

**WINCHESTER TOWN FORUM****19 November 2014**Attendance:Councillors:

Hutchison (Chairman) (P)

E Berry

J Berry (P)

Gosling (P)

Green (P)

Hiscock (P)

Mather (P)

Maynard (P)

Nelmes (P)

Osborne (P)

Pines (P)

Prowse (P)

Sanders (P)

Scott (P)

Tait (P)

Thompson (P)

Tod (P)

Weir (P)

Others in attendance who addressed the meeting:

Councillor Southgate (Portfolio Holder for Community and Transport)

---

**1. DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS**

Councillors Mather and Tod declared disclosable pecuniary interests in respect of Items 3 & 6 due to their roles as Hampshire County Councillors. However, as there was no material conflict of interest, they remained in the room, spoke and voted under the dispensation granted on behalf of the Standards Committee to participate and vote in all matters which might have a County Council involvement.

**2. MINUTES**

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the previous meeting, held on 24 September 2014, be approved and adopted.

**3. PRESENTATION FROM MIKE SLINN**

(Oral Report)

The Chairman welcomed to the meeting Mike Slinn (Chairman of the WDSP Transport Forum but speaking in a personal capacity) who addressed the Forum regarding the proposals to review the present one way system within central Winchester. He provided examples of areas where one way road

conversions had been successfully achieved together with possible solutions for Members' consideration.

Members made particular reference to traffic congestion in North Walls, Jewry Street and St Georges Street and proposed there was a requirement to accurately record traffic movements within the City Centre necessitating the need for a traffic survey to be undertaken as part of the process.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillor Southgate (Portfolio Holder for Community and Transport) spoke in support of the review at an appropriate time and answered Members' questions thereon.

In summary, Councillor Southgate commented that collaboratively working with Hampshire County Council (HCC), Winchester District Strategic Partnership Transport Forum (WDSP) and City Centre Management Group to review the one way system in line with current policies was essential to the progress of the review, together with the need to look at all possible options with HCC and ensure public engagement in the review process. He noted that the Silver Hill development, if approved, would provide an opportunity to review traffic movements in the town. Councillor Southgate reported that he would feedback the views of the Town Forum at the next progress meeting with HCC later in the week.

The Chairman noted that a review of the one-way system was proposed and requested that the Portfolio Holder update the Forum in the new year.

RESOLVED:

1. That the presentation be noted.
2. That the Portfolio Holder for Community and Transport feedback on the progress of the review of the one-way system with HCC to a future meeting of the Forum.

4. **PRESENTATION FROM SALLY ARSCOTT, YMCA**  
(Oral Report)

The Chairman welcomed to the meeting Sally Arscott, Area Director for YMCA. The Forum received a presentation which provided Members with background information on the YMCA Vision, Fairthorne Group Locations and Group Services. She outlined the services provided by YMCA Winchester such as the YMCA Café, Community Centre, Youth Work, Schools Work and new pre-school at Weeke, and answered Members' questions thereon.

It was noted that full details of the services available for the YMCA Fairthorne Group could be found at [www.ymca-fg.org](http://www.ymca-fg.org) with regular open days for the pre-school due to commence on 2 December 2014.

The Forum noted that the YMCA had built a close working relationship with St John's Charity, and the two organisations were keen to support and partner each other as they shared the same ethos. The YMCA Winchester branch is based in St John's House in the Broadway.

Members highlighted that they welcomed young people having regular use of after school/evening clubs but raised the requirement for safe transport to be provided to and from the venue. It was noted that the YMCA would consider offering transport should this become an issue and potentially impact on the number of young people participating.

A collective approach to address youth issues in partnership with other organisations such as Street Reach and The Carroll Centre in Stanmore had been identified as the best way forward. An initial Youth Providers event was taking place at the YMCA building on 8 December 2014.

RESOLVED:

That the presentation be noted.

5. **EMPLOYMENT MENTORING SERVICE**  
(Report WTF208 refers)

The Forum gave consideration to the report regarding the Employment Mentoring Service and an introduction to the report was given by officers and Councillor Weir, who addressed Members to welcome the scheme which enhanced the available services offered to vulnerable groups in the Winchester area.

Councillor Weir, who sits on the project steering group, commented that collaborative working between the Council and the Employment Mentoring Service operated by Sova was key to ensure that all involved would benefit from the programme. This included the process of recruiting and training mentors in the local area, to identifying those requiring the service.

Members considered possible business networks that could contribute towards ensuring that the Employment Mentoring project was successfully provided with volunteers. This may include the Rotary Club, the Round Table and other organisations such as the University.

Officers reported that the mentoring training process would be detailed, involving several days of training and would require a DBS (CRB) check to be carried out.

It was noted that further information on the Employment Mentoring Service and details of becoming a mentor could be obtained from Alexandra Solomon, SOVA Project Manager, Winchester Employment Mentoring at [asolomon@winchester.gov.uk](mailto:asolomon@winchester.gov.uk)

RESOLVED:

That the Forum support the Employment Mentoring project and note the ways mentioned in the Report to ensure that the project was provided successfully to meet the needs of jobseekers within the Winchester area.

6. **WALKING STRATEGY FOR WINCHESTER**

(Report WTF209 refers)

The Forum gave consideration to the draft Walking Strategy for Winchester which was circulated prior to the meeting. It was reported that a Walking Strategy Steering Group had been formed as a sub group of the Winchester District Strategic Partnership Transport Group consisting of City and County Councillors, together with local stakeholders. The Chairman thanked all those involved in developing the draft strategy which was widely consulted upon and welcomed. Following on from the Cycling Strategy, it was envisaged that it would lead the transition to walking and cycling in Winchester.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Keith Hatter (Chairman of Winchester Access to Areas for all) addressed the Forum and spoke in support of the draft Strategy and answered Members' questions thereon.

Keith Hatter thanked the Steering Group for their consultation with the group (Winchester Access to Areas for All) which included a good representation from all the disability groups who experience the same problems, but on an amplified scale. They had provided feedback that the Strategy was strongly supported with the group being extremely appreciative of their involvement in the Strategy.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillor Southgate (Portfolio Holder for Community and Transport) spoke in support of the Strategy and answered Members' questions thereon.

In summary, Councillor Southgate emphasised that input from Hampshire County Council was essential in order to progress the delivery of the Strategy. He recognised the hard work that had gone into the draft document to date and sought the views of the Forum Members' on the draft Strategy.

Members commented on the existing powers in place to control pavement parking and requested the need for current parking powers to be reviewed, in light of the Walking Strategy in Winchester. Additional enforcement powers/policies could be considered where deemed necessary by Hampshire County Council as the highways authority prior to implementation.

In conclusion, the Forum fully supported the draft Walking Strategy in Winchester.

## RESOLVED:

1. That the Walking Strategy for Winchester be commended by the Forum to Cabinet for approval as a basis to improve walking across Winchester City.
2. That Cabinet take account of the Forum's comments when considering the Walking Strategy.

7. **LANDSCAPE & OPEN SPACES IN WINCHESTER TOWN**  
(Report WTF210 refers)

The Forum gave consideration to the report which summarised the reasons for requesting a growth bid for Landscape and Open Spaces in Winchester Town which included: Emergency Tree works resulting from the floods and storms during the winter of 2013/14; tree planting to replace damaged and felled trees; and the management of neglected shrubs and hedges falling outside the present grounds maintenance contract.

Members sought clarification from officers regarding the provision of advice given to residents when works were carried out to trees on land not owned by the City Council. In response, it was clarified that there was no provision to provide advice in this instance, as the Council was not legally obliged to provide advice outside of the Tree Preservation Order process.

Councillors raised queries relating to the planting of appropriate species on chalkland, 'Guerrilla gardening' across the City and landscaping at Barton Farm and officers answered Members' questions thereon. The Corporate Director reported that both the City and County Council were keen to protect trees within the Barton Farm site but that the County Council also had a responsibility to look at Highway Safety, so a compromise would need to be reached on this aspect of the development.

Members highlighted the work of the former Trees Informal Scrutiny Group and suggested its findings could be revisited by Officers.

Some Members expressed concern that a number of shrubs and hedges were not included in the original schedule of works contract with The Landscape Group and that additional funding was now being sought to ensure this work could be undertaken. Officers notified Members' that funding for this had not been included in the original cost. The additional budget for this had been incorporated within the Budget Growth proposals for consideration within the Winchester Town Account Budget 2015/16 report (see Minute 8 below).

## RESOLVED:

That the additional budget requirements (as detailed by WTF207) of £26,500 for 2014/15 and £22,000 for 2015/16 be noted.

8. **WINCHESTER TOWN ACCOUNT BUDGET 2015/16**  
(Report WTF207 refers)

The Forum gave consideration to the Winchester Town Account Budget for 2015/16 which summarised the account revenue projection, for the period 2015/15 to 2019/20 which was a basis for the consideration of the Winchester Town Account Budget for 2015/16, together with a budget amendment for 2014/15, which was circulated to Members at the meeting. The Principal Management Accountant responded to questions regarding the Winchester Town Account Financial Strategy, Projections, Reserves, Taxation and Capital Expenditure.

Councillor Weir proposed an amendment to the budget year 2014/15, seeking to commit £1,000 from the Town Forum reserves, in addition to the growth item for 2015/16, as set out in Appendix 2 (Solar PV Survey – roof £7,500) of the Report, in order to conduct an initial scoping study which would take a broad look at the potential for installing solar PV on the roofs of public, commercial and industrial buildings in Winnall, including those owned by the City Council. It was reported that the findings of the scoping study would be completed in this financial year and would inform the tender for the more comprehensive study identified in the growth item within the report.

The Forum were reminded that additional expenditure proposals would require Cabinet approval, or the Town Forum could itself authorise a budget Virement of up to £25,000. Members noted that as there was surplus budget within the allocation for grit bins, which had been identified as a savings proposal within Appendix 1 to the report, that this could cover the £1,000 sought to conduct the Solar PV scoping study. This amendment was agreed.

One Councillor requested that a detailed breakdown be provided of the additional £5,000 allocation for landscaping, as set out in Appendix 2 (1 iii) and referred to in Item 7 above. The Corporate Director agreed that this could be provided.

Some Members queried how the split between funding allocated from the Winchester Town Account and the General Fund was determined, for example regarding Public Conveniences within the Town. The Forum noted that such issues were part of on-going discussions, and could be examined further at the Winchester Town Forum Informal Budget Group.

**RESOLVED:**

That a one-off budget Virement of £1,000 be approved from the 2014/15 grit bins budget, identified within the grit bin budget savings proposal (Appendix 2 B(2) to the report refers), be reallocated to conduct the Solar PV scoping study detailed within the budget amendment 2014/15.

9. **SUPPORT FOR WINCHESTER SCOUTS**  
(Report WTF211 refers)

The Forum considered a report which advised that in 2013, the then Leader of the Council had offered support for the Scout Groups of Winchester following discussions with the District Commissioner regarding the significant growth projections and the associated challenges. The Report outlined the progress of the initiatives currently being supported in the Town area and reference was made to an amendment to Appendix 1 of the report, which was circulated at the meeting.

Members noted that some scout groups had been willing to engage with the Council more than others, but that Officers were seeking to encourage collaborative working as far as possible.

RESOLVED:

That the Town Forum notes the activities already in hand to support the development of scouting in the Town area.

10. **SUB-GROUP CONSIDERATION OF LOCAL PLAN ISSUES**  
(Report WTF212 refers)

RESOLVED:

That the Report be noted.

The meeting commenced at 6.30pm and concluded at 8.45pm

Chairman