**WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL**

**UPPER MEON VALLEY WARD – PARISH UPDATE – MAY 2026**

Firstly, apologies for the delay in distributing an update for May, but you will be aware that the last week has been rather a busy one.

**Local Government Elections May 2026**

The result of the 7 May County and Ward elections is that Anne Small (Liberal Democrat) is now the Hampshire County Council member for the Meon Valley Division, whilst Jonathan Williams (Liberal Democrat) and Jackie Porter (Liberal Democrat) were both re-elected in their respective Divisions of Bishops Waltham and Itchen Valley. David Ablitt (Liberal Democrat) was elected to be a Winchester City Council Ward member for Upper Meon Valley.

Elections are often ruthless and instant 're-setting' events. I am acutely conscious of the tremendous amount of hard work and dedication given by both Neil Bolton and Malcolm Wallace over the past years to our village communities. They both personify the highest standards of public service to which we all aspire and I count myself privileged to have had the pleasure of working with them. As we've often said, we always aim to leave our party colours outside the door of parish meetings but we equally recognise the inevitability of having to choose party allegiance to serve at District, County and, in future, 'unitary' authority level. And, equally inevitably, we recognise that many voters in elections at all levels will cast their ballot to reflect their opinion of party performance at a national level. I'm certain that you will join me in wishing them both well in whatever lies ahead for them.

Meanwhile, I know that both Anne and David will also give of their best to continue supporting our communities in the coming years, and live up to the confidence placed in them by the electorate, alongside Jonathan, Jackie and me.

**Planning**

At the SDNPA Planning Committee meeting on 9 April two cases of local interest were considered and the draft minutes of that meeting, which are worth reading, are here:
https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/Agenda-Item-03.pdf

**Boomtown** was granted planning permission for a further 5 years, and continuation of the increase in its permitted number on site to 75 999. A considerably more detailed Biodiversity Net Gain, Landscape and Ecology Mitigation and Management Plan (BLEMMP) was agreed and its outcome will now be monitored and reported annually. In addition, a further condition was secured, "requiring an Independent Economic Assessment be added, the final form of words to be agreed by the Director of Placemaking in consultation with the Chairman of the Planning Committee".

**Corhampton Golf Course** had its application to develop four new holes, using imported spoil from other development sites in Hampshire, refused. The scale of the landscape change was deemed unacceptable within the National Park.

Jerry Pett
Winchester City Council Ward Member for Upper Meon Valley