

Corhampton & Meonstoke Parish Council

Winchester City Councillor Report

March 2020

1. Council Tax and Charging Increases

Winchester City Council's share of the Council Tax for the next financial year was approved at the full meeting of Council held on 26th February. The tax is to increase by 3%.

Other changes in charges approved included:

- the current garden waste collection service is to be replaced with an optional service from February 2021, for which a charge will be levied. The exact amount has not yet been announced
- parking charges in Winchester (other than Park & Ride) will be increased by 3% (rounded to the nearest 10p)
- Park & Ride charges will increase by 50 pence
- a flat rate charge of £2 will be introduced for all "Central" car parks in Winchester on Sundays. This will not include the Chesil car park.
- car parking charges for the "Central" car parks will be extended to 7pm in a six month trial

2. Weather update

In light of on-going wet weather, Winchester City Council continues to monitor the situation closely with Environment Agency and Hampshire County Council and is working with parish councils, flood action groups and land/property owners in areas potentially at risk of flooding.

To date a number of steps have been taken to reduce the chance of flooding by the Council's Special Maintenance team. This has included making available sandbags in areas where flood alerts are in effect and parish councils or flood action groups have requested assistance.

Further information can be viewed on the website at: <https://www.winchester.gov.uk/no-listing/public-information-following-heavy-rainfall>

3. Launch of new community-led and rural housing hub for Hampshire

Winchester City Council has been working with HARAH (Hampshire Alliance for Rural Affordable Housing) to deliver rural affordable housing for local people and with the Hampshire Community Housing Partnership to deliver community led housing.

In June 2019 it was agreed that HARAH and the Hampshire Community Housing Partnership would merge and an application would be submitted for community housing funding to set up a new Hampshire wide hub for rural and community led housing. The

funding application for community housing funding from Homes England was successful and the new Hampshire Homes Hub was piloted from October 2019.

From 1st April 2020 these two partnerships will officially merge to become Hampshire Homes Hub; a partnership to increase the supply of rural and community led housing, primarily as affordable homes, to meet local needs in Hampshire.

Hampshire Homes Hub will be based at Action Hampshire in Winchester, with community housing officers providing expert support to Parish Councils and community groups to deliver rural and community led homes. The project will be funded through the community housing funding initially, together with on-going payments for services including for housing needs surveys undertaken by the hub and enabling fees for completed projects.

4. Revised Local Plan

Winchester City Council is carrying out a review of its Local Plan. This plan does not apply in Corhampton & Meonstoke, which is subject to the SDNP's separate local plan. A briefing for parishes on the process and progress to date will take place on 23rd March. Parishes within the National Park will, however, be invited to attend and comment in any event.

5. Local Enforcement Plan

The current Local Enforcement Plan was adopted in 2017. At the Parish Council Forum on 5th March 2019 and the Town Forum on 21st March 2019 a strategy was agreed for updating the plan.

A group of volunteers (comprising Councillor Porter (Cabinet Member for Built Environment and Wellbeing), 6 parish councillors, Julie Pinnock (Service Lead – Built Environment) and David Townsend (Team Leader – Planning Enforcement) have worked in a project team amending the current plan. The new draft plan is much easier to read and includes a series of flow diagrams setting out key stages and actions.

The draft plan will be circulated to all Parish Councils. Any questions should be submitted to David Townsend (dtownsend@winchester.gov.uk).

If you do want to comment please do so by 5pm on 28th March 2020.

After this date the draft plan with any revisions will be submitted to Cabinet for approval.

Laurence Ruffell Hugh Lumby