

# Corhampton and Meonstoke Parish Council

## Winchester City Councillor Report

### March 2019

#### 1. Planning update

Two workshop sessions with parish councils are proposed for 12th/13th March. This is to discuss local plan and development management issues. This will include an opportunity to discuss whether settlement boundaries need updating.

Let [Kate Evans](#) know if you would like to attend.

The Gypsy and Traveller DPD has now been adopted following Winchester City Council's meeting on 28th February. There are no identified sites within the Parish.

#### 2. New Leisure Centre approved

Further hurdles for the proposed new leisure centre at Bar End have been cleared with the full base case approved by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee. Planning permission has now been obtained, Willmott Dixon appointed as building contractor and Everyone Active selected as operator. Everyone Active have been named Swim England's Operator of the Year for the last two years and run 150 facilities nationally

Funding was approved at the council meeting on 28th February. The new facility will be developed with financial support from Hampshire County Council, the Pinder Trust, and the University of Winchester.

The new leisure centre, with eight courts and a 50m pool as well as extensive other facilities, is designed to serve the entire district. With the new location at Bar End, access will be much easier from the Upper Meon Valley ward. It is due to open in 2021.

In addition, a new four court sports centre is separately being proposed to serve the Southern Parishes.

The new centre will take the place of the existing River Park Leisure Centre. The council is now considering new uses for that site. A public engagement event to discuss this is being held on Friday 22nd March from 3pm to 7pm and on Saturday 23rd March from 10am to 4pm; this will be held in a marquee on North Walls Recreation Ground.

#### 3. District litter clean up

The city council has pledged its support for this year's Great British Spring Clean, run by environmental charity Keep Britain Tidy. The Great British Spring Clean brings together individuals, community organisations, businesses and councils to make a difference to the environment on our doorstep.

The campaign runs from March 22 to April 23, and the council is urging groups to get out in the district and help clean up roads and community green spaces. The council, along with its street care contractors, will be assisting local parishes and litter picking groups by providing free high-visibility jackets, litter picks and black bags which they will collect after the event.

To find out more about how to get involved call 01962 672 442 or email [Corinne Harris](mailto:Corinne.Harris@idverde.com) at idverde before March 8 2019.

## **4. Winchester City Council - Code of Conduct**

The Localism Act 2011 requires all local authorities to adopt a code of conduct setting out the standards of behaviour expected from local councillors. The Council is looking to adopt a new Constitution in May 2019 and as part of this work, it is also currently reviewing its Member Code of Conduct.

Each Parish Council must also adopt a code of conduct. It may not be exactly the same as the Winchester City Council code (as the principal Council), but once completed, Parish Clerks will be advised of the new Winchester City Council Code and local councils invited to adopt this as a model for its own Code.

## **5. Handyperson Scheme**

The Handyperson Service offers small repairs and adaptations at a subsidised rate to those who qualify in the Winchester District. It offers small repairs and adaptations at a subsidised rate to those who qualify in the Winchester District.

In order to qualify to use the service clients need to be either over 60 years of age, living with a disability or both. The scheme is open to Winchester City Council tenants, housing association tenants, homeowners and private tenants. The Parish Council may wish to draw this to the attention of qualifying residents.

The hourly rate charged is :

- £9.60 + VAT for clients in receipt of means tested benefits
- £18.00 + VAT for other clients

If you have any questions regarding the service please contact Rhiannon Riley on 01962 848 455.

## **6. Tenant satisfaction survey 2019**

Winchester City Council is carrying out its biennial tenant's satisfaction survey in March and April. The council will use this survey to find out what service improvements are important to tenants. The survey will be carried out by an independent company. All information supplied will be strictly confidential and used in a statistical format only.

## **7. Council tax freeze approved**

Winchester City Council is proposing no increase in its share of the Council Tax for 2019/2020, freezing the tax at this year's level. This was approved at the council meeting on 28th February.

The Council Tax also includes elements for Hampshire County Council, the Police and the parish precept, all of which may be subject to separate increase.

**Laurence Ruffell Hugh Lumby.**