

Winchester City Councillor Monthly Report August 2017

You can contact your City Councillors as follows :-

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Winchester Bus Station

The Winchester bus station should be reopened in its new format in early September. The bus station mobile data will be updated so that passengers know where to catch their bus, plus there will be posters in the bus station to clearly inform passengers of their new pick-up/drop-off point. Buses are being upgraded for contactless payments.

Disability Tennis sessions to culminate in Tennis Festival

Winchester City Council has organised FREE disability tennis sessions throughout the summer in Winchester. The sessions are run in partnership with Hampshire and Isle of Wight Lawn Tennis Association, the Tennis Foundation, Osman Tennis and Places For People. River Park Leisure Centre will be making courts available free of charge for disability tennis after funding period ends.

The summer sessions are at Osborne School, Shepherds Down School, Kings School and River Park Leisure Centre. There is a tennis festival for all participants on Tuesday 22 August from 1pm to 3pm at River Park Leisure Centre.

For more information on the Tennis Festival at River Park Leisure Centre contact Amanda Ford aford@winchester.gov.uk (tel: 01962 848 274) or visit www.playtenniswinchester.com

Face Finding Fun for Families

The Face Finding Mission takes place from 22 July to 3 September. Alresford Town Centre will be hosting colourful masks along Broad Street, West Street and East Street.

The “mission” is to find all of these faces around town. Children of all ages will identify them from the photo on the entry form and note down the corresponding letter. Entry forms have been distributed to local schools, clubs, cafes and shops. Individuals who manage to find all of the faces will be entered into a draw to win prizes donated by local businesses. The Face Finding Mission is intended to appeal to adults as well as children, so prizes include wine, a meal for two and a massage!

Entry forms are available from all participating shops and the Alresford library. For more information on the Alresford Face Finding visit the Altogether Alresford Facebook page (www.facebook.com/AllaboutAlresford/).

Don't forget : VIRGIN MEDIA BUSINESS 'VOOMS' INTO WINCHESTER

The Virgin Media Business of 2017 'VOOM' competition (to find the best new business ideas across the UK) comes, along with the 'Voom Bus', to Winchester on Thursday 19 October 2017.

Virgin Media Business is looking for local people with the courage to pitch their business idea at each tour stop, giving them the chance to win a regional prize of £5,000 and one of ten chances to meet

and receive advice from Sir Richard Branson. Experts from partners including Virgin StartUp will also be on hand to provide valuable expertise, help and advice on how to launch and scale a start-up. The national competition will return in March 2018 and will again provide the chance to win a share of £1m in prizes. For more details on the tour and for anyone with a great business idea, who wants to register to pitch at their local event, they should visit www.virginmediabusiness.co.uk/voom

Sun Lane Outline Planning

The outline application submitted to WCC is expected to be heard in August or September 2017. The majority of concerns relate to the traffic implications around the application – these are subject to Hampshire County Council, as the Highways Authority, for evaluation and comment as to their appropriateness or measures required to address any problems.

Winchester Sport & Leisure Park

The second phase of engagement was undertaken by Stride Treglown on behalf of WCC and University of Winchester in July and we are awaiting feedback. Reports continue to be gathered in respect of the disposition of the land for siting of the new facility, gathering data on the expected use based on the current use of River Park Leisure Centre and the use of other facilities accessible to residents to assess our proposed facility mix for the new centre to ensure that it meets the needs of our residents. A third phase of engagement is due in the autumn which will show emerging designs/layout of the building at Bar End. It is expected the Full Council will be asked to approve the business case in late Autumn and, should that be confirmed, a planning application will be submitted in Spring 2018. It is anticipated that building of the new facility will commence later in 2018.

The new facility at Bar End will be much easier for Alresford & Itchen Valley residents to access and we would therefore encourage you to look at proposals in the coming months to comment.

Sports Facilities in Winchester District

A district-wide assessment has been conducted on the built sports facilities available within the district to residents. This is to assess whether we meet the requirement for the current and expected population growth over the next 20 years. From this, we will be able to gain input on where and what we need to build for the future. Sports and activity clubs across the district have been contacted to input their current and anticipated growth areas.

Council invests £1m on Disabled Adaptations

Winchester City Council has agreed to double its spending on adapting resident's homes, helping them to remain independent and in many cases making sure they can return home from hospital more quickly.

As part of the Government's Better Care programme, the Council is now investing over £1m every year on installing disabled adaptations such as level access showers, stair lifts and ramps, as well as extending properties to help disabled and vulnerable residents to be able to continue to live independently and remain in their own home, avoiding the disruption and expense of being placed in care homes and preventing extended hospital stays.

The Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) is a means tested grant helping people, including those living in the private sector, with the cost of adapting their homes, enabling them to continue living there. This is a mandatory grant for works that have been recommended as essential and necessary by an Occupational Therapist.

91% of tenants happy with Council

Customer satisfaction with Winchester City Council has increased, with 91% of tenants surveyed saying they are happy with the service they receive (compared to 89% when the survey was completed 2 years ago). Satisfaction levels around housing repairs, opportunities to get involved and neighbourhoods in general has also increased, compared to the last survey in 2015.

Tenants did raise concerns about how easy it was to contact the Council, requesting more information to justify service charges and there were also calls for more discretionary works, such as internal decorations if funds could be made available. 88% of tenants said they felt they got value for money for the rent they paid.

The City Council complete a comprehensive survey of over 30% of its tenants every two years in line with the national STAR standard to allow comparisons with other social landlords.

Enterprising new business support service for Winchester businesses

Winchester City Council is working with Enterprise First to introduce a business support service for businesses located in the Winchester District. The free service offers help with writing business plans, securing funding or advice regarding expansion and a programme of events. Funded by Winchester City Council, the service is intended to help remove barriers to starting and developing a business in the District.

Business people keen to meet with like-minded local business owners can meet between 9am and 11am at Café Winchester in St Thomas Street on the third Thursday of every month. You can book for the networking here: www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/win-cafe-winchester-tickets-35812936457.

The first free training courses will be: Low Cost, No Cost Marketing on Friday 28 July; How to Make Social Media Work for your Business on Friday 8 September; Start Your Own Business on Friday 15 September and Bookkeeping on Friday 29 September. Future training and networking opportunities will be posted at www.entreprisefirst.co.uk

Appointments for one to one business advice can be made by contacting Enterprise First on 01252 319 272 or emailing info@enterprisefirst.co.uk.