

September Report

Winchester City Council's Local Plan 2036

The city council is inviting local people to have their say on the way that the District develops. Consultation on what should be included in Winchester City Council's Local Plan 2036 is now underway and will run until midday Friday 21 September 2018.

The Local Plan is an important document which will help shape the future of the Winchester District. It enables the council to plan for and deliver the housing, employment space, facilities and infrastructure needed to ensure that the District grows and prospers whilst protecting the built and natural environments which makes Winchester's towns, villages and countryside so attractive.

To produce a new plan which accommodates necessary development without comprising the quality of the environment, the council invites feedback from all who have an interest in the District's future. Parish councils, local communities, businesses and other stakeholders are being approached for comment during a process that leads to the adoption of a new plan which will guide development for many years to come.

An online consultation is available at <https://winchester.citizenspace.com/policy-and-planning/winchester-lp-launch/> with key questions to help shape the plan.

Winchester Distillery brings gin-making experience to the city

This Autumn, Winchester City Centre will become home to The Blend Academy, a gin school hosting fun 'create your own gin' sessions as well as Wine and Spirit Education Trust classes in a new event space run by local spirit makers, Winchester Distillery. The local distillers will host regular events for both consumers and the trade at the newly refurbished site on Middle Brook Street.

The space had been inaccessible since the Post Office vacated the building, and Winchester City Council has created a new entrance directly from Middle Brook Street.

SDNP

LOCAL PLAN UPDATE

The first hearings for the South Downs Local Plan examination are expected to start on Tuesday 13 November in the South Downs Centre, Midhurst.

If you responded to the submission consultation last autumn you should now have received a letter from the Programme Officer with more information about the process. Further examination sessions will follow in December. Keep an eye on the [Local Plan Examination page](#) on the SDNP website for all the news and updates.

Ongoing work carried out by Park Rangers

Managed invasive nettles and completed field sign surveys of water voles along the River Meon, confirming their dispersal and continued breeding success.

Harvested seed at a local wildflower meadow near Selbourne with the Winchester Downs Farm Cluster. **Undertook** two barbastelle bat surveys with Sussex Wildlife Trust at Ebernoe Common. **Other** work on the site included clearing bracken and gorse and pothole repairs. **Helped** with a charcoal burn at Lodge Copse, an educational coppice run by volunteers. **Installed** steps on a couple of steep sections at Botany Bay to make walking safer in an area developed for educational groups. **Carried** out invasive species surveys on the Hammer Stream catchment. **Continued** work at Truleigh Hill – the pond dipping platform is complete and a new accessible trail is almost finished. **Cutting & raking** regrowth at Halcombe Farm Local Wildlife Site and Anchor Bottom Site of Special Scientific Interest to improve chalk grassland habitat. **Carried** out a wartbiter cricket translocation to Deep Dean in East Sussex, completing a four year reintroduction project. **Helped** to run a bat survey evening at Kingley Vale. **Carried** out regular butterfly transects at Washington Chalk Pit.