

October Parish Council Report.

Winchester Sport & Leisure Park reaches next major milestone

Winchester City Council's new sport & leisure park at Bar End is set to become one of the greenest buildings in the south of England after reaching its latest major construction milestone. Construction partner Willmott Dixon has now completed installation of more than 400 Photovoltaic (PV) solar panels on the roof of the fitness suite and sports hall, which will generate enough renewable energy to power the lights in the main swimming pool hall for 21.5 hours a day.

In addition to the PV panels, the new centre boasts a specialist infrastructure to reduce carbon emissions and improve water efficiency through the use of thermally-efficient solar control glazing, extensive rainwater drainage and biodiversity enhancements. Combined heat and power for heating the pools' water and electrical generation will also contribute to the project achieving an 'excellent' BREEAM rating, a key marker in certifying the building's sustainability credentials.

The state-of-the-art facility will be equipped with the latest features including a 50m competition pool, a separate training pool (also with a movable floor), an eight-court sports hall, four squash courts 200 gym stations, two large studios and 'Top Rock' indoor fun climbing. A hydrotherapy suite, in partnership with The Pinder Trust, will also be available for patients with long term health conditions and for the public to receive physiotherapy, support with sports injuries and pain relief or for general relaxation.

35 new affordable council homes in Kings Worthy

One of Winchester City Council's newest housing schemes is starting to take shape. The scheme will provide 35 homes with a range of different housing options including affordable rent and shared ownership.

Contractors Drew Smith have made significant progress over the summer, with all foundation work well advanced and the timber frame construction complete to many of the plots. The scheme is on track to be completed in summer 2021. The council is also working with local residents and ward councillors to preserve a much-loved open space called Top Field at Hookpit Farm. Significant ecological preservation work is being carried out with over 100 slow worms already relocated on the site for protection. Public Consultations have been held by the Natural Environment and Recreation Team which will inform how the area will be left.

The mixture of homes at Hookpit Farm includes 25 affordable rent, eight shared ownership and two discounted market sales.

Winchester Street Market trials Broadway move on Sundays

Winchester Street Market will be trialling a new location in The Broadway from Sunday 6 September.

Moving the stalls from their previous location on Winchester High Street and Middle Brook Street car park, this trial looks to test an element of the long-term aspirations around increasing the vibrancy of the Central Winchester Regeneration area. Organisers are also looking to assess the benefits around improved ease of social distancing in the more spacious area.

The primary location will be The Broadway and there will also be a limited number of stalls positioned on the Lower High Street and Middle Brook Street. The trial will assess the impact on the market and High Street footfall as well as the level of traffic generated in Colebrook Street.

To accommodate the stalls, The Broadway will be closed from the bus station entrance to the junction of Market Street and Colebrook Street, with access to the Mercure Wessex Hotel and Market Street routed via Colebrook Street. Great Minster Street and the Square will remain closed

Free Wi-Fi launched in Winchester city centre

Winchester City Council has launched the new service which will be available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, helping to support the city's reopened businesses.

The Wi-Fi coverage includes Winchester Railway Station and all of the High Street, as well as The Broadway, King Alfred statue, Jewry Street and The Square, enabling residents and visitors alike to remain connected as they shop, eat and go about their day. Those who sign up will also be eligible to receive updates and special offers of interest.

To access the Wi-Fi search for the WinCityFree Wi-Fi network signal on your device and tap connect.

Registration is a couple of clicks and you will be online in no time at all and able to check your email, or visit your favourite websites without worrying about data charges.

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