

Winchester City Council Report

July 2021

1. Flytipping

The council has taken action against 14 offenders in the past six months. Court proceedings had been suspended due to COVID-19 restrictions but have now resumed (including at the Guildhall in Winchester which has been used as an HMCTS court facility since January 2021).

One recent example was a case which appeared before Portsmouth Magistrates on 1 June 2021 following an investigation by the city council's Neighbourhood Services team. The defendant faced charges of failing to obtain a waste transfer note and was ordered to pay fines totalling £1,145.

To further tackle the problem, the council is installing CCTV cameras operating on a rolling programme. These will be installed in various 'hot spots' across the district.

The council is looking to send a strong message that it will not tolerate fly-tipping of rubbish. It's dangerous to residents and wildlife and expensive to clear.

The stated intention is to prosecute whenever they have the evidence to enable it.

If you find illegally dumped waste with a sticker attached, it means that the council is already aware, and will arrange for disposal as soon as possible. Help us to tackle fly-tipping – if you find any rubbish and there is no sticker on it please report it to www.winchester.gov.uk. As we have said before, do not assume someone else has reported it.

2. HWRCs update

Hampshire County Council want to return the waste and recycling centres to pre-pandemic arrangements once national restrictions are eased. However, the booking system enabling residents to choose and secure a time period for taking their bulky household waste to their nearest centre has been extended. Originally introduced to manage the number of visitors on-site at any one time and ensure social distancing rules could be adhered to, the system has also successfully eliminated queuing, congestion and pollution on surrounding roads.

The easing of restrictions and reduced need for additional space between parked vehicles will mean that the number of booking slots available for each site can be increased.

A recommendation to trial allowing people to take waste, on foot, to selected HWRCs (to assess the feasibility of pedestrian access) has also been approved.

3. Constituency boundary changes

The Boundary Commission have published proposals for a reorganisation of Parliamentary constituencies, so that they are all more even in voter numbers. Their latest proposal has suggested breaking up the Meon Valley constituency with it being added to other areas, one partly within Fareham District Council, another in Eastleigh. This area will be added to Winchester.

It will be a shame if the Meon Valley constituency does disappear. But if it is to go, residents should think about which conurbation they look towards and feel part of. As rural communities, it will be best to remain with similar areas, especially when within the same district council area.

You can see and comment on the proposals at www.bcereviews.org.uk, the consultation currently closes on 2nd August.

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