

District Council Report July 2020

Ten Weeks of working remotely and what have WCC achieved by working with our communities and community groups?

- 2027 NHS Volunteers
- 2100 food parcels delivered
- 10,000 prescriptions collected and delivered
- £990,000 business grants given to 84 local groups
- £23.5m business grants to 1900 businesses
- £37,000 from Sports England for 7 District sports clubs
- 422 vulnerable residents supported by our Local response centre
- 25 safe homes provided
- 1650 reassurance calls to elderly housing tenants
- 108 cleared flytips
- 661,000 bins collected
- Launched virtual public meeting
- Park and ride service continued
- Full planning control services offered remotely

Local Response Centre

- Part of the County wide network of community support
- Volunteer groups across the district
- next door neighbours
- parish councils
- Round Table, Winchester College, Alresford PIGS and many many more
- LRC has provided advice, support and just 'being there' for people with practical needs or just someone to talk to
- 430 cases
- Quick, efficient and well organised – local government at its best

Emerging Financial Pressures

- Feb 2020 – Balanced budget approved
- Today – Projecting a deficit between £8m- £12m
- How? Car parks are empty Guildhall is closed
- Commercial tenants unable to pay rent
- Economic Downturn

What Next?

- Review and amend forecasts as services return
- Some additional Govt funding - £1.3m so far and ongoing dialogue with ministers
- Specific requirements/support for local councils?
- Review impact of ongoing economic situation? Review of spend/budgets/reserves
Revised Budget to Cabinet July 2020

Recover, rebuild, reimagine

- Recover – where COVID-19 has caused damage or delay that we need to address
- Rebuild - retaining and building – where COVID-19 has driven change that we wish to accelerate and develop
- Reimagine – where COVID-19 requires us to rethink the way we do things in the future

Our approach

- Strategy:
- Cabinet report in May – approved overarching approach
- Key work allocated to lead officers working with cabinet members.
- Community impact assessments being carried out across services, and feed into action planning to refine
- Updates to WCC policy committees in June / July Working across the district with local councils critical Principle - what can the council do to help?

Open space

- Many parks and gardens remained open
- Certain facilities/areas were closed - playgrounds & outdoor sports facilities.
- Skateparks re-opened; playgrounds and outdoor gyms remain closed.
- Social distancing signs have been displayed
- Some sporting activities are set to resume, such as Crown bowling and football training, with appropriate signing in place and arrangements on site managed by clubs

Transport

- Market towns - establishing requirements to allow for social distancing and encourage active travel. Requests have been received from Wickham, Bishops Waltham and Alresford which are being assessed.
- City Park and Ride service was retained during restrictions and the full timetable resumed 01.06.20
- City Pedestrian access - HCC – first wave schemes
- North Walls – pedestrian scheme
Jewry Street – pedestrian scheme
Hyde Street – measures to close road to motor vehicles at one midpoint location
- Cycle and walking initiatives
Parking – huge reduction, now increasing Parking enforcement - restarting

LOCAL PLAN UPDATE

- Cabinet agreed in March 2020 an updated Local Development Scheme (the timetable for the LP)
- Cabinet meeting on the 22nd July to seek approval to:
 - Publish the SHELAA
 - Agree the Strategic Issues & Options document – consultation in Sept/Oct

- We are very keen to make the LP documents much more accessible and visually interesting
- We are currently preparing a Local Plan Engagement Strategy building on the Statement of Community Involvement that will be used to inform the public consultation – due to go to Cabinet in August
- We recognise the real importance of engaging with the Parish Councils and the Town Forum as part of the Local Plan making process
- We want to work with you to find the best way that we can engage with you and your local residents in the Autumn and throughout journey of preparing a Local Plan for our whole District
- Further details will be included in the Local Plan Engagement Strategy but if you have any ideas please do let us know by emailing Planningpolicy@Winchester.gov.uk

Badgers Farm

It has been great to see the community in Badger Farm working so hard to support the vulnerable and how they have come together during covid-19 to demonstrated was a close community it is. Being able to work with community leaders to connect people and support them has been a key part of ensuring our residents are taken care of.

Also working with parish and making sure that they are given the advice that they need during this confusing and fast changing time. Rules and advice have been changing on a week by week basis and it has been great to have such capable officers at WCC to be able to pass this information on to the Parish and ensure everyone is up to date.

Work is progressing on the wildflowers on the Sainsbury's roundabout and it is a pleasure to see this taking shape. We have also been liaising the Parish Council to look at the options of wildflowers being placed in Honey Suckle Close and Ashburn Crescent.

Cllrs Bell, Laming and Williams