

## Over 100 residents nominate Local Heroes for Mayor's Award

The Mayor of Winchester's Local Hero Award was launched in September to recognise those who have put others before themselves and selflessly supported those in need with acts of kindness during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Mayor's Office received 113 heart-warming citations showcasing the sacrifices people across the district have made and time they have given to help others since the outbreak and resulting lockdown.

The Local Hero Award offered residents the chance to celebrate unsung heroes from across the district. In addition to the 113 individuals and groups who were nominated, 48 Parish Councils and 19 local community groups have also been recognised by Winchester City Council for their efforts to help friends and neighbours.

## New Garden Waste Service.

The new garden waste collection service, starts on 1 February 2021 (until 29 January, garden waste collections and the green bag system will operate as normal). Residents will have the option to purchase a new garden waste bin at an annual fee.

The annual fee is:

- £59 for a standard size bin
- £39 for a smaller bin
- The standard sized bin (240l) is 1m high, 70cm deep and 60cm wide (jpg, 2mb) (Equivalent to 2.7 of the current garden waste bag)
- The smaller bin(140l) is 1m high, 55cm deep and 50cm wide. (jpg, 2.4mb) (Equivalent to 1.6 of the current garden waste bag)

Residents will need to sign up for the garden waste service. You can now sign up to the new Garden Waste service. Please follow the instructions below on how to purchase the service.

<https://www.winchester.gov.uk/waste-recycling/garden-waste-collection-sign-up>

Once you have purchased the service the aim is to begin delivering the bins before the end of November. You will be able to use them as soon as you get them.

The free bag collection service will stop when the new service is introduced.

After the new service is introduced, waste will only be collected from those that subscribe to take part, and pay the annual fee for the collection. The collection day for garden waste bins will not change and will continue as detailed on your collection calendar from 1 February, but only households who subscribe will receive the service.

You can keep your existing bag to move material around your garden, but **collection will only be made from the new bins**, unless you are from a (council approved) property which is not able to receive one. There are some council approved locations where for operational reasons there is not room for an additional bin, which will continue to operate with a bag collection, but on the same charged for basis as above.

However, if you have a council approved bag system for your current residual waste or recycling service because of accessibility issues, or the type of house frontage that you have, you will be able to continue with a bag system, but you will have to pay for the collection - £39 for up to two bags (equivalent to smaller bin), and £59 for up to three bags (equivalent to standard bin).

## 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.



You are able to share the bins with a neighbour if you want to reduce your individual cost, but we will need a single point of contact from whichever is the lead neighbour.

If you currently receive an assisted collection and sign up to the new service, you will continue to receive an assisted collection.

The service will give significant increase in capacity over the current bags, and mean that the waste is easier and safer to move, will not be blown away and lost, as is common with the bag system, and keeps the green waste material dry. Compost will continue to be processed in the same way as present, being turned into PRO GROW organic soil conditioner which is for sale on line, or at HWRCs.

Unlike many local authorities that run this type of scheme, we are not asking for you to purchase the bin, this is included in the annual cost.

All Winchester residents can get special offers on Composters and Water Butts.

# Maintaining Ditches and water course to prevent surface water flooding

## Your riparian responsibilities

Watch a short video explaining your riparia responsibilities via the below link

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=an4KpfaRwBg&feature=youtu.be>

or check out the diagrams

Do you own land that has a watercourse or drainage ditch on or adjacent to it?

Answer: Yes –You are therefore a '**riparian landowner**' and you are responsible for maintaining those watercourses

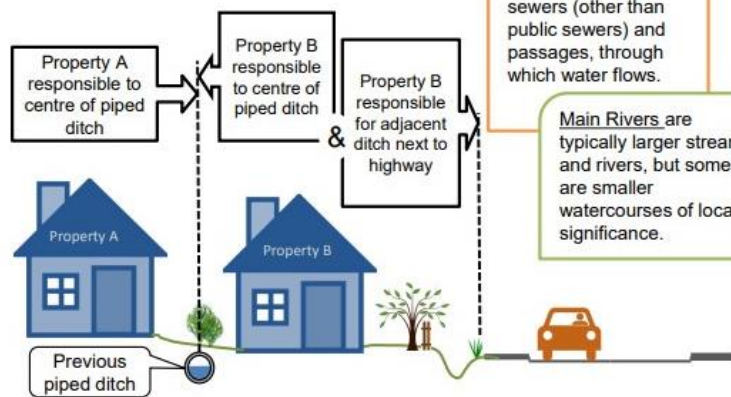
### What is a watercourse?

Watercourses are any natural or artificial channel above or below ground through which water flows. Watercourses are classified as either 'Ordinary Watercourse' or 'Main River'.

### Ordinary Watercourses

are watercourses that are not part of a main river and include streams, ditches, drains, cuts, culverts, dykes, sluices, sewers (other than public sewers) and passages, through which water flows.

**Main Rivers** are typically larger streams and rivers, but some are smaller watercourses of local significance.



What can land and properties owners do to reduce the risk of flooding?

- ❖ Identify your ordinary watercourses/ditches/piped watercourses – check deeds if required
- ❖ Check whether they are clear from debris and vegetation and if not clear them

As a landowner you have a right to protect your property from flooding – consider how you might do this and prepare a plan.



More information:

[www.hants.gov.uk/watercourses](http://www.hants.gov.uk/watercourses)

National Flood Forum provides information on preparing for a flood:

[www.nationalfloodforum.org.uk/at-risk-of-flooding-2/](http://www.nationalfloodforum.org.uk/at-risk-of-flooding-2/)



Hampshire County Council

[www.hants.gov.uk](http://www.hants.gov.uk)

## Types of flooding

Understanding the different types of flooding can help you to better understand the flood risk in your area. Reporting a flood event to the authority who are responsible for managing the risk helps the issue to be investigated promptly.

### Surface water flooding

Surface water flooding (also known as pluvial) occurs when rainfall cannot drain away through drainage systems or the land, and flows over land instead. It can occur when ground is saturated.

Report to the Lead Local Flood Authority

### River flooding

River flooding (also known as fluvial) occurs when the capacity of a watercourse is exceeded, usually following intense or prolonged rainfall across the catchment area.

Report to the Environment Agency

### Groundwater flooding

Groundwater flooding occurs when the water table rises to the surface following prolonged rainfall. Risk of groundwater can be dependent on the geology of the area.

Report to the Lead Local Flood Authority

### Sewer flooding

Sewer flooding is the result of sewage systems being overwhelmed, either by intense rainfall, rising groundwater or blockages in the waste water system. It is also known as contaminated flooding.

Report to the local sewerage company

### Coastal flooding

Coastal flooding occurs when areas are flooded by the sea. This is due to high tides over-topping the land and can be significantly exacerbated by storm surges.

Report to the Environment Agency

Hampshire County Council is the Lead Local Flood Authority in Hampshire. You can contact us via [fwm@hants.gov.uk](mailto:fwm@hants.gov.uk) or 01962 846730



Hampshire County Council

## Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP)

The council is to set out its Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) look out of this in January 2021 which will highlight how leaders intend to enhance and protect essential biodiversity across the district

**Septic tanks** – these are no longer allowed to discharge to a surface water and need to be upgraded to a sewage treatment plant to meet with General Binding Rules

Please links below to the GOV.UK website which contains all the information regarding General Binding Rules (GBR) and permit requirements for water quality discharges from sewage treatment systems:-

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/discharges-to-surface-water-and-groundwater-environmental-permits>

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/general-binding-rules-small-sewage-discharge-to-a-surface-water>

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/general-binding-rules-small-sewage-discharge-to-the-ground>

## What is in out wastewater

### But why is it in our wastewater in the first place?

Some is added to the food that we consume, such as dairy and meat products, and so ends up in wastewater. This can be difficult to avoid. But every householder CAN make a difference:

#### Use no-phosphate or low-phosphate (under 5%) cleaning products where possible:

- Phosphates used in domestic cleaning products account for nearly a fifth of the phosphate from our homes, being selective in your shopping can help to protect our local rivers
- The Government has taken action to reduce the amount of phosphate in laundry detergents, but many other products still have a high content
- Dishwasher detergents are a particular culprit with some containing over a third by weight, but a number of manufacturers don't use phosphate at all

#### Brands with no phosphate include:



#### Check for misconnections:

- Wastewater pipes from your property should not be linked to surface water drains as they lead directly to watercourses.

Reducing the amount of phosphate that each household contributes in their wastewater will see conditions improve for our Rivers. Fewer algal blooms, healthy populations of aquatic insects, and thriving fish communities are what we'd like to see for the entire Arun and Rother catchment. Reducing the amount of phosphate going into wastewater reduces the amount of energy and chemicals used to remove it, benefitting the environment further.





### What is the problem?

Naturally-occurring nutrients feed the diverse range of flora found in our water environment. But in excess, man-made phosphorus acts as a pollutant. It can't be seen in the water, but it makes its presence clear by disrupting ecosystems, allowing nutrient-hungry algae to out-compete aquatic plants, and in extreme cases, triggering algal blooms. When algae dies it is deposited as sediment which can smother plants, as the algae decomposes, oxygen is used up, suffocating aquatic insects and fish. As well as threatening our wildlife, these processes can prevent us from using and enjoying our waterways, by polluting rivers, threatening angling, water sports and shellfish fisheries and contributing to flood risk.

Stopping this pollution isn't easy, because phosphorus, in the form of phosphate, enters rivers from a number of different sources, from agricultural land, via wastewater and from naturally occurring sources.

#### From farmland

Around a quarter comes from agricultural sources such as soil and nutrient runoff, yard drainage and organic manure. This contribution has been decreasing due to better nutrient management – but there are still significant reductions to be made. Government schemes such as 'Catchment Sensitive Farming' provide further advice and support to help farmers reduce the loss of phosphate-rich fertilisers and soils from their land.

#### From wastewater

The remainder comes from wastewater from homes and businesses. The waste from washing machines, dishwashers, sinks and toilets drains to wastewater treatment works if connected to the main sewer network, where it is treated and released back into rivers or groundwater. For properties not connected to mains drainage, wastewater drains to private treatment works and discharged either to ground or the local watercourse. Since the 1990s there has been significant water company investment to upgrade many wastewater treatment works, providing an additional level of treatment to strip out phosphates. By 2010, phosphate released from wastewater treatment works had reduced by more than half, and further investment and research in a bid to reduce this further, will be delivered over the coming years.

## Up to fifty thousand tonnes of phosphorus per year end up in England's rivers

Despite these improvements 21 of 27 watercourses in the Arun and Rother catchment are still exceeding agreed phosphate standards. Technically achievable limits have now been set nationally and the water industry is undertaking proactive strategies to address the issue. Meanwhile, phosphate from private systems like septic tanks (which don't actively remove the chemical), as well as residual phosphate from treatment works which don't have phosphate stripping, continues to be released directly into the environment.





## Additional Restrictions Grant

Winchester City Council has been awarded an additional £2,497,180 by Government to help businesses and organisations impacted by the national restrictions in force from 5 November to 2 December 2020 and possible future restrictions. **This discretionary fund is aimed at those who are not eligible to apply for the [Local Restrictions Support Grant](#).** It includes those:

- based in and operate from the Winchester District
- who were actively trading on and before 4 November 2020
- mandated to close by Government and not eligible for the Local Restriction Support Grant or
- have remained open and suffered income losses in excess of 30% during the period of the latest national restrictions
- a micro/small or medium sized enterprise operating or a supply chain business within one or more of the following sectors:
  - Non-essential retail
  - Hospitality/food and drink/guest accommodation
  - Leisure/sports
  - Attractions/events/festivals/entertainment venues
  - Pre-school childcare services

**Applicants should read the policy guidance to the right hand side of this page before completing the simple declaration of eligibility [here](#).**

Applicants are required to complete the declaration by **5pm Monday 14 December 2020**. Once the necessary verification checks are undertaken grants from this limited fund will be paid on a first come, first served basis as soon as possible in the weeks leading up to Christmas.

For further information or guidance please contact [ecodev@winchester.gov.uk](mailto:ecodev@winchester.gov.uk) or telephone 01962 814915, between 10am and 4pm Monday to Friday.





# Some simple things you can do at this time of the year to support wildlife in

**1 Ponds** Male frogs often spend winter in the muddy depths of ponds, breathing through their skin. But if the pond freezes over, gases caused by decaying plant material can get trapped and poison them. Remove debris from ponds now, and float a tennis ball or golf ball on the surface to prevent ice from sealing it.

**2 Twigs** Put bundles of twigs at the back of borders, or in a plant pot on its side, where invertebrates and small mammals can shelter.

**3 Borders** Leave herbaceous borders intact in winter so decaying plants can act as a 'winter duvet' for small mammals and insects. Clumps of ornamental grasses may offer the perfect hibernaculum for a hedgehog, while hollow plant stems and seedheads provide nooks and crannies for invertebrates. Seedheads are also a source of oil-rich food for birds which may visit to feed

**4 Plant pots** Leave stacks of plant pots in a sheltered spot to offer shelter for bees and other insects needing a cool, dry place.

**5 Sheds** Some butterflies overwinter as adults and will enter our homes in autumn, where they find conditions cool and dry. However, when the central heating is turned on they wake up and expend energy flying around. If you find a butterfly inside your home, transfer it to your shed or garage, where temperatures will remain constant. Use an empty shoe box to move it, keeping the lid on until it has settled down. Make sure it can exit safely in spring, via a window or door.

**6 Leaves** Remove leaves from paths or lawns but transfer them to a corner or beneath a hedge, where hedgehogs and other animals can crawl for shelter.

**7 Compost heaps** A variety of species, including hedgehogs and queen bumblebees, find compost heaps the perfect place to hibernate. If your heap is in a plastic bin with a lid, this will keep it dry, but be sure to provide access for hibernators at the base by standing the bin on bricks. If you have an open bin, cover it with a thick piece of old carpet to keep it dry and insulated. Avoid disturbing the bin between autumn and April, when all species will have finished their long snooze. Or go online to make a Hedgehog house e.g The Woodland Trust web site <https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/blog/2019/08/how-to-make-hedgehog-house/>

**8 Indoors** Like butterflies, ladybirds may choose to overwinter in your home and will be disturbed by the heating coming on. As they hibernate in large groups, it may be best to leave them alone and if you can, leave the room unheated. If not, using a dustpan and brush, tip them gently into an empty box and move them to the shed.

**9 Nest boxes** Birds don't hibernate and they require a lot of energy to keep themselves warm at night. Clear out nest boxes now so that birds can take shelter in them on cold nights.

**10 Lofts** Take care if paying a visit to your loft in winter, as you may disturb hibernating bats, ladybirds or butterflies.

Happy Christmas and to a back to normal new year

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