

Winchester City Councillors report

From: Vicki, Linda and Frank

Constituency Boundary areas:

Have your say

The Boundary Commission for England is holding an independent review of all constituency boundaries in England and is inviting your residents to have their say on its proposals.

To view the proposed new constituencies for your area and share your views before the secondary consultation closes on 4 April follow the link below.

<https://boundarycommissionforengland.independent.gov.uk/2023-review/>

They are also holding 32 public hearings across the country, where people can express their views in person. Find your nearest event here. <https://boundarycommissionforengland.independent.gov.uk/2023-review/public-hearings/>

Understanding the Elections

UK Parliamentary General Election

The last Parliamentary Elections were held on Thursday 12 December 2019, with the next election scheduled for May 2024. Members of Parliament are usually elected to the House of Commons every five years. The Winchester District is currently covered by the Winchester Constituency and the Meon Valley Constituency.

Winchester City Council Elections

Winchester City Council is made up of 45 Councillors representing 16 wards, with two or three Councillors per ward depending on its size. Elections are held in the first three years of a four-year cycle, usually on the first Thursday in May, with one-third of the Council up for election each year. The next scheduled election for Winchester City Council members is 5 May 2022. On 5 May 2022 there will be one seat for 15 of the Winchester City Council District Wards up for election.

Parish Council Elections

Elections to Parish Councils are held every four years, to co-incide with ward elections to the City Council. The next scheduled Parish elections are 5 May 2022. There are 19 parishes in the Winchester District that are up for election and 3 of the Parish Council in the Central Meon Ward up for election. These are:

- Droxford
- Hambledon
- Soberton

Hampshire County Council

Elections take place every four years for Hampshire County Council. The Winchester District is represented by seven County Councillors. The next scheduled elections to the County Council are in May 2024.

Police and Crime Commissioner

Police and Crime Commissioners are elected every four years, with the next elections scheduled for 7 May 2024

Make sure you are registered

All you have to do is visit www.gov.uk/register-to-vote if you do not have internet access, you can call 01962 848125.

- If you are an eligible elector and you are already on the Register of Electors for Winchester, you do not need to re-register for these elections.
- The deadline for applying to register for voting in this election is **midnight on Thursday 14 April 2022**.

Casting your vote safely during COVID-19

Plans are underway to ensure that electors can cast their vote safely in whichever way they wish, whether that is at the polling station, by post or by proxy.

There are three ways that you can cast your vote:

In person at the Polling Station

Details of where your polling station is located will be found on your poll card, which will be sent out towards the end of March 2022.

If you are unable to get to your polling station on 5 May or would prefer to vote another way to cast your vote, you can register for a postal or proxy vote. We would encourage anyone who requires a postal vote to apply for one as soon as possible due to an expected increase in the number of postal votes being required for this year:

By Post

Please download the relevant postal form from the Your Vote Matters website - the deadline to apply for a postal vote is 5pm on Tuesday 19 April 2022. Please note that you will need to print this form and complete it as a signature is required in order to complete the form.

By Proxy (appointing someone else to vote on your behalf)

Please download the relevant proxy form from the Your Vote Matters website - the deadline to apply to vote by **proxy is 5pm on Tuesday 26 April 2022**. Please note that you will need to print this form and complete it as a signature is required in order to complete the form.

More information can be found on line on <https://www.winchester.gov.uk/elections>

Protecting the Biodiversity of our District

There has been a loss of species-rich grasslands in Winchester, the area of lowland calcareous grassland decreasing by 19% between 2005 and 2018

Road verges are becoming increasingly more important for our wildlife - they could support 700 species of wildflowers. They also provide nectar and habitats for bees, insects and butterflies.

WCC are running two pilot schemes on cutting road verges to keep our bees buzzing and our wildflowers blooming, they are cutting back on shearing a select amount of road verges in New

Alresford and Badger Farm. Cutting road verges less often can support 700 species of wildflowers and provides nectar for insects, bees and butterflies. They are not trialling this work near busy junctions and blind corners to reduce risks and worry for drivers. This is the second year of the pilot scheme and are looking to expand into the other areas over the coming months.