

Winchester City Councillor Report

December 2021

1. Roads and speeding

Hampshire County Council have announced a review of the evidence for 20-mph zones in residential areas and this will be undertaken by the Environment, Transport and Economy Select Committee in early 2022. Hampshire Constabulary and the Police and Crime Commissioner will be invited to take part.

Following a meeting between the Police and Crime Commissioner and Hampshire County Council, the police are developing proposals for limited sections of average speed cameras on the A272 and the A32. HCC will work with them to implement this and is examining complementary signing to encourage considerate riding.

Statistics have been published by Hampshire Highways for September this year. In that month 301 emergencies were attended, 59,055 square metres of carriageway were resurfaced and 13,797 gullies and other drainage cleared. In addition, 9,912 square metres of footway were repaired or resurfaced and around 8,420 potholes were fixed.

2. Covid-19 guidance

At the time of writing, three cases of the new Omicron Covid variant have been confirmed in the Basingstoke district, including at a local school. It is expected that the number of cases across Hampshire will increase.

Simon Bryant, Hampshire County Council's Director of Public Health has reiterated that the council will encourage the public to adopt safe behaviours to prevent further spread. His advice is to "get vaccinated – first dose, second dose, booster. Wear a face covering on public transport, in shops and crowded places. If you have symptoms, then isolate immediately and get a PCR test.

"Ahead of social events, take a lateral flow test, meet outdoors if possible, or if indoors, open a window to let in fresh air. All of these individual actions can make a difference to help slow the spread of infection and help keep each other safe in the run-up to Christmas."

3. Winchester Movement Strategy

Residents, commuters and businesses are being asked what they think about 10 proposed transport and travel schemes that have been developed as part of the Winchester Movement Strategy, as well as comment on the emerging Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan. The proposals include a new park and ride site for the north side of the city, improvements to public spaces and for pedestrians, bus priority measures, high quality cycle routes into and across the city centre and reduced city centre parking. Whilst not directly impacting the rural areas outside the city, it will affect those visiting.

An online survey opened on Monday 6 December 2021 and people have until just before midnight on Friday 11 February 2022 to complete the questionnaire, which can be found on Hampshire County Council's pages: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/transportchemes/winchester-movement-strategy>

Those who do not have access to the internet can request a paper copy of the survey by calling 0300 555 1388.

The Winchester Movement Strategy (WMS) is the agreed transport strategy for the city of Winchester. It sets out a shared vision for the future of travel in the city and the long-term priorities for travel and transport improvements over the next 20-30 years, including a reduction in city centre traffic.

As well as asking for views on the 10 priority proposals during December 2021 and January 2022, the County Council is also seeking feedback on a LCWIP for the Winchester urban area which has been developed as a part of the Movement Strategy. An LCWIP covering the remainder of Winchester District is going to be developed during 2022. The results from these feedback surveys will be analysed and the findings set out in a report expected to be published during spring 2022.

For more information about the Winchester Movement Strategy visit: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/strategies/transportstrategies>.

4. WCC Local Plan update

Winchester City Council is in the course of preparing its new Local Plan. This doesn't cover the parts of the District within the South Downs National Park. However, parts of the Upper Meon Valley ward are within or adjoin affected areas.

As part of this process, the 2021 SHELAA and the 'Register of Green Sites' are due to be considered at Cabinet on Wednesday 8 December. The SHELAA is the Strategic Housing Economic Land Availability Assessment. It and the Register include sites that the council has been advised by developers and landowners could be potentially available for development. This information will inform how the council shapes the development strategy in the new Local Plan. It is important to note that the inclusion of a site does not mean that the council would necessarily seek to allocate the land for development or grant planning permission for its development. In order to assist with navigation of the SHELAA, which is a lengthy document, a table listing settlements against page numbers on the cabinet agenda has been included on page 43 of the supplementary agenda item <https://democracy.winchester.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=136&MId=2883&Ver=4>

And finally, best wishes for Christmas and the New Year from us both.

Laurence Ruffell Hugh Lumby