

Winchester City Councillor Monthly Report July 2017

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Some really important news to share :

1) Winchester Bus Station closed from 10 July 2017:

The Winchester bus station will be closed for a revamp from Monday 10 July, for approximately 8 weeks, and buses will be operating from The Broadway. Parking bays, except those for disabled users, will be suspended, and the taxi rank will be relocated to the north side of The Broadway (either side of the bus station). Twitter/Facebook/Websites have all been busy passing on messages and maps for the past week.

There will be members of staff on The Broadway for 2 weeks to assist passengers and the computer system has been updated with new bus stop locations for passengers. There are 65,000 people who come through the bus station each week so we will do our best to assist with the changes.

For further information : <http://www.winchester.gov.uk/news/2017/jul/improvement-work-bus-station-set-begin/>

2) Gypsy & Travellers Consultation

The formal consultation on the allocation of sites is due to commence on Monday 10 July. As of the time of going to print the consultation is not on-line (it's not the 10th yet!), but the following link <https://winchester.citizenspace.com/> takes you to the consultation website and residents should use the link to the Gypsy & Travellers Consultation once it goes live. The Consultation will not close until late September to accommodate Parish Councils, many of whom do not meet in August, and also those of us who take holidays. We hope that this extended timeframe is appreciated by residents.

(Update : link for consultation open until 4 September

<https://winchester.citizenspace.com/policy-and-planning/gypsy-traveller-and-travelling-showpeople/> - WCC will take Parish comments after this date due to meetings not occurring in August).

3) Sun Lane Outline Planning

The outline plan has been submitted to WCC. Comment time has been extended until 3 August 2017. This is the link to the application: <http://planningapps.winchester.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=summary&keyVal=ORA4JLBPJC600> As an outline application, should this receive approval, the developer will produce a full application which will be submitted and you will be able to make sure comment on the application in due course. I have requested copies of the documentation be placed at the Alresford Library for viewing my residents.

ADDED ITEM : <https://winchester.citizenspace.com/housing/meryon-road-and-robertson-road-garage-stock-condit/> WCC are looking at condition and use of garages at this location and would like to receive response to the questionnaire posted on the website.

4) Interest rate relief :

An important consultation is taking place on interest rate relief for local businesses. Please take time to contribute if you are affected by the recent rate increase:

<http://www.winchester.gov.uk/news/2017/jul/council-consults-local-businesses-rate-relief-following-central-government-changes/>

More general news :

Bishops Sutton Road (improvements)

Some may have noticed the length of the path from Alresford to Bishops Sutton has recently been swept with a machine to return it to its proper width. It is rather potholed and I have sent numerous photographs to HCC regarding its poor condition, with the request that they address the more serious and dangerous areas at the least. (I am told funding is not available to resurface the entire length of the footpath).

The bus stops are operating!

Winchester Sport & Leisure Park

From my experience attending the engagement events, the response to the June consultation was largely positive – we do have a number of concerns raised by local residents, and work continues with numerous consultants who evaluate the ground water/traffic/desires of local residents and so forth, in respect of the new facility's impact. There is a further engagement planned in July regarding initial thoughts on the Bar End site and potential concepts for the building. These will be advertised on the WCC website. This is to be a facility which will serve Alresford & Itchen Valley, in a vastly improved capacity compared to River Park, and residents should look at it to see if there are particular issues which concern them.

WCC would like to reassure residents that we intend to continue to deliver a full programme of activity at River Park until the new facility is opened.

(Update : 2nd phase of engagement under way. If residents cannot attend, they can comment and see exhibition boards here : <http://www.winchester.gov.uk/events/details/15459/> This is open until 18 August 2017).

Central Winchester Regeneration (previously known as Silver Hill)

JTP, the consultants appointed to develop a Supplement Planning Document which will guide the future of this area, presented their findings to the public on 4 July 2017 at the Guildhall. This initial feedback is of an extremely positive response to the ideas presented by JTP of what should be included. This link : <http://www.winchester.gov.uk/news/2017/jul/new-vision-central-winchester-regeneration-gets-positive-reaction-public/> provides information on the presentation and what it is hoped WCC might be able to deliver in Central Winchester in the future. The vision is delightful, we just need to work out how we might be able to deliver it!

As an aside, and an opportunity to be embraced by all who are interested in the history of Winchester, once the work is completed on the revamped bus station, WCC will be able to commence initial archaeological investigations on the land which will not be used by the new bus station. We watch and wait with interest!

Health & Wellbeing

There is an enormous amount of information around to help residents make their lives easier, whether through age or disability, and Hampshire County Council are continuing to populate their website : www.connectsupport.hants.gov.uk to make it easier for residents to find the information they need.

One site you might like in particular is www.bluelamptrust.org.uk. This is an amazing organisation which helps the Over 65s by providing safety and security for the vulnerable and elderly in our community. They really do provide many of their fittings free, so do look at their website or give them a FREE OF CHARGE CALL (0300 777 0157)

Flytipping.

If you come across flytipping, please do not touch it as it may harm any evidence which can be gathered by WCC for prosecution. Please report using the following page and link : <http://www.winchester.gov.uk/waste-and-recycling/flytipping/>