

Winchester District Councillor Report

Since the Last Parish Council meeting, we have had the General Election that puts a hold on many things.

Stagecoach Meeting

Meeting with StageCoach to discuss bus services and the lack of in certain areas such as Oliver's Battery and the Valley in Stanmore. It was pointed out quite forcibly that if the city is to reduce the amount of traffic and pollution people need to have a better way of travelling into the city. The present routes do not assist in this as many communities do not have access to a reliable service or any service.

Highways England and the M3 and other roads

We continue to pursue Highways England regarding the forthcoming M3 diversions at present we are awaiting confirmation of the project in the next round of government spending. HCC have not yet accepted the need for mitigation work at the various points that we raised and we will continue to pursue this issue.

Whilst on the subject of roads the number of potholes has increased at an alarming rate partly due to the fact that the surfaces were not repaired in the summer. It is vital that all potholes are reported to the HCC. If they are not it is impossible to claim for damages caused by them. Even when they have been reported there is a great deal of difficulty claiming.

In the last month a number of foot paths have had a number of problems which have been reported to HCC.

Road closures

The M3 southbound carriageway between junction 9 and junction 11 will be closed overnight on the following dates:

Friday 17 January • Saturday 18 January • Sunday 19 January

Friday 24 January • Saturday 25 January • Sunday 26 January

Also please note that Bar End Road will have major road works from the 13th January for 9 weeks. The traffic will be controlled by traffic lights. This is caused by the building of the entrance to the new Leisure Centre. It has been done in two separate halves to keep disruption to a minimum as possible.

Carbon Neutral Plan 2024

Winchester City Council sets out actions to achieve ambitious carbon neutrality targets

- Commits council to a carbon neutral target by 2024
- **Commits the Winchester district to go carbon neutral by 2030**

Energy efficient homes, more Park & Ride services, and civic buildings powered by renewable energy are all part of ambitious plans to cut carbon emissions published by Winchester City Council today (Monday, December 23)

The council's Cabinet has today formally adopted a Carbon Neutrality Action Plan, following its declaration of a Climate Emergency in June this year.

The plan commits the council to review its own activities to reach carbon neutrality by 2024 - and sets the same ambitious goal for the wider district by 2030

The aim is to reduce the carbon emissions that are cause climate change and to support environmental improvements in the district. The focus is on the biggest sources of carbon emissions – transport, property and energy. Progress will be measured and reported publicly.

Leader of Winchester City Council, Councillor Lucille Thompson, said: *"We are taking bold action to reduce carbon emissions to create a more sustainable and healthier future. Everything the council does will be reviewed to reduce carbon in line with our ambitious targets. Tackling climate change is a shared challenge, and this plan sets out how we can all work together to achieve success."*

Actions included in the plan:

Transport (1,500 tonnes carbon emissions through council operations – and 287,000 tonnes by the district)

- Additional Park & Ride facilities in Winchester for example, 130 new car park spaces in 2020 increasing to 300 in 2021
- An expanded network of electric vehicle (EV) points across the district, including on the council's property
- The council will progress key studies to implement the City of Winchester Movement Strategy – this will promote greener travel such as walking & cycling; and better manage freight and traffic levels
- Require buses and taxis to be low emission/alternative fuel by 2030

Energy (1,780 tonnes carbon emissions through council operations – and 172,000 tonnes generated by the district)

- Source 100 per cent of all electricity purchased by the council via a 'green tariff' by 2021
- Build or invest large scale renewable generation projects such as solar farms, heat pumps, solar-battery car ports, wind farms and hydropower
- Install additional solar panels on council owned sites and identify sites for renewable energy in the Local Plan (a plan shaping the future development of the local area drawn up by the Local Planning Authority)

Housing/property (420 tonnes of carbon emissions through council operations – and 193,000 tonnes generated by the district)

- A council-led flagship ultra-low energy 'Passivhaus' housing scheme in Micheldever by 2021
- All new council homes will be built to the highest efficiency standards by 2024
- Invest an additional £1m per year on energy and water efficiency measures to council housing stock

Other:

- Promote rewilding (restoring and protecting natural areas) and tree planting, starting with planting at least 100 trees annually on council land
- Review the Local Plan to set development and land use standards that reduce carbon and increase sustainability
- Act as a leader on climate change encouraging individuals, businesses and other organisations to reduce carbon emissions
- Lobby government to give the council more resources to deliver the action plan

To read The Carbon Neutrality Action Plan visit [Carbon Neutrality Action Plan](#)

Cllrs Bell, Laming and Williams