

District Councilors' Report
May 2023

As we write this article, we are well into Spring. Roadside flowers of the season are in full bloom and the trees are mid-way through gaining their summer foliage. How many of you, like me, have noticed that trees these days seem to have more and bigger leaves – or is it just that they are all that much older?

Just under half of our 18 years plus adults have been to our various village halls to vote in a new Councillor for the Central Meon Valley. Vicki Weston (now Mrs. Sherwill) has retired from the Winchester Council, although she is still actively a member of Soberton Parish Council.

We would like to thank Vicki for her years of service to the villages of Central Meon Valley. She was a very active member of the City Council making Winchester aware that the rural element of the Southern Parishes is as important as the urban areas in Winchester.

The May Election results were: -

FORD, Kris - Conservative Party	889 votes
GREGORY, Thomas –	313 votes.
LEE, Danny – Green Party	2168 votes
McNALLY, Antony – Labour Party.	66 votes

45.86% of our electorate voted.

The new City Council is 30 Liberal Democrats, 12 Conservatives, 2 Green Party, and 1 independent.

Cllr Danny Lee was duly elected as the third Councillor in our area.

Danny lives in Droxford.

Once the “excitement” of the election was over we then had the Coronation ‘weekend’ for King Charles III, and his Queen Camilla, the beginnings of what is being called the Carolean Era.

It seems that every village within our Ward had at least one celebration. Enthusiastic reports suggest that everyone who attended the villager’s events enjoyed the celebratory picnic in the sun. Major thanks to the Parish Councils and those who sponsored the occasion.

Thanks also to the various ‘Litter Pickers’ who cleared up the event sites. Even though most rubbish was put into the bins there was still overspills.

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Continued major issues raised during the Election campaign included ‘fly tipping’ (WCC, HCC and the Police), sewerage ‘overspills’ (Southern Water), potholes (HCC Highways), and planning (WCC).

- We are aware of the sewerage outflows in Hambledon, and Waltham Chase but are there any others that should be added to our list? Southern Water is “full of apologies” for their very poor performance in January/February. Those that receive their water from Otterbourne had no water for several days and the bottled water supply was very difficult especially for many elderly people. To compound the problem there were many sewerage leaks e.g. Hambledon, Colden Common and Winchester High Street!
- ‘Fly tipping’ continues to be outrageous and the City Council continues to be active in its clearance. This service costs Rate Payers some £70-80,000 a year in Winchester District alone. Some is recovered when the offenders are prosecuted.
- Potholes are of increasing concern. In the years that I have lived in the area I have never seen such a massive increase in their numbers. This is a job for HCC (Highways) but financial constraints, and the speed in which they develop means that it is difficult to clear them all up. Please slow down when driving, and report them via either the WCC App., or direct to, (Highways). They are aware if there is a ‘white box’ drawn around them.
- The County tells us that the heavy weight of electric vehicles along with heavy lorries have added to the problem!
- Planning is often an issue. Any issues raised will be followed up by representations to either the planning Dept. or the Planning Cttee.

None of these can be dealt with within 24 hrs. but do not let that stop you calling or emailing one of us to try to find a solution.