

Winchester City Councillor Report

July 2020

1. Introduction

Winchester City Council's principle focus at the moment is re-opening the District as the lockdown eases. Money received from the government and the EM3 LEP is being used to assist with this and to encourage a safe return to our high streets. Initiatives include the provision of tables and chairs to assist with outdoor food and beverage services and social distancing signage.

Service levels are being increased where previously reduced or cancelled, for example home repairs and parking enforcement. However, all services remain subject to social distancing requirements.

The council's communications team is now publishing [regular information on our website](#) to keep residents and businesses up to date. Click on the link to reach WCC's site.

2. Opening of community facilities

From 4th July 2020, community centres and other community facilities have been able to open once again in accordance with government guidelines and the easing of lockdown. Below is guidance collated by Action Hampshire which has been sent to parish clerks and community venues.

<https://actionhampshire.org/news-blog-events/opening-your-community-building-after-lockdown/>

<https://actionhampshire.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Covid-19-Opening-your-hall-after-lockdown-2020-06-15th.pdf>

If anyone needs any further help or advice on the approach community facilities intend to adopt for opening their centres and would like a second opinion, then please do get in touch with the council. Mark Maitland, Community Officer, can be contacted on mmaitland@winchester.gov.uk or on 01962 848518.

3. Grants update

Winchester City Council's Grants Department are continuing to provide organisations with the opportunity to apply for match funding of up to £2000 via Crowdfund Winchester. There are currently three funds available on the platform, details can be found on the council's website.

Please contact Vanessa Dubisson with any queries on vanessa@crowdfunder.co.uk

4. New garden waste collection service

Garden waste is currently collected fortnightly, without any additional charge for the first bag.

The council's Cabinet are to consider on 9th July a proposal to introduce a new service in its place from February 2021. The existing sack based collection service will end and be replaced by a service using wheeled bins.

This will be an optional service with an annual charge, which will include the supply of the bin and fortnightly kerb side collection. Two sizes of bin will be available. The initial charges are proposed to be set at £39 for a 140 litre wheeled bin and £59 for a 240 litre wheeled bin.

Waste and recycling collections will in the meantime continue on their usual cycle.

5. Winchester City developments

The council has various projects under way or under consideration.

The new Sports and Leisure Park at Bar End is likely to have a slightly delayed completion as a result of the pandemic and other factors, with opening now being targeted for spring 2021.

In the meantime, the Station Approach office development by Winchester Station and plans for the disposal or redevelopment of the existing River Park Leisure Centre have both been put on hold whilst the impact of the pandemic is considered.

In Central Winchester itself, consultants have been appointed to undertake a feasibility study into creating a new creative quarter at Kings Walk. Up to 50,000 sq ft of flexible work space could be available to enable the use of currently empty properties whilst plans for the wider project are finalised.

Laurence Ruffell Hugh Lumby