

Winchester City Councillor Report

January 2021

1. New Year Greetings

Best wishes from all your local Winchester City Councillors for 2021, we are both hoping for a better year than the last one!

2. New National Lockdown

Winchester City Council remains focused on addressing issues arising from Coronavirus and in particular the new national lockdown. It is seeking to maintain all services as usual so far as possible, In particular, waste and recycling collections are continuing for now on their usual cycle. Hampshire County Council are also keeping the Household Waste Recycling Centres open.

The council helpline (operated through Hampshire County Council) remains operational for anyone needing assistance - the number is **0333 370 4000**

3. Business grants

The government has announced additional financial support for businesses impacted by the new national lockdown. Business in the retail, hospitality and leisure sectors are to receive a one-off grant to support them through the new lockdown. The one-off grants will be given to closed businesses as follows:

- £4,000 for businesses with a rateable value of £15,000 or under
- £6,000 for businesses with a rateable value between £15,000 and £51,000
- £9,000 for businesses with a rateable value of over £51,000

The new one-off grants are in addition to the existing business support, including grants worth up to £3,000 for closed businesses, and up to £2,100 per month for impacted businesses once they reopen.

These grants are being administered locally by Winchester City Council. This includes a discretionary grant fund for impacted businesses. Details are available at www.winchester.gov.uk/no-listing/business-advice/covid-19-support. Businesses can also contact the Council on 01962 848288 or email businessrates@winchester.gov.uk.

Businesses can also call the Council's Economy team on 01962 814 915.

4. Motorbikes update

Residents will be aware of the local group CANS (Communities against noise and speed, www.canshampshire.co.uk/community/communities-against-noise-and-speed-15072/home/) which was formed to campaign on the issue of antisocial motorbikes in the area. A forum has been set up to bring all stakeholders together, including local MPs, the police, Hampshire County Council and local councillors; this is chaired by CANS. A

number of police operations have also been carried out. The overall objective is to discourage the small minority of motorcyclists who ride in an antisocial manner from coming to the area.



Various parishes have acquired what are called speed indicator devices (SIDs). These show the speed vehicles are travelling and have a good success rate at reducing speed, especially if moved around.

Another initiative which we have been exploring with Winchester City Council is the use of environmental legislation to address the issue, combined with new acoustic cameras which measure vehicle noise. They are currently investigating whether something called a Public Spaces Protection Order could be used here, which could enable bikes with excessively noisy exhausts to be identified and fined. Watch this space!

Reporting any noisy bikes is also important, especially those early on a weekend morning. Either ring 101 or go online.

5. Some useful links

As we start a new year, here is a timely reminder of a few useful links:

- the new garden waste service should be getting under way next month. If you have not ordered your new bin yet but would like one or it hasn't arrived, go to the Winchester City Council website at www.winchester.gov.uk/waste-recycling/garden-waste-collection-sign-up or call 0300 300 0013. If that doesn't work, let one of us know and we will endeavour to sort it for you.
- if you need a reminder on when your bins are due to be collected and which bins to put out, follow this link and enter your post code - www.winchester.gov.uk/bins
- if your bins aren't collected on the due date, be sure to report it as soon as possible so this can be rectified - this can be done online at www.winchester.gov.uk/waste-recycling or by using the Your Winchester app. Alternatively you can email customerservice@winchester.gov.uk or phone 0300 300 0013. Its important to remember that the Council will only commit to pick up a missed collection if it is reported by midday the day after your usual collection day. So be sure to let them know!
- at the time of writing, you still have to book in advance to get a slot at Hampshire County Council's recycling centres in Bishops Waltham and elsewhere. However, its very simple to book and the system seems to have been working well - go to www.hants.gov.uk/wasteandrecycling/recyclingcentres/book-appointment
- finally, if you do see any fly tipping blighting our beautiful area, be sure to report it unless you see a large W painted on it. Again, this can be done through the Your Winchester app or online at www.winchester.gov.uk/report or by calling 0300 300 0013. If fly tipping is taking a while to be removed, please do let one of us know and we can follow up on what is happening.

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