
Winchester City Council is on a firm financial footing

The team in Winchester has stepped up to the challenge and there will be no rise in city council tax next year. We feel that hard-working families across the district should not pay more.

This means everyone's city council tax bill next year, for services like bin collection and planning, will be exactly the same as this year.

Leader of the Council, Caroline Horrill said: "The city council has recently been praised by external auditors for its financial health so we can freeze bills for everyone in 2019/20.

"We have made this pledge because we're innovative in how we generate income and we have made sure this council is more efficient. "Funding pressures remain, but we want to make sure residents do not have to pay more city council tax.



Season's Greetings from your councillors, wishing you a restful and enjoyable holiday.

Winchester District Councillors report Nov/Dec 2018

Bonfires

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 that 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.

It is often believed that there are "bonfire bylaws" controlling hours when you can light bonfires; this is not the case. 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.

New Sport & Leisure Centre passes Key Milestone

Planning permission has been approved for The Winchester Sport & Leisure Centre to be built at Bar End. The new Leisure Centre at this location will cost in the region of £38 million. Partners include the University of Winchester, The Pinder Trust and Hampshire County Council. The new centre will comprise of a modern, inclusively-designed, fully accessible building set in a park setting enabling the District's communities to engage in a wide range of indoor and outdoor sporting and leisure activities. It will include a 50m swimming pool, teaching and training pool, splash pad, an eight-court multi-use sports hall, squash courts, Hydrotherapy Suite Fitness suites, treatment/personal therapy rooms, studios, clip and climb, café and more. The vision reflects the sporting needs and aspirations of our District.

Winchester City Council committed to build homes for local people

At Winchester City Council we are building 600 new homes for local people in the Winchester district. This ambitious target makes the council one of the biggest affordable home builders in the country. We believe this investment is vital for sustaining all our communities and the newly opened home for elderly residents at Chesil Lodge is doing just that.

Survey

Hampshire County Council has set up to give people a say in the Vision for Hampshire 2050 process. The closing date for input on the Rural Theme is 21 December 2018. If you have not yet completed the survey, do follow the link below and share your views on the economic, social, technological and environmental changes that you think are likely to affect rural communities over the next 32 years.

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/about/thecouncil/haveyoursay/visionforhampshire2050>

Useful links

Service status

<http://www.winchester.gov.uk/waste-recycling/service-status>

Bin Collection and Calendar

<http://www.winchester.gov.uk/bins>

Contact your councillors:

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Dogs The worrying of livestock by dogs is a criminal offence contrary to the Dogs (Protection of Livestock) Act 1953. Keep full control of your dog when out and about in the countryside – or you could face prosecution. “The worrying of livestock by dogs is a criminal offence. Owners of dogs need to be aware of the importance of being in full control when in the countryside and around livestock and wild animals. If an animal is injured or dies as a result of a dog attack, the animal’s owner has the right to seek compensation. This can be from the dog owner or the person in control of it when the attack occurred. This can include the cost of the animal, vet bills and the cost of removing and destroying it.

- ❖ Keep your dog on a lead when in an area with livestock
- ❖ If there is no livestock visible, keep the dog in sight at all times, be aware of what it is doing, and be confident it will return to you promptly on command - if you cannot be confident of this, the dog should not be off the lead
- ❖ Ensure your dog does not stray off the path or area where you have right of access

The Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) (England) Regulations 2018

Came into force on 1st October 2018, replacing previous legislation. Licences are required for the following activities;

- ❖ Kennels
- ❖ Catteries
- ❖ Home boarding of dogs
- ❖ Day care for dogs
- ❖ Selling of animals as pets
- ❖ Dog breeders
- ❖ Riding Establishments and the hiring out of horses
- ❖ The keeping or training of animals for exhibition

Should your business consist of more than one of the activities above, you will need to apply separately using the appropriate applications forms and will need to pay for both licence activities separately. The exception is animal boarding (which includes kennels, catteries, home boarding of dogs and day care for dogs) - these may be applied for using the same application form and you only need to pay a single licence fee of £200. All licensable activities at the same premises will be combined on a single licence.

The regulations can be viewed [here](#).

Winchester City Council responds to Southampton Airport masterplan

Winchester City Council has responded to Southampton Airport’s draft masterplan. The airport is aiming to more than double its passenger numbers over the next decade and to do this, it is planning to extend the northern end of the runway by around 170m, which will potentially enable larger aircraft to take off and travel to a wider variety of European destinations. The council supports in principle the growth of the airport and its value to the local economy, however it does want to see the infrastructure provided to accommodate the airport’s growth.

This would take into the account the potential impact on air quality and details of measures put in place to address the airport’s carbon footprint. The council has also asked for more detailed information to be made available to show that the district’s residents would not be affected by noisy aircraft.