

Winchester District Councillor Report – Vicki Weston Sept 2019

Independent Councillor

I made a decision due to a number of circumstances that I could no longer support the Conservative Party and therefore have decided to remain your district councilor but become independent. This will not hinder my support to you the Parish Council or the members of the public. If you would like to discuss this further with me I am more than happy to do this one to one.

The news items from WCC (all rather city based) include:

- 1) New open meetings to give residents greater involvement in council work. The first forums will focus on each of the current development projects, the Central Winchester Regeneration, Station Approach and Winchester Sport & Leisure Park.
- 2) New water fountain installed in Winchester in drive to reduce single-use plastic. A new water fountain has been installed in the heart of Winchester to help reduce the use of single-use plastics. The new fountain inside Abbey Gardens is now in place and ready for the public as the city council aims to reduce the use of disposable plastic bottles and cups.
- 3) New leisure complex for Winchester officially named
Winchester's new leisure complex, currently being built at Bar End, has been officially named. The name **Winchester Sport & Leisure Park** was chosen to reflect feedback from the public to keep the name simple, clear and incorporate the importance of developing a facility surrounded by parkland. The centre, which will be run by leading leisure operator Everyone Active, is due to open in early 2021.
- 4) **Green additions made to Winchester Sport and Leisure Park** Winchester's new sport and leisure park will have a clear focus on sustainability. Following from the council's declaration of a climate emergency, a number of improvements will be added to the centre to make it greener as the council looks to become carbon neutral by 2024. To ensure the building is sustainable there will be increased solar panels, water recycling, heat

recovery units and further energy efficiencies. As part of the carbon offsetting work there will also be 200 trees planted on the site. Work is continuing to progress on the centre with the steel frame beginning to take shape, and centre is due to open in 2021. The centre which is being built by Willmott Dixon and will be operated by Everyone Active will include a 50m pool, training pool, multi-use sports hall, fitness suite, squash courts and a hydrotherapy suite.

Useful information

Kerbside glass collection boxes now being distributed to residents
Kerbside glass collection boxes are now being distributed to residents in the Winchester district. The boxes are part of the city council's new waste collection service and wider commitment to improving our environment through more effective recycling.

Winchester District residents can find out about their glass collection days online at the Winchester City Council website. I believe the new Calendars will be out in October as soon as I have more information on the collection days I will let you know.

Bin collections - service update

Due to current operational difficulties please can we ask for containers to be left out. Please can you report a missed collection, without an update on a missed bin situation we are unable to give any timescale for recovery.

Bonfires

Attached are some flyers that might be useful as we approach Bonfire season together we some useful information if needed.

Unfortunately it is a common misconception that there are "bonfire bylaws" that control the hours you are allowed to have domestic bonfires. There are no such rules and instead the council has to assess whether the bonfires are causing a statutory nuisance (Environmental Protection Act 1990). This has to be judged on a case by case basis and essentially we consider whether the impacts are reasonable with reference to:

- Duration,
- Severity,
- Frequency,
- Common Convention (e.g. occasional garden bonfires are often considered reasonable, whilst burning plastics, domestic refuse is not).

Under the provisions of the [Environmental Protection Act 1990](#), smoke caused by bonfires may be a statutory nuisance and the City Council has

powers to take action against those who create a statutory nuisance or allow it to happen. Private individuals are also able to take their own action by complaint to a Magistrates Court.

Case law has established that the concept of nuisance considers "reasonable expectation". So in general terms the occasional small garden bonfire burning dry wood/plant material may be acceptable, whilst burning of other household materials such as painted wood, plastics, furniture, mattresses etc would not.

Bonfires which are on land near to roads and causing an inconvenience or a danger to passers-by, can also be an offence under the Highways Act 1980.

If you feel you are able to it is best to discuss it initially with the person responsible; they may not realise they are causing a problem. If the situation does not improve, then contact the [Environmental Protection Team](#) on 01962 848097. You will be required to confirm your complaint either in writing or by the completion of log sheets. If the log sheets indicate that a statutory nuisance exists, the person responsible for the bonfires will be contacted and advised that an offence may be taking place. I have attached a copy of the Log sheets, but is it always good to discuss the problem with council officers first.

If the bonfires persist, and evidence suggests that the bonfires are causing a statutory nuisance, a legal notice may be served. If found guilty of further offences by the Magistrates Court, a fine of up to £5000 may be imposed.

Bonfire Guidelines as published on the WC website:

If you have garden waste to dispose of, try and compost as much as possible. Consider using a shredding machine, which can reduce hardwood materials into mulch for use on your garden. The remainder can be taken to one of the [household waste recycling centres](#). If you must light a bonfire, ensure that the material to be burnt is dry. This will minimise the amount of smoke produced.

- Do not light a fire when the weather conditions might cause the smoke to travel into your neighbours garden or property.
- Remember that smoke will hang in the air on a damp, windless day and in the evening around sunset.
- Position any bonfire as far away from buildings as possible. Do not light a fire if the wind will carry the smoke over roads.
- Never leave a fire to smoulder - put it out with water or soil.
- Remember, heaps of garden refuse provide a haven for small animals such as hedgehogs. Check before you light.
- Take care to keep children away from a bonfire. Supervise burning as much as possible.
- Burn only dry plant/wood waste. Avoid burning any wood that is treated/painted or any other household waste.

Highways Maintenance Newsletter

July 2019



Hampshire County Council SKANSKA

Hampshire Highways' two new dragon patchers are fired up and out across the county fixing potholes and road defects.

The County Council agreed to secure two dragon patcher machines exclusively for use on Hampshire roads by adding local funding to the extra money received from the Government's Pothole Fund, to maximise repair work on the network throughout the year.

The dragon patcher is used as part of a range of treatments by highways teams to ensure Hampshire's roads are safe and well maintained. It is quick and efficient: with the ability to repair a defect five times faster than traditional methods and is effective in all weathers as its 'flame' is able to heat and dry a frozen or wet road surface before repairing it. The whole operation, which is done by one person working from the cabin, takes just a few minutes,

and the road is ready for traffic immediately afterwards. It is nicknamed the 'dragon' because it expels flames to de-ice and dry out the road surface. It is then cleaned with compressed air and sealed with a stone mix and hot bitumen emulsion. With the surface repair completed in as little as two minutes, the patcher can move on to the next repair.

Countywide Statistics for June 2019

291

Emergencies attended

24,065

Square metres of carriageway resurfacing

15

Operation Resilience planned works complete

4,987

Gullies and other drainage cleared

100,774

Square metres of surface dressing and micro asphalt

110

Arboriculture jobs completed

2,709

Square metres of footway repaired/resurfaced

1,695

Potholes repaired (including extra Find and Fix gangs*)

98

Other Jobs completed (outside of all works shown)

*These repairs were recorded differently on our system. This is an approximate figure.