winchester's historic high street to help the flow of shoppers in the busier areas.

Seeing the shops and eateries open up has been good news for the local economy, we'd like to encourage you to continue supporting your local high street – the brilliant local businesses who have worked so hard to make things right for their staff and customers are relying on you to help them get back on their feet.

**Here are some tips about what to remember when you are out and about in the district:**



## WASH HANDS

Don't forget to wash your hands whenever possible – especially before and after shopping



## COVER FACE

Remember before you leave your house to take your face covering so you can enter shops



## MAKE SPACE

Make sure to keep 2 metres distance if you can. If you see an area is busy, pop back later



Look out for hand sanitising units – or take your own for extra peace of mind



Avoid handling items from the shelves unless you are going to buy them



Whenever possible try to use contactless transactions



REMEMBER – if you don't feel well or are showing any COVID-19 symptoms please stay at home



RULE OF SIX – do not gather with more than six people outdoors or indoors



## DON'T LOSE YOUR CHANCE TO VOTE

The way we check the details on our electoral register is changing...

Everyone should have had a letter from us checking we have your details on the electoral roll. If all the details are correct – you have nothing else to do, sit back, you are on the register. But if you receive a letter or email from us asking for more information, please do respond so that you're eligible to vote in the next election.



There's more information here:  
[winchester.gov.uk/elections/annual-cavass](http://winchester.gov.uk/elections/annual-cavass)

## HELP US TO HELP YOU

Your council is always here for you and we're committed to staying in touch with our residents. Find out about changes to services and access the very latest advice and support for you in our **residents' e-newsletter!** To subscribe, please email: [resident@winchester.gov.uk](mailto:resident@winchester.gov.uk)



# KEEPING HAMPSHIRE SAFE

We're continuing to work alongside Hampshire County Council, the NHS and Public Health England to keep an eye on infection rates locally.

A new traffic light system is now in use to make it clear where the district is at in terms of infection rates.

Find out more at [hants.gov.uk/socialcareandhealth/coronavirus](https://hants.gov.uk/socialcareandhealth/coronavirus)



**LOW LEVELS OF INFECTION**

**RISING LEVELS OF INFECTION**

**POTENTIAL FOR A "LOCAL LOCKDOWN"**



## HOW TO GET SUPPORT NOW

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](https://winchester.gov.uk/get-help)

Direct support delivered to **870** business enquirers

**514**

vulnerable residents helped by our Local Response Centre

Tennis courts re-opened on Monday 8 June, with

**3,426** bookings so far

**Back to Business**  
guidance to shops, restaurants and hospitality sector issued on **16/06** and **04/07**

**219**

prescriptions hand-delivered

**1,650**

Reassurance calls to elderly housing tenants

# COVID-19

## YOUR COUNCIL PROVIDING SUPPORT FOR RESIDENTS & BUSINESSES

Over **2m** Bins collected

**18**

editions of our e-mailer to c. **19k** residents



"I am so very thankful for the food parcel – you saved my life by sending the parcel and I cannot thank you enough for all the help and support I have received."



Park & Ride service continued



Parks and open spaces kept open



**£29,024,050** distributed via **2,471** business grants



**24** WCC play areas re-opened morning of Saturday 4 July



# BACK TO BUSINESS

Your 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 ♥



## BOUNCING BACK

Our district has been bouncing back to life once more as businesses reopen their doors. We've been out and about seeing how our market towns and villages are getting on and have been pleased to see them bustling with life, with shoppers following social distancing.

Cabinet Members visited Bishop's Waltham and Wickham, to speak to local business owners and shoppers to see how they're doing since restrictions were eased. We saw special measures now in place – such as new hand sanitising stations located on Bishop's Waltham High Street.

*"I would personally like to say thank you to you and your team on behalf of all of us here. The support has been most welcome and has helped stem the losses we have incurred during lockdown. I am very pleased to say that businesses are very slowly starting to come back to work and on the whole the general feeling is that 'for now' fingers very much crossed, we have all dodged a bullet and are thankful to be back in the community generating jobs, wealth and mutual prosperity. Thank you for supporting us when we most needed it."*

**Kevin at Business Life Centres, a provider of serviced office accommodation based in Wickham.**

**"We've been working hard to support local businesses throughout the pandemic and, since April, we've given out over £29 million in grants to over 2,400 businesses across the Winchester District. These grants have provided vital help with cash flow for many struggling businesses and have been particularly important for those in the retail, hospitality, tourism and leisure industries.**

**We also made sure that eligible businesses were able to access rates relief quickly, which we know has made a real difference. In fact, the speed of our response put us in the top 25% of UK local authorities in terms of how quickly payments were released."**

**CLLR PAULA FERGUSON**  
CABINET MEMBER  
FOR LOCAL ECONOMY





# SOME VERY HAPPY CUSTOMERS

## PLAY PARKS

It's been so lovely to see our youngest residents back out enjoying our play parks since they opened at the beginning of July. We carefully checked all our sites and displayed new signage to support grown ups who are keen to use the parks as safely as possible. We also asked you to observe the suggested limits on numbers to ensure there is enough space to play at a distance and wipe your little ones hands before and after play. With the lovely weather we had over the summer, we saw lots of happy little faces across the district!



## BATS & RACQUETS ARE BACK

For the sports fans out there, we also re-opened our tennis courts at River Park in Winchester and our three cricket pitches in July with lots of you taking advantage of being able to play at a distance with friends and family. If you fancy a game, please book ahead to avoid disappointment: [everyoneactive.com](http://everyoneactive.com) and [winchester.gov.uk/sports-pitches](http://winchester.gov.uk/sports-pitches)



## PLAYING OUT IS IN...

Winchester City Council is supporting the 'Playing Out' scheme, a initiative which helps you organise regular playing out sessions by closing roads when restrictions allow groups of children to play.

The idea is to close the road to traffic for a few hours, making for a safer environment. The city council will cover the cost of a starter pack, and you get a free Rounders and Frisbee pack when the Playing Out team receive a copy of your road closure notice.

When the COVID-19 guidance allows, children of all ages will be able to play together close to home, supervised by parents and carers. The 'Playing Out' scheme provides reassurance that the road is being closed to traffic for a few hours making it much safer for our children.

See [playingout.net](http://playingout.net) to find out more.



**"It will be so good to see and hear children playing out safely in the streets near home. Especially after the last few months, the children in our district need to play outside together again and enjoy each other's company."**

**I am pleased that Winchester is the first city in Hampshire to take part in this brilliant initiative. I'd like even more street communities to take part, so we are doing all we can to provide starter packs to parents who want to set up this scheme for their neighbourhood."**

**CLLR JACKIE PORTER**  
CABINET MEMBER FOR BUILT  
ENVIRONMENT AND WELLBEING





# CLIMATE CHANGE – THE LATEST



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.

Read on to see what's been happening – and get involved...

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## ROUTES TO CARBON NEUTRALITY

### Sustainability Conference

Want to learn more about how you can help cut carbon emissions and reduce your impact on the environment? Join our virtual Sustainability Conference on Thursday 1 and Friday 2 October where we'll be joined by guest speakers including, Chris Goodall, author of *'What we need to do now'* and *'How to live a low-carbon life'* and hear about our plans to tackle the climate emergency and ambitions for carbon neutrality. We'll be releasing more details this month, so check out our website for more details to come and how to register:

[winchester.gov.uk/sustainability-conference-2020](http://winchester.gov.uk/sustainability-conference-2020)

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## 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 decked, 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.

## SAVING OUR SWIFTS

Good news – more swifts and sparrows have found a safe home in Winchester's Highcliffe area as part of our work to protect these beautiful birds.

Room for a nesting box?

Find out more about how you can help here:

[hampshireswifts.co.uk](http://hampshireswifts.co.uk)



**"The recent flash flooding in Winchester has been an unwelcome reminder to us all about the effects of the climate emergency. Freak weather events like this will become more and more common unless we step up our efforts. I am more determined than ever to make sure we, as a council and a district, hit our carbon reduction targets."**

**CLLR LYNDA MURPHY**  
CABINET MEMBER FOR  
THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY



## BAG TO BIN – AN IMPROVED SYSTEM

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)

## 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.



## INSPIRE YOUR COMMUNITY

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 CO<sup>2</sup> 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)

## CROWDFUND 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 Community Positive Change Fund

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 Town Community Fund

Our Town Community Fund is for projects within the five unparished wards that benefit the local community.

### 3 Greener Future Fund

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](http://crowdfunder.co.uk/crowdfund-winchester) for more information

## A MONTH'S RAIN IN JUST 25 MINUTES...

The recent flash flooding 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.







“Installation of these Photovoltaic panels is just one way the council is continuing its commitment to reduce our impact on the environment. Climate change affects all of us, and now, just over a year since we declared a climate emergency, this building plays an important role in our ability to make a continued effort to reduce the district’s CO<sup>2</sup> emissions.”

**CLLR MALCOLM PRINCE**  
CABINET MEMBER  
FOR SPORT, LEISURE  
AND COMMUNITIES



# WINCHESTER SPORT & LEISURE PARK SHAPES UP – SUSTAINABLY

Council contractor Willmott Dixon has made huge progress with the new leisure park, despite the restrictions over the last six months, and we’re thrilled to have reached the next major milestone in the build.

With more than 400 Photovoltaic (PV) solar panels now installed on the roof of the fitness suite and sports hall, the building is set to be the greenest of its kind in the UK.

Inside the building there’s work underway – the main pool, learner pool and sports hall are all being constructed. The team is also in the process of connecting the centre to Bar End Road with the construction of a new entrance and roundabout starting to take shape.

Our state-of-the-art centre will be equipped with the latest features including:

- 50m competition pool
- Separate training pool (also with a movable floor)
- Hydrotherapy suite
- Eight-court sports hall
- Four squash courts 200 gym stations
- Two large studios.

Our operator partner, Everyone Active, is working hard behind the scenes to create a programme of activities to suit all ages and abilities, with your health and wellbeing in mind.

For more information about Everyone Active, visit:  
[everyoneactive.com/everyone-active-in-winchester/](https://everyoneactive.com/everyone-active-in-winchester/)

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If you would like any further information about the facilities, please email: [leisurecentreproject@winchester.gov.uk](mailto:leisurecentreproject@winchester.gov.uk)





# THE WORLD IS CHANGING



## LISTEN AND LOOP IN LIVE....



Our public meetings now run remotely. You can still put your questions to councillors as before, meetings are audio live-streamed so anyone can listen in – and there’s an easy playback option too. Everything you need to know is on the city council website – by clicking on Meetings on the home page.

As part of our drive to ensure you can access what you need when you need it, members of the public are able to look at committee agendas and reports electronically for all council meetings, with the exception of confidential information. After the meeting the video recording is uploaded onto our YouTube channel

[youtube.com/winchestercc](https://www.youtube.com/winchestercc)



## LAYERS OF HISTORY

The archaeology teams from the University of Winchester (ARCA) and local firm PCA have drilled 14 boreholes from the bus station, around Kings Walk and across to The Brooks. Water from the boreholes is now being collected and the samples will reveal the sequence of deposits in the ground and help determine the history of the use of the site over time. The biological remains of things like seeds, pollen grains and insects preserved in the ground can help explain the history of the city and the nature of archaeological preservation.

Interested? Sign up to receive updates here: [winchester.gov.uk/projects/sign-up-for-updates](https://winchester.gov.uk/projects/sign-up-for-updates)

## TRANSFORMING CENTRAL WINCHESTER

We’ll soon be sharing with you the ideas to make the most of Kings Walk and kick off the regeneration of central Winchester. Thank you to everyone who took part in our survey – we had over 800 responses!

## HAPPY WINCHESTER

This summer Winchester was named the happiest place to live in the UK by money saving experts, Raisin and we’re feeling pretty pleased...

We’ll be Raising a glass to our mix of history, culture, shopping, countryside and community spirit! <https://bit.ly/HappyWinch>



## A NEW NATURE HAVEN

A group of volunteers in Winchester has created a magical wildlife haven out of a neglected space at Somers Close Recreation Ground in Stanmore. The nature trail includes a selection of wooden animals and a den building space. The Mayor made a visit earlier in the year to meet some young residents who have been enjoying the trail. Thank you to everyone who gave up their time to help!





## HOMES FOR ALL

We're continuing the important job of building affordable and sustainable homes for our residents. Over the next two years we hope to complete at least two major schemes and build 121 new homes – and we're taking stock of new national plans that may see this number grow.



## ROOM WITH A VIEW

Work is well underway at Hookpit Farm in Kings Worthy where we're building 35 new homes.

People will also be moving into The Valley development from spring 2021 onwards – that's 77 new homes, all with balconies and many with extraordinary views of St Catherine's Hill. A new network of paths will provide a safe and well landscaped access from Battery Hill Road to The Valley too.

But it's not just the big housing projects that can help our residents, we're also completing smaller developments of affordable homes at Dolphin Hill in Twyford and Rowlings Road in Weeke.



## CRITERIUM UPDATE

Winchester Criterium and the family-friendly Cyclefest was cancelled this year due to COVID-19. The event is set to be rescheduled for 2021 and we look forward to welcoming back riders then – for regular updates, visit: [winchestercriterium.org/](http://winchestercriterium.org/)

## SUPPORTING THE VULNERABLE

It's been so important to look out for each others wellbeing at the moment and that's why our housing teams reached out to our older and more vulnerable sheltered housing tenants to offer support. More than a thousand tenants were contacted in the spring and early summer and we offered a helping hand by:

- Loaning IT equipment so they could keep in touch with family and friends
- Making extra phone calls to check they were okay and had a friendly voice to talk to
- Providing help with shopping and prescription collections
- Linking with support groups, volunteers and other organisations to make sure those who needed help got it immediately

**“During the pandemic the council has worked tirelessly to help our residents whenever they needed it and provide personalised support for our vulnerable and elderly tenants.**

**Our homebuilding programme has continued and it's vital that we provide homes for all our residents, and affordability is as much if not more a priority today.”**

**CLLR KELSIE LEARNEY**  
CABINET MEMBER FOR  
HOUSING AND ASSET  
MANAGEMENT



# COVID-19: RESTACKING THE FIGURES

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a very significant impact on the finances of all local authorities across the UK.

Providing vital community responses to support our most vulnerable residents saw costs rise, whilst restrictions on social mobility and enforced closure of businesses saw the city council's income drop sharply. Parking charges, commercial rent and Guildhall hiring all fell away as your council kept working to provide new services and adapt to new guidance.

All in all the pandemic has resulted in a **forecast year end deficit of £10.7m** compared to the balanced General Fund budget approved in February 2020.

Support has been and is still forthcoming – **government grants and additional support is projected to amount to £5.6m**. The council has put together a revised budget to address the **remaining £5.1m deficit**. The signs are good that **we will balance the general fund budget by March 2021** – but we're also creating 'worst case' forecasts which take account of potential further lockdowns too.

**UNPRECEDENTED TIMES INDEED....**

"The impact of the pandemic on the council's finances has been dramatic with a fall in income of nearly one third of the annual budget. Even with the very welcome additional funding from Government, the deficit is almost one sixth of annual expenditure. Fortunately, our February budget made sure that the council's finances are robust enough to withstand this shock, though it will necessarily mean that hard choices will have to be made about spending priorities in the future.

However we are confident that we will be able to continue to improve our core services to residents, while doing all we can to support carbon reduction and a green recovery in the district."



**CLLR NEIL CUTLER OBE**  
DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER  
FOR FINANCE AND RISK

## PLANNING CHANGES

### NEW ENQUIRY SERVICE

A new planning enquiry service allows us to offer professional, flexible, tailored and timely advice to our customers. Find out more at

[winchester.gov.uk/planning](http://winchester.gov.uk/planning)

### LOCAL PLAN – CONSULTATION PAUSED

More changes to the planning process could be on the way soon. The government is consulting on new systems and processes that would see the way in which planning consent is decided become streamlined and move to online channels. We'll be updating you if and when things change.

Another change under consideration could see big increases in the number of houses we have to build to. This means, until we know the result of the government's own consultation we're pausing our own Local Plan consultation for now.





# MARKET MAKES A MOVE

Winchester Street Market has been testing The Broadway as a new location since Sunday 6 September. A need for increased space to prevent the spread of COVID-19 led to this move, and the trial also lets us test the area as a new site for markets – something local residents suggested during the Central Winchester Regeneration consultation. So far the response has been good – why not take a look for yourself?

Most of the stalls will be at The Broadway with a smaller number in the Lower High Street and Middle Brook Street.

- **The Antique & Collectables Market** is now the first Sunday of each month
- **The Art & Design Market** now the third Sunday
- **The Hampshire Farmers' Market** is now on the second Sunday of every month

Find out more by visiting: [winchester.gov.uk/community/markets](http://winchester.gov.uk/community/markets)

## RESPONSIBLE RUBBISH

If you're having a clear out and disposing of household items, you can take them to your Household Waste Recycling centre free of charge – just remember to book a slot before you set off using the Hampshire County Council website.

Please don't dump your rubbish as fly-tipping is a crime and our neighbourhood services team will investigate incidents across the district and you may end up facing a fine.



## LEISURE CENTRES ARE BACK!

We're so pleased our leisure centres have now reopened for everyone to enjoy activities and sports once again. Staff at River Park Leisure Centre in Winchester and Meadowside in Whiteley have been busy behind-the-scenes putting in place various safety measures to enhance social distancing so people can use the facilities with confidence. To use the leisure centres, you'll need to book activities in advance, either online or via the Everyone Active App. Don't forget to arrive in your sports kit and please also remember not to visit if you have any COVID-19 symptoms. The Everyone Active team is looking forward to welcoming you back!



# WINCITY FREE WI-FI IS HERE



You can now stay connected in the city centre using a new free Wi-Fi service.

The new service for shoppers and daytrippers is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, coverage includes Winchester Railway Station, all of the High Street down to the King Alfred statue, Jewry Street and The Square, so you can remain connected while you're on the go.

To access the Wi-Fi, search for the '\_WinCityFree' network signal on your device and tap 'connect'. Registration just takes a couple of clicks and you'll be online in no time and able to access your favourite websites and Apps without worrying about data charges.

"Free Wi-Fi won't just be useful for Winchester visitors and residents but will be good for business too. It's more and more common to need to book a table or a cinema ticket, or check opening times when you're out and about in the city. And visitors often want to look up information on what's on and where to go.

In today's world, it's so important to stay connected and access information quickly, so we're delighted to be offering this free service and take away the worry of data charges. With coverage extending around the High Street, Wi-Fi will also help support businesses as they continue to welcome back customers."

**CLLR MARTIN TOD**  
CABINET MEMBER FOR  
SERVICE QUALITY  
AND TRANSFORMATION



## HEALTH SERVICES IN HAMPSHIRE

Residents across Hampshire have been sharing their views on a major modernisation of health services across the county. Hampshire Together: Modernising our Hospitals and Health Services is a programme that will deliver a new hospital to serve the people of Hampshire, as well as many other healthcare benefits, as part of the government's Health Infrastructure Plan to modernise NHS hospitals.

More information about the programme can be found at: [hampshiretogether.nhs.uk/](http://hampshiretogether.nhs.uk/)





# THE 821st (and the 1st virtual) MAYOR OF WINCHESTER



## MEET THE MAYOR

Cllr Patrick Cunningham was appointed as the 821st Mayor of Winchester on 19 May 2020 and made history by being the first to do so in a virtual ceremony!

The Mayor has chosen three fantastic charities to support over his year of office – Winchester Young Carers, Home-Start Winchester and Youth Options. He is delighted to be out and about in the community once more in socially distanced events.

A white handwritten signature of Cllr Patrick Cunningham on a dark red background.

## TWYFORD FLYERS VOLUNTEERS

The Mayor met with the Twyford Flyers to thank the group of volunteers for their fantastic work over the last four months.

The group of 59 responders have delivered a staggering 5,500 hot meals, as well as groceries and prescriptions to local people in need of support. Well done to these local heroes.



## MAYOR'S VISIT TO THE FOOD BANK

Meon Valley Food Bank and Winchester Churches Nightshelter received visits from the Mayor and Mayoress of Winchester over the summer.

Councillor Patrick Cunningham helped serve residents at the night shelter and thanked all the local volunteers for their efforts and dedication to the community during lockdown.



## THE MAYOR OF WINCHESTER'S LOCAL HERO AWARD

Do you know someone who deserves recognition for going above and beyond for their friends and neighbours during lockdown? If so, the Mayor of Winchester, Cllr Patrick Cunningham would like to hear from you.

To nominate a local hero please fill out this form: [winchester.gov.uk/local-hero](https://winchester.gov.uk/local-hero)

**Deadline for nominations is 30 September.**



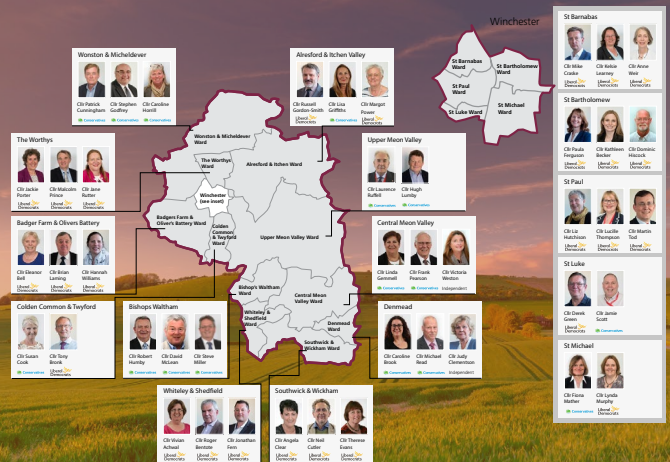
# YOUR COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

Do you want to hear more about what's going on in Winchester district? Sign up to About Winchester by emailing [resident@winchester.org.uk](mailto:resident@winchester.org.uk) to start receiving regular local news straight to your inbox.

E-newsletters give residents frequent updates on local issues, community initiatives, council news and virtual events and so much more.



# YOUR LOCAL COUNCILLORS ARE HERE TO HELP



Find out more about your Councillors and their contact details at <https://bit.ly/3mHnYQ6>

## CONTACT US

Your council is here for you and our teams are continuing to work hard to support you.

We are here to help you Monday – Thursday 8.30am to 5.00pm, Friday 8.30am to 4.30pm

**You do need to make an appointment so call us first**

Tel: 01962 840 222

Waste: 0300 300 0013

Housing: 01962 848 400

Payments: 01962 848 512

Email: [customerservice@winchester.gov.uk](mailto:customerservice@winchester.gov.uk)

No tech at home? No worries... call us and we can make an appointment for you to come into our reception and get you connected with one of the team.

Don't forget to check Facebook and Twitter too, where you can keep up to date on all our news, services, details on how to join council meetings and receive help and advice.

 WinchesterCity

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