

Winchester District Councillor Annual Parish Report 2016-2017

Local Plan

Winchester City Council formally adopted its Local Plan Part 2 at its Council meeting on Wednesday 5 April. Part 2 of the Local Plan follows several years of extensive work with parishes, local communities and stakeholders and independent examination last year. It focuses on the district's towns and villages and includes a range of detailed policies. The Winchester Local Plan now provides strong positive planning policy for the district, setting out areas for growth and those to be protected.

Major Projects

The City Council has an ambitious programme of major projects in place that deliver key priorities throughout the Winchester District. The City Council is responsible for delivering a wide range of projects, from important flood alleviation schemes to protect homes and facilities in the district to looking at the development of a brand new leisure centre for our residents. The council is working with partners to deliver essential new housing in the district, through the major development areas of Barton Farm or West of Waterlooville as well as building Council houses via their New Homes Delivery team.

Central Winchester (Silver Hill)

The first stage of the Central Winchester Regeneration project is to develop a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) to act as a new planning brief for the area known as Silver Hill. The SPD will have the benefit of a formal status in the local planning system and will set out the type and layout of land uses that could be built on the site and will help to ensure that the development is fit for the future and will rejuvenate such a prominent part of the City.

JTP an award-winning practice of architects and master planners have been commissioned to work with the Council to formulate the SPD. This process includes public and stakeholder engagement and commissioning of studies and assessments. It is intended to complete this work by the end of 2017. Following the Community Planning Weekend public feedback presented in April, JTP will present the vision and emerging Supplementary Planning Document on 4 July at the Guildhall, Winchester, starting at 18:00 (members of the public welcome to attend).

For further information please visit www.centralwinchesterregen.co.uk/

Winchester Bus Station

The City Council purchased the bus station in April 2017 and intends to carry out interim works this summer. The Council will seek planning permission to demolish one of the disused garage buildings on the site to enable safer bus movement. This will open the way for works in July and August to create new bus parking arrangements within the bus station. Whilst works to the bus station are carried out there will be some temporary changes to use of on street parking in the Broadway to cater for displaced buses. The bus station work is due to be completed by September.

The City Council intends to work with Hampshire County Council and bus operators on proposals to re-route buses to tackle the issue of conflict between buses and people along the semi-pedestrianised area of the High Street. Hampshire County Council is set to fund the addition of real-time bus indicators on the bus stops in the Interim Bus Interchange that will be a big improvement for bus-users. Changes will be on an interim basis and will not constrain further consideration of bus provision and routes in the town centre as part of engagement work being undertaken by architects JTP, Hampshire County Council's Transport Study or the Central Winchester Regeneration Supplementary Planning Document (SPD).

Winchester Sports and Leisure Park

River Park Leisure Centre is now more than 40 years old and its ability to meet the needs of a growing population in Winchester is limited. In September 2015, having looked at the cost and practicality of these various options the Council agreed that the preferred option would be a new sport and leisure centre at Bar End. The Council are working closely with The University of Winchester, the Pinder Trust and Hampshire County Council to deliver a new sport and leisure centre.

The Council purchased the Garrison Ground at Bar End in December 2016. This purchase will secure the future of this land for community sport and leisure use, and means that part of the site can be evaluated as an option for the location of the city's new sport and leisure centre. The facility mix agreed by Cabinet and Council in July 2016. The facility was a 50m-community pool, 12-court sports hall, four squash courts, a fitness gym with studios, a hydrotherapy pool and other state-of-the-art facilities. The concept designs will be developed in consultation with the sporting community, leisure centre users, local residents and businesses and the general public. The current estimates from consultants indicate that a new sport and leisure centre at Bar End would cost in the region of £30 - £35 million. It would take approximately three years to design and build. In March 2016 verification plans for the proposed sport and leisure centre were released to show the possible lay out.

Station Approach

The redevelopment of Station Approach was first proposed as part of the Winchester District Local Plan Part 1 in March 2013. Policies for the site have also been included in the Local Plan Part 2 (adopted April 2017). See below for the development of the project so far. The Council has agreed the RIBA Plan of Work for stages 0 and 1 and will begin the new procurement process shortly.

Extra Care

One of the district's largest affordable housing schemes is the new Chesil Lodge Extra Care scheme for older people in Winchester. Extra-care housing consists of groups of individual houses or flats with communal facilities that allow residents to retain independence whilst having access to 24-hour care. The majority of the flats in Chesil Lodge will be for rent from the City Council with some shared ownership and open market flats also available.

Air Quality

The Council's Air Quality Action plan 2017 -2023 was adopted in April. This sets out nine priorities to help improve air quality in the City. These include: increasing the Park and Ride spaces, dedicated spaces for ultra low-emission vehicles, use of new technology and differential pricing.

818th Mayor of Winchester

The new Mayor of Winchester, Cllr David McLean (Bishops Waltham) will be inaugurated on 17th May 2017. He has a hard act to follow –the outgoing Mayor, Cllr Jane Rutter, cycled across the District, abseiled down the Spinnaker Tower and wing-walked on a bi-plane to raise money for the Mayor's Charities.

Cllrs Eleanor Bell, Brian Laming & Jan Warwick May 2017