

Upper Meon Valley November 2020 report

New COVID-19 testing site opens at Worthy Lane car park

A walk-through, appointment only, COVID-19 testing facility is opening today (Thursday 29 October) at **Worthy Lane car park** in Winchester, as part of government measures to increase testing and reduce the spread of the virus. The site was offered up by Winchester City Council so that anyone with COVID-19 symptoms, however mild, can access a free swab test that takes less than a minute. Tests should be booked or ordered as soon as symptoms begin at nhs.uk/coronavirus or by calling 119 and you can expect your result from the walk-in facility the following day. Testing at the new site will start on 29 October, with more appointments becoming available each day. Anyone testing positive for the virus in England will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace to help them track their contacts. This will help people to identify who they may have been in close contact with, protecting others from further transmission. Close contacts of those testing positive will also hear from NHS Test and Trace, advising them to stay at home for 14 days to prevent them from unknowingly spreading the virus. They will be advised to also book a test if they develop symptoms.

How to get a test Book online or by calling **119 from 7am to 11pm.**

When booking online, make sure you complete the form in full. This includes confirming that you have read and agreed to the terms and conditions. You will then be sent a QR code which is required to enter the testing site.

Winchester Guildhall becomes a 'Nightingale Court'

Guildhall Winchester will now be the site of a new regional Nightingale Court from 19 October through to June 2021.

The Guildhall was chosen because of its prominent city centre location and reputation as a civic hub with the layout of the building being ideal to adapt to a conventional court format while also allowing compliance with COVID-19 social distancing measures.

Nightingale Courts are being set up across the UK to manage a backlog of legal cases that have built up due to limited capacity in existing courts of law and the social distancing requirements now in place due to the pandemic.

The Guildhall Nightingale Court will hear civil cases which have been on hold since March with court sessions being held in the Bapsy Hall, King Charles Hall and Conference Chamber.

Former goods shed in Winchester set to offer small business accommodation

A former goods shed is set to be transformed as part of plans to help small businesses in the Winchester district.

Winchester City Council have agreed to progress the redevelopment of the former Goods Shed in Bar End, which was previously occupied by TJ Waste. The suggested conversion to self-contained offices will help reframe the Bar End area in Winchester as an important employment area in the city. . Additional employment space for small businesses in the district is a priority for the council, and the former Goods Shed at Bar End is an ideal location to do this. Not only is it a sustainable site given its proximity to Winchester City Centre, it also offers good connectivity with easy access to the M3. The news comes as the council is converting the former depot in Bishop's Waltham into business units to boost the economy further south in the district

Coitbury House to be transformed into affordable accommodation

Winchester City Council is to use a vacant building to create affordable accommodation for key workers and young people. Coitbury House, in the Central Winchester Regeneration area, will undergo an internal refurbishment to create short term residential units.

Plans to reinvigorate the Central Winchester Regeneration area are taking shape. To see Coitbury House open its doors once more to offer much needed affordable accommodation to local people. This is something local people asked the Council to consider

"There's more on the way with more proposals for the Central Winchester Regeneration area set to be shared with the public in the coming months.

Hugh Lumby Laurence Ruffell