

Corhampton & Meonstoke Parish Council

Winchester City Councillor Report

May 2020

1. Introduction

Winchester City Council's principle focus at the moment remains on addressing issues arising from Coronavirus. Its definitive list of advice can be found on the Council's website at <https://www.winchester.gov.uk/covid19>.

It is continuing to provide most of its services as normal, subject to social distancing requirements.

The County Council hotline remains in operation - the number is **0333 370 4000**. This is available from **9.00 am to 5.00 pm 7 days a week**. Residents needing help should continue to use local support where they have contacts - the local helpline number is **01489 450499**. Otherwise, they should call the helpline number.

2. Housing

The Council are continuing to offer urgent housing repairs for council tenants but are otherwise rescheduling repair and routine maintenance for them until later in the summer.

Hampshire Home Choice is currently not operating save for emergency situations. Properties that become available are therefore not being advertised at present.

3. Refuse collection and other waste issues

Waste and recycling collections are continuing for now on their usual cycle and no reduction in service is currently anticipated. The exception is bulky waste collection which has been paused for now. As ever, if any resident doesn't have their refuse collected on the scheduled day, they should promptly report this via the Council's website.

Bottle banks are being utilised to a greater extent at the current time which has led to some overflowing. Residents are asked to report any such overflowing so that the bottle banks can be emptied out of their usual cycle.

As previously reported, Hampshire County Council has closed the waste depots across the county in line with Government guidance. These are to re-open during the week starting 11th May, although there will be restrictions on use and residents are advised to check these in advance. There may, at least initially, be substantial delays as the site come back into operation.

There has been some increase in fly tipping across the District during this time, although this is not necessarily linked to the closure of the waste depots. In any event, residents are still encouraged to continue to report any incidents of fly tipping to the Council.

4. Bonfires

Residents are actively encouraged not to have bonfires. Coronavirus is a respiratory illness and bonfires could well be unhelpful to those affected.

5. Business support

The Council believes that around 2235 business across the District may be eligible for grants. To date, over 1587 have been paid. The number of businesses covered has been extended and representations in relation to potential gaps and grey areas continue to be made to Government. Any businesses who have not yet applied are encouraged to make applications without delay.

It should be noted that village and church halls as well as community shops may be entitled to grants and these are also encouraged to apply if they have not yet done so.

The Council is working on a business recovery plan to be implemented following the end of lockdown. This is to be considered by the Council's cabinet on 21st May.

6. Virtual meetings

Winchester City Council is preparing to hold all meetings on a virtual basis, starting this month. This will include the annual meeting of the Council (when the new Mayor is elected) and council and committee meetings (including planning committee meetings). Members will be utilising Google Teams and there will be facilities for members of the public to listen and participate.

7. Boomtown

Following discussions with the Council and the police, the organisers have decided to cancel this year's Boomtown Festival.

Laurence Ruffell Hugh Lumby