

WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL – UPPER MEON VALLEY WARD

Parish update for December 2023

Grant funding sources

We are often asked about sources of funding for various local projects ranging from Woodland creation grants to Community Automated External Defibrillator (AED) grants. The government website has 123 grants available on the link below and a very useful search function that helps you locate the right grant for your project. The AED example above is a £1m scheme, open until 21st September 2024, for public and private applicants awarding between £450 to £1,250. This would contribute the bulk of the funding for a community to purchase their own AED.

<https://www.find-government-grants.service.gov.uk/>

The following are a number of more local sources of grant funding available through Winchester and the South Downs National Park.

Rural England Prosperity Fund:

<https://www.winchester.gov.uk/news/2023/nov/funding-boost-for-winchester-s-rural-communities>

South Downs Trust Re-Nature Fund:

<https://southdownstrust.org.uk/renature-fund/>

South Downs National Park Authority Sustainable Communities Fund:

<https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/national-park-authority/our-communities/grants-and-funding/sustainable-communities-fund/>

Winchester City Council CIL Funding (can be applied to projects outside the Winchester LPA area providing they deliver benefit to that area, apparently):

<https://www.winchester.gov.uk/planning/community-infrastructure-levy-cil/apply-for-cil>

South Downs National Park Authority CIL Funding (for projects within the South Downs LPA area that deliver benefit towards the Park's Management Plan purposes):

<https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/community-infrastructure-levy/revision-of-spending-cil/applying-for-cil-funds-for-an-infrastructure-project/>

Winchester Small Grants Scheme (up to £1000):

<https://www.winchester.gov.uk/grants-for-not-for-profit-organisations/small-grant-scheme>

Winchester Go Greener Faster Scheme:

<https://www.winchester.gov.uk/grants-for-not-for-profit-organisations/go-greener-faster-grant>

Elections 2024

We already know that on Thursday 2nd May 2024 there will be a number of elections. The Police and Crime Commissioner election, 5 Parish elections and 14 ward elections except for Colden Common and Upper Meon Valley (so no getting rid of Neil or Jerry just yet!). All of this is subject to change if the government decide to have the General Election on that date.

As was the case last May the new Voter ID rules apply and all voters must present suitable ID at the polling station. If a resident does not have one of the accepted forms of ID listed on the website they must apply to Winchester for a free Voter Authority Certificate.

New postal vote applications have been introduced and the application can be submitted online or by post, however, all new applications require your National Insurance Number and the link below takes you to the relevant section of the government website. It is worth noting that there is a new rule regarding postal votes having to be accompanied by a specific declaration if it is hand delivered to a polling station or posted through the letterbox of the council offices. Without this declaration the postal vote will not be counted. It is far easier and less likely to result in problems by posting the postal vote pack via Royal Mail. It is still the case that this applies to new postal vote applications and so existing postal voters need do nothing until they come up for renewal. However, there will no longer be an automatic refresh at this point so as to incorporate the voter ID requirements.

Changes also apply to Proxy Voting. An individual will only be able to act for up to 4 people of which only 2 are living in the UK.

<https://www.gov.uk/vote-uk-election>

And finally, a very happy Christmas to one and all and best wishes for 2024.

Kind Regards

Jerry Pett
Neil Bolton

Winchester City Council Ward Members for Upper Meon Valley