

Vicki's NEWS

Councillor Vicki Weston

Independent



Winchester District

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May Elections Winchester City Council local election results - May 2022

Following the local elections on Thursday 6 May, the political make-up of Winchester City Council stands at:

- 27 seats for the Liberal Democrat Party
- 15 seats for the Conservative Party
- 2 seats for Independent Councillors (not designated a group)
- 1 seat Green Party (not designated a group)

Linda Gemmell was not re-elected for Central Meon Valley so we would like to thank her for her many years of sterling service to the Central Meon Ward ward. We would like welcome Malcolm Wallace for the Green Party – Central Meon Valley. Frank Pearson Conservative and Vicki Independent continue as your District Councillors and support where we can.

****The Council Tax Energy Rebate - Standard Scheme** application form is now live for non-direct debit payers** Following [the government announcement](#) on 3 February 2022, households in England which are in Council Tax bands A to D will receive a £150 rebate from April 2022. **Eligibility:-** The Energy Bill Rebate is available to all households in Council Tax bands A to D, (or in Band E and qualify for the disabled band reduction) and consists of a one-off payment of £150 to eligible households. If you are unsure of your council tax band, this can be found on your latest council tax bill or by visiting: [Check your Council Tax Band](#)

You must be liable for the Council Tax bill at the property to be eligible for the rebate. If you do not wish for this payment to be made to you directly, it can be paid on to your council tax account to offset any council tax for the 2022-23 financial year.

The mayor for 2022 is Cllr Green and the leader of the council is Cllr Martin Todd Cllr. The full council and Mayor Making took place on 18th May 2022 in Winchester.

LOCAL PLAN

For updates on the emerging local plan and sites that are being considered for development in the district (SHELAA sites) please look at the pages on Winchester City Council's web pages.

Brief Background

Some 380 sites are included in the SHELAA in total. Only a small fraction of these sites will be needed to meet the growth that WCC are currently expecting to plan for which, in housing terms, is around an additional 3,000 new residential properties up to 2039.

To help with the selection of sites WCC are liaising with the Winchester Town Forum, and working with all parish councils in and around the city, and the parishes with the other most sustainable towns and larger villages, and asking them to review the SHELAA sites, along with any others they think may be available for development, to take the growth we are planning to accommodate over the 17 years to 2039 as set out below:

New Alresford (through a Neighbourhood Plan) - additional 100 – 120 homes

Bishop’s Waltham - additional 100 – 120 homes

Wickham – 90- 100 additional homes

Waltham Chase – 90 – 100 additional homes

Swanmore – 90 – 100 additional homes

Kings Worthy - 90 – 100 additional homes

Denmead (through a review of their Neighbourhood Plan) - 90 – 100 additional homes

Colden Common – 90 – 100 additional homes

Otterbourne – 50 – 60 additional homes

South Wonston – 50 – 60 additional homes

Sutton Scotney – 50 – 60 additional homes

Winchester District Local Plan 2018 – 2039 (Emerging)



Winchester District Local Plan 2018 – 2039 (Emerging)

Local Plan 2039 – Evidence Base	Strategic Issues and Priorities Document	Sustainability Appraisal & Habitats Regulations Assessment
Government changes to the planning system	Local plan news	Statement of Community Involvement
Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (SHELAA)	Local Development Scheme 2021 and Local Plan Action Plan	Strategic Issues and Priorities Consultation - Presentation

FUTURE PROOFING OUR COMMUNITY

The challenges over the last years with the pandemic and the climate emergency impacting on our daily lives, so it very important that this document address climate change. We are a rural community with great potential to offer carbon capture and storage for the Winchester District, so it is vital that all measures are considered for any form of development including agricultural, equestrian, dog parks, recreational activities, extensions and new builds to get on track to recovery with a green and sustainable economy for future generations

The IPCC report published in 2022 notes that many of the impacts of global warming are now simply "irreversible" according to the UN's latest assessment.

[Climate change: IPCC report warns of 'irreversible' impacts of global warming - BBC News](#)

The report shows that extreme weather events linked to climate change like floods and heatwaves are hitting humans and other species much harder than previous assessments indicated.

While everyone is affected, some are being hit much harder. This outcome very much depends on where you live.

Between 2010 and 2020, 15 times more people died from floods, droughts and storms in very vulnerable regions including parts of Africa, South Asia and Central and South America, than in other parts of the world.

Nature is already seeing dramatic impacts at the current level of warming.

The report highlights the increasing impacts that are expected as the rise in global temperatures, currently around 1.1C, heads to 1.5C.

Continued and accelerating sea level rise will increasingly hit coastal settlements pushing them towards "submergence and loss".

Under all emissions scenarios, the IPCC expects a billion more people to be at risk from coastal specific climate hazards in the next few decades.

If temperatures rise to between 1.7 and 1.8C above the 1850s level, then the report states that half the human population could be exposed to periods of life-threatening climatic conditions arising from heat and humidity.

What can we all do as rural community to future proof our community? Vicki would love to hear your ideas to share with colleagues.

Nature Recovery is fundamental.

Hedgerows for nature, the climate and people

Hedgerows are also crucial in soaking up carbon, protecting against flooding and aiding nature's recovery.'

A CPRE new report investigates the huge environmental and economic benefits of hedgerows and shows that boosting them by 40% would create 25,000 jobs over the next 30 years and yield almost £4 for every £1 invested.

The new research, undertaken independently by the [Organic Research Centre](#), is laid out in a report published: '[Hedge fund: investing in hedgerows for climate, nature and the economy](#)'.

'Hedgerows are also crucial in soaking up carbon, protecting against flooding and aiding nature's recovery.'

Support the [CPRE#40by50 campaign](#), calling on the government to commit to extending the hedgerow network by 40% by 2050.