

WINCHESTER TOWN FORUM

7 JUNE 2006

2006/07 PUBLIC MEETINGS PROGRAMME

REPORT OF CITY SECRETARY AND SOLICITOR

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RECENT REFERENCES:

WTF31 – 2004/5 Public Meetings Programme – 26 July 2004  
WTF43 – 2005 Public Meetings Programme – 6 January 2005  
WTF56 – 2005/06 Public Meetings Programme – 7 June 2006

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This report requests Members to consider a programme of public meetings for the Forum during the 2006/07 municipal year.

RECOMMENDATION:

To set the 2006/07 public meetings programme for the Forum (it is suggested that 4-5 dates and issues be decided).

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### 2006/07 PUBLIC MEETINGS PROGRAMME

#### REPORT OF CITY SECRETARY AND SOLICITOR

##### 1. Issues Previously Considered by the Forum

###### 1.1. To date, the Forum has considered:

- Planning and Housing: 7 November 2002
- Traffic and Parking (including public transport): 23 January 2003
- Youth Issues: 13 March 2003
- Broadway/Friarsgate: 7 April 2003
- Housing Issues: 17 July 2003
- Older Persons Issues: 1 September 2003
- Parking Issues: 17 November 2003
- Community Safety: 12 February 2004
- Modern Architecture and Historic Towns: 11 March 2004
- Vision for Winchester: 22 July 2004
- Street Cleaning and Repairs: 2 September 2004
- Vision for Winchester: 4 November 2004
- Air Quality; 1 February 2005
- Broadway/Friarsgate; 28 February 2005
- Heritage Issues; 11 April 2005
- Evening Economy; 11 May 2005
- Is Winchester Good for Business? 3 November 2005
- Managing the Environment in Winchester; 9 March 2006

###### 1.2. Notes of all these meetings can found at:

<http://www.winchester.gov.uk/SubTopic.asp?ID=468>

- 1.3. The only other planned public meeting of the Forum will be held on 21 June 2006 and will discuss the effect of Tourism on Winchester. The debate will look at how the City is marketed to overseas visitors and what those visitors think about England's ancient capital before and after their arrival. The evening will also hear from industry experts about Winchester's place on the international tourist map and will include a "workshop" session to best capture the views of everyone attending.

##### 2. Possible Issues for Decision

- 2.1. From the questionnaires completed by members of the public who attended recent Town Forums, the following issues (in no particular order) were suggested:

- Community Safety
- Climate Change
- Students

- 24 hour Licensing
- Night Time Violence

2.2. From contacting senior officers of the Council, the following issues (in no particular order) were suggested:

- Creative industries in Winchester (or similar arts-related topic)
- Conservation - looking at how conservation policy affects the places where we live, and the responsibilities of those who own and live in listed buildings. The Winchester Conservation Area Appraisal and action plan which we hope to start to implement this year.
- Silver Hill Development
- Parking Issues
- Licensing Issues
- Emergency Planning - The Civil Contingencies Act 2004 has placed a number of new duties on the City Council. These include, for example, to put in place Emergency Plans and Business Continuity Management arrangements and to make information available to the public about civil protection matters and maintain arrangements to warn, inform and advise the public in the event of an emergency.

2.3. From contacting Councillors on the Forum, the following issues (again, in no particular order) were suggested;

- Students
- Organisations that carry out social work within the town
- Winchester and its institutions and how they relate to the life of the town
- The City of Winchester Trust are promoting the idea of a special designation in planning policy terms of Heritage Town Status in which historic towns such as Winchester would fall and receive special consideration when development is proposed. The Trust have suggested that an opportunity be given for it to make a presentation on this issue to a public meeting of the Town Forum.
- The state of pavements/roads within the Town area and complaints are handled. Bushes/trees that over hang pavements, who is responsible for them and how they are maintained. Leaf litter and the related problem of blocked drainage pots.
- Drugs - how deep seated is the problem and what is being done about it and by whom? What more can be done?

- Young people issues in a debate lead by young people, eg students from Peter Symonds/Kings/Beaufort and Westgate. The University may be a separate discussion.
- A follow up to the architecture debate about modern buildings in the Town.

### 3. Future Possible Dates

- 3.1. The following dates list when the King Alfred Hall, Guildhall is free and, at the time of writing the report, there are no other evening Councillor meetings. Members are therefore requested to check their diaries and finalise as many dates from the groupings below as necessary (all meetings to start at 7.00pm). For information, in previous municipal years, the Forum has held between three and six meetings a year.

August 2006

Thursday 10, Thursday 17, Thursday 31

September 2006

Thursday 21

October 2006

Monday 9

November 2006

Thursday 2, Thursday 30

December 2006

Monday 11

January 2007

Monday 8, Thursday 18

February 2006

Wednesday 7, Monday 19, Wednesday 21, Thursday 22, Monday 26

March 2006

Thursday 1, Wednesday 21

### OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:

#### 4. CORPORATE STRATEGY (RELEVANCE TO)

To be more open and democratic

#### 5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

None beyond the cost of room hire and officer support from within current budgets.

#### 6. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None