

Winchester City Councillor Report June 2021

Winchester City Council cuts ribbon on new Sport & Leisure Park.

A private ribbon cutting ceremony took place on 25 May 2021 at Winchester City Council's new Sport and Leisure Park to mark its opening on Saturday 29 May. The Leader and Chief Executive of the city council, alongside operator Everyone Active, invited a handful of representatives from the organisations who have played a key part in making the centre a state-of-the-art facility for local people to enjoy..

The COVID-19 secure ceremony marked the completion of the centre, which was commissioned under the previous Conservative administration and successfully built throughout the pandemic despite the enormous challenges faced by the construction industry over the last 12 months.

Details of the new centre, including how to book activities, can be found at www.everyoneactive.com/centre/winchester-sport-leisure-park

Junction 9 on the M3

The M3 connects south Hampshire with London, the Midlands and the North. It is also part of a key freight route. Roughly 6,000 vehicles an hour go through junction 9 during peak periods and traffic is particularly heavy between the M3 and the A34, with frequent queues on the northbound off-slip of the M3 which are a safety risk. Residents will also be familiar with the lengthy queues on the A272 Spitfire Link and Easton Lane. Overall the junction creates a bottleneck and significant delays.

Highways England has been working on revised proposals for the interchange, in particular looking at the provision of free-flowing road links between the M3 and the A34, both northbound and southbound, with no need to enter the junction 9 roundabout to travel between the A34 and M3.

The new proposed layout for the junction aims to:

- improve safety by reducing queuing and delays
- reduce congestion and improve journey times
- reduce the number of people affected by noise and improve air quality
- improve conditions for non-motorised users – a new cycle path would connect with National Cycle Network Route 23 which is severed by the current layout
- support economic growth – improving road capacity which will help create jobs, improve business and support the building of new homes.

Highways England have launched a further consultation on its latest proposals. This started on the 27 May 2021 and will end on 8 July 2021. All documents are available on Highways England's website –

<https://highwaysengland.co.uk/our-work/south-east/m3-junction-9-improvements/>.

This includes a virtual room featuring a fly through of the proposals and the ability to complete a questionnaire to give feedback. In addition, there are a number of webinars taking place to discuss particular topics, details can also be found on the above link.

822nd Mayor of Winchester

Cllr Vivian Achwal has been elected as the 822nd Mayor of Winchester. She has chosen three charities to support over her year of office - Friends of the Family, Winchester Youth Counselling and Eight Foundation in Whiteley.

Laurence Ruffell, Hugh Lumby