

# Winchester City Councillor Report

## April 2022

### 1. Homes for Ukraine

Hampshire County Council is working with Winchester City Council, as well as key local partners such as the NHS and Hampshire Constabulary, to prepare for the provision of immediate support and assistance to Ukrainians arriving in Hampshire under the Government's Homes for Ukraine scheme.

The position is developing rapidly and remains fluid. Several key areas of activity are currently being prioritised:

- a process for home visits is being put in place; individual sponsors will be contacted by the County Council regarding these, as soon as they have been formally notified by Government of an impending arrival
- a process is also being set up to allow sponsors to receive a 'thank you' payment of £350 per month direct to their bank accounts.
- DBS checks are required of all sponsors under the Homes for Ukraine scheme, as well as enhanced DBS checks for hosts who will have Ukrainian children staying with them. These will commence as part of the home visit process and will be undertaken by HCC.
- guest families will be assisted with school admissions so that formal education can continue as soon as possible; queries about school places can be directed to [https://www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/admissions/contacts\\_places](https://www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/admissions/contacts_places)
- the County Council's adult social care team is liaising with NHS representatives regarding how support will be provided. GP support and the provision of crisis mental health assistance is a key consideration.

A dedicated 'Support For Ukraine' webpage ([www.hants.gov.uk/ukraine](http://www.hants.gov.uk/ukraine)) has been set up and is being regularly updated with the latest information, together with signposting to updates from central Government.

### 2. Winchester Area SuperHomes

With climate change very much in the news and utility bills rising steeply, residents may be interested in a scheme launched by Winchester Action on Climate Change (WinACC), called Winchester Area SuperHomes; this will provide homeowners with tailored, independent advice on how they can retrofit their properties to reduce their carbon emissions. (Please note that I am HCC's representative on WinACC.)

WinACC is looking to provide 150 homeowners across Winchester District with detailed Whole House Retrofit Plans which cover areas such as insulation, solar panels and heat pumps. They are offering subsidies for homeowners on low and mid incomes and providing advice on available grants. Retrofitting means changing a property so that it uses less energy and has lower carbon heating.

Winchester Area SuperHomes will provide help with some costs for homeowners on low and middle incomes (but is open to homeowners on all income levels) - this will include some of the survey and design costs.

The first step is for the Project Officer to arrange a home visit or video call to explain exactly how Winchester Area SuperHomes works. They will then put you in touch with a qualified Retrofit Coordinator who will carry out a survey of your property and produce a Whole House Retrofit Plan. This is a detailed assessment of your property and will include a costed list of all the measures you could take to reduce your home's energy use and carbon footprint.

There are several grants available for home energy retrofit. From this month, the Boiler Upgrade Scheme will provide grants of £5,000 towards the cost of an air source heat pump. For homeowners on low incomes, the Green Homes Local Authority Delivery scheme can provide grants of up to £10,000.

To find out more, and register your interest, go to <https://superhomes.org.uk/winchester/>

### **3. Welborne update**

Welborne is the proposed large scale housing and commercial development between Wickham and Fareham. It is not within or even adjoining our ward but its development is likely to have an impact on road volumes and local services and infrastructure. (The works on Junction 9 of the M3 to create a new interchange with the A34 may also have an impact at the end of our area.)

The first stage of the development will be an upgrade to Junction 10 on the M27 and a £41.25m grant towards this has just been awarded by Homes England. A further £50m is to be provided by the developer.

It is currently anticipated, that assuming all outstanding approvals following the completion of the junction design by the contractor can be completed to programme that construction of the new junction would begin next year.

### **4. Roads and Rights of Way**

The Task and Finish group set up try the county council to investigate 20mph speed limits in residential areas has had its first meeting and will now begin reviewing the evidence. The outcome is expected later in the year.

It is worth noting that there is a different process to reporting rights of way issues to HCC, as opposed to Highways issues. Residents should use this link, which enables the team to raise a job order and update the complainant.

[Problems on rights of way | Hampshire County Council \(hants.gov.uk\)](https://www.hants.gov.uk/problems-on-rights-of-way/)

### **5. Elections**

Finally, the next elections for Winchester City Council are taking place on 5th May. Laurence Ruffell's latest four year term comes to an end then and he has decided that the time has come to hang up his hat. Many thanks to him for all his many years hard work on behalf of this area and best wishes to him on his retirement from the council.

**Laurence Ruffell   Hugh Lumby**