



Winchester
City Council

COUNCIL MEETING – 13 January 2021

Question under Council Procedure Rule 15(3)

QUESTION 1

From: Councillor Brook

To: The Cabinet Member for Service Quality and Transformation (Cllr Tod)

“What number and percentage of residents have now signed up for the new paid for garden waste collection service?”

Reply

“We are very encouraged by the response of our residents to the introduction of the new garden waste service and, up to and including the 12th January, we have sold 6,448 bins. This represents about 12% of households as some have bought more than one bin for their property.

In the full week up to and including the 12th January we sold 1040 bins – the highest level so far since mid-November, even though the scheme isn’t due to start until 1st February and the need for the service will increase as we move out of winter.

The rate continues to accelerate with over 200 bins sold on Monday – and has consistently gone up every week since mid-November, with the exception of the Christmas week, although we even sold 8 bins on Christmas day.

Of the bins ordered, we have now delivered 4,907, up to and including the 12th January, and these bins can be used ahead of the new service starting.

We are working hard to ensure all residents are aware of the new arrangements for collection of garden waste in advance of the new service starting in February 2021 and are prompting this again in our next Parish Connect and on our resident emailer.”



COUNCIL MEETING – 13 January 2021

Question under Council Procedure Rule 15(3)

QUESTION 2

From: Councillor Power

To: The Cabinet Member for Service Quality and Transformation (Cllr Tod)

“Regarding the Tetrapak recycling point at Cattle Market, What volume of material has been collected and how does this contribute to our carbon reduction agenda?”

Reply

“We have now had the carton recycling bins at the cattle market car park in central Winchester for 8 months.

These have been provided free by ACE UK, who reprocess the cartons once collected, and since April we have recycled 1.5 tonnes in total.

According to a recent academic study from the University of Southampton¹, a tonne of recycled cartons saves the carbon equivalent of around 450 kg. In total that means that around 650 to 700kg of carbon have been saved by Winchester residents.

Feedback from ACE UK from the Cattle Market site has been that the system is operating well and the contamination rate is low.

The Council is now reviewing with them options for extending this scheme, subject to identifying other suitable sites and financial considerations.”

¹ David A. Turner, Ian D. Williams, Simon Kemp,
Greenhouse gas emission factors for recycling of source-segregated waste materials,
Resources, Conservation and Recycling,
Volume 105, Part A,
2015,
Pages 186-197,
ISSN 0921-3449,



COUNCIL MEETING – 13 January 2021

Question under Council Procedure Rule 15(3)

QUESTION 3

From: Councillor Mather

To: The Cabinet Member for Service Quality and Transformation (Cllr Tod)

“Given that Community Speedwatch has had such limited success in reducing speeding on arterial roads into Winchester, what are the administration proposing to do about this?”

Reply

“The County Council has legal responsibility for speed limits and, in 2016, agreed a traffic management policy that stated:

It is considered that speed limits are broadly set at the correct level across the Hampshire road network. Changes to speed limits will still be implemented if justified on injury accident grounds as part of a casualty reduction scheme.

They are clear that this applies even if another authority or body offers to pay for the change:

Proposals for traffic regulations funded by other local councils will be progressed only where the measure would be consistent with traffic management policy.

The Police have legal responsibility for speeding enforcement and, as part of this, support the Community Speedwatch programme in partnership with several Parish Councils, other local residents’ groups, and the Winchester Town Forum – although currently only on safety audited roads with a limit of up to 30 mph. Currently their website states:

We are unable to facilitate the setting up of new Community SpeedWatch schemes until further notice

The City Council is seeking to achieve a more ambitious approach towards speeding as part of its joint working with Hampshire County Council. In

Winchester, this includes our work on the City of Winchester Movement Strategy – which is likely to include speed-related interventions on some of Winchester’s arterial roads as part of the Stage 2 proposals to be discussed at the City of Winchester Movement Strategy Board on February 5, 2021. We are also looking for a more ambitious approach towards speed limits in the area around Kings Barton as part of our joint working with the County Council through the Kings Barton Forum.

If she has any specific issues that she should like highlighted, I will be happy to take these up with the County Council as part of future Movement Strategy discussions. She can also raise them with the County Councillor for the affected area.”



Winchester
City Council

COUNCIL MEETING – 13 January 2021

Question under Council Procedure Rule 15(3)

QUESTION 4

From: Councillor Rutter

To: The Cabinet Member for Built Environment and Wellbeing (Cllr Porter)

“Could you please tell us how many brownfield sites have been identified for development in each of the past three years – 2018, 2019 and 2020? Given the high level of development happening in my ward, the Worthys, on brownfield sites in Kings Worthy, could the Cabinet member indicate how these high numbers of new homes already developed from the current Local Plan affect the allocation of homes required in the new local Plan, and to what extent can brownfield sites be prioritised over greenfield sites in future?”

Reply

“The definition of previously developed land or brownfield land is included in the National Planning Policy Framework

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-planning-policy-framework/annex-2-glossary>

The Council publishes a Brownfield Register every year which is a list of sites which are considered suitable for development in principle taking into account the guidance provided by Government on how these sites should be identified for the purposes of creating the Register.

<https://www.winchester.gov.uk/planning-policy/monitoring-and-other-planning-documents/brownfield-land-register> The numbers of sites on the Register for 2018 = 24 sites, 2019 = 19 sites and 2020 = 18 sites.

The existing development plan makes provision for growth to 2031. All of the existing housing allocations and commitments will count towards the overall number of homes that will be required for the new Local Plan which covers the period to 2038.

We are not yet at the stage in the new local plan process of allocating specific sites for development but we would encourage everyone to respond to the Council’s forthcoming consultation on the Strategic Issues & Priorities document which will set out options for development strategies that would be

able to deliver the amount of new development we will need to plan for up to 2038.

The Council will continue to prioritise the development of brownfield sites rather than greenfield sites where this is possible but it is unlikely that the council will be able to meet all of its housing and other growth needs on brownfield sites alone.”



COUNCIL MEETING – 13 January 2021

Question under Council Procedure Rule 15(3)

QUESTION 5

From: Councillor Godfrey

To: The Cabinet Member for Local Economy (Cllr Ferguson)

“There are at least 5 weeks before the end of the current lockdown. Would the Cabinet Member summarise the administration’s proposals to use this time to prepare the actions to support businesses in Winchester to recover their economic vibrancy?”

Reply

“A range of business support is being put in place including:-

- **Additional Restrictions Support Grant**
A second round of funding to support organisations within key sectors is underway. Organisations that have either been mandated to close or whose income has been impacted in excess of 30% will be eligible for a grant between £1333 and £3000. We are also developing a hardship fund and other funded initiatives to support businesses in recovery.
- **A collaborative online e-commerce platform**
We will be funding the development, launch, marketing and the first 6 months of operating costs for independent high street businesses to benefit from an additional powerful route to market. This platform will allow the consumer to purchase items remotely from a range of independent retailers from across the district and take delivery of these via one coordinated service. This new virtual high street will offer a route to market that we feel would benefit businesses as well as the consumer, offering a simple, one stop shop, particularly during the current national restrictions but also reflective of changing consumer buying habits.
- **COVID business support and information support programme**
Funded by our successful bid to the Reopening High Streets Safely Fund (RHSS), we have launched a dedicated specialist business support service for businesses on the high street and similar locations across the district who have been significantly impacted by Covid-19. Delivered

virtually initially a range of bespoke interventions including an on-line information sharing portal, 1:1 advice, live on-line drop in sessions, peer group interactions, weekly specialist business development sessions, webinars and a range of case studies.

- **Marketing and promotion campaigns**

We will continue to promote and add new content to the support local, shop online campaign.

Via our Visit Winchester social media channels and Visit Winchester website, we will provide our residents and visitors with inspirational content on the Winchester district and position the district as a destination to dwell and spend. We have reinvigorated our virtual Winchester campaign to influence visitors when making their choice of destination for travel later in the year and encourage residents to consider what is on their doorstep when planning future leisure time. We will work with accommodation partners and businesses that offer booking flexibility and assurances to develop content on 'flexible breaks'."



Winchester
City Council

COUNCIL MEETING – 13 January 2021

Question under Council Procedure Rule 15(3)

QUESTION 6

From: Councillor Lumby

To: The Cabinet Member for Local Economy (Cllr Ferguson)

“Please could the Cabinet Member comment on how successful the District was at attracting residents to use its high streets, local shops and food & beverage outlets in the run up to Christmas compared with surrounding districts, identifying any lessons learnt for the future?”

Reply

“The Council built on the established Christmas in Winchester brand and delivered new marketing campaigns via our visitor and resident social media channels, visitwinchester.co.uk and christmasinwinchester.co.uk, to attract visitors and residents to our high streets, local shops and eateries. We also created a dedicated Rediscover Christmas in Winchester film which captured the key highlights from across the district and focused specifically on independent businesses and local gift ideas. We promoted the Nutcracker Trail, delivered by the BID which we also digitalised to help increase uptake sustainably.

During the national restrictions in November the team launched the support local/shop online campaign to support non-essential retailers that were forced to close. The main campaign pages on visitwinchester.co.uk for support local/shop online featured separate pages for the city and each market town. We deployed a dedicated resource to proactively source and co-ordinate content from each market town on local shops and their offer. Part of this campaign included featuring food and beverage outlets that were offering takeaways and deliveries across the district.

The key performance indicators we use to assess the impact of our intervention, as we cannot monitor footfall in all of our areas, is the reach of our marketing and the traffic it generates.

- Facebook and Instagram – over 6.1k reach
- 8 day Facebook ad campaign – 13k reach

- Twitter – over 6.7k impressions
- Rediscover Christmas in Winchester film – over 32k reach
- Print marketing – over 23k reach

The impact of the national restrictions in November led to a downturn in footfall in the city of 33% in relation to the previous month. As a comparator example, the city has retained 14% more of its footfall year to date and 7% more than the previous month compared with Salisbury, a similar cathedral city destination. In comparison with trends reported on Springboard (the national footfall data portal adopted by many destinations), Winchester retained 6% more footfall in December than the average across similar destinations within its comparator group. And year to date has retained 21% more footfall than similar destinations.

We will continue to use social media as an effective and ongoing route to market. Our pro-active engagement with market towns in sourcing content has been specifically effective in attracting new audiences, particularly residents and raising their profile within our activities. We will continue this approach along with the creation of thematic films as a method to raise awareness and share key messages, products and services. Businesses would benefit from further support regarding their on-line presence, in response to the current national restrictions and ongoing changing consumer buying habits. We are currently considering how best to do this.”



Winchester
City Council

COUNCIL MEETING – 13 January 2021

Question under Council Procedure Rule 15(3)

QUESTION 7

From: Councillor Read

To: The Leader (Cllr Thompson)

“In the light of current government advice with regards to the Covid-19 pandemic what plans are being made regarding the forthcoming Elections 2021?”

It is normal that the confirmation of Polling Stations is put to the Licensing & Regulation Committee in December (2020) and this is confirmed at the January Full Council meeting, this has not been the case.”

Reply

“Planning for the May 2021 election cycle started in autumn 2020 but supplementary guidance has been published on the Electoral Commission website to support the preparation and delivery of elections against the backdrop of the coronavirus pandemic. In addition to general planning considerations, there is specific guidance for nominations, absent voting, provision of polling stations and the procedures for verification and the count. All of this guidance is being incorporated into the planning documents for May 2021.

It is likely that there will be need for a temporary change to some polling stations for the May 2021 elections to ensure venues are large and spacious enough to enable social distancing to be maintained. These proposed changes will be detailed in a report to Licencing and Regulation Committee in February 2021 in order to notify residents as soon as possible.”



Winchester
City Council

COUNCIL MEETING – 13 January 2021

Question under Council Procedure Rule 15(3)

QUESTION 8

From: Councillor Horrill

To: The Cabinet Member for Finance and Risk (Cllr Cutler)

“Can the administration confirm how they can justify their strategy of stealth taxes and increased fees for the residents of the Winchester District, given other opportunities that exist for the Council to generate income?”

Reply

“Members will be aware of the challenge the Council faces regarding its finances, with projected shortfalls in excess of £3m next year.

Setting fair and reasonable fees for some services and ensuring that operating costs for discretionary services are recovered where possible forms an important part of the approved Medium Term Financial Strategy, as does seeking other opportunities to generate income.

It is inaccurate and wholly misleading to refer to charges for services such as the new garden waste service as a “stealth tax”. Every Hampshire council charges for this service and the new charge for Winchester residents is well below the average charge for Hampshire.

Opportunities to generate additional income continue to be assessed. However, options are very limited or high risk currently, particularly in the short term and will not address the forecast shortfall for next year. This has been recognised by the Government, which has agreed to cover 75% of service income losses (but not property/commercial investment losses). The Government is currently making it clear that councils should be very cautious in investing in commercial property. They have clarified that any council doing so for pure investment purposes would not be able to access borrowing for any purpose from the Public Works Loans Board.

We will bring forward recommendations to Council in February that take a prudent and measured approach to balancing the budget whilst maintaining the delivery of high quality services to the residents of the Winchester district.”



Winchester
City Council

COUNCIL MEETING – 13 January 2021

Question under Council Procedure Rule 15(3)

QUESTION 9

From: Councillor McLean

To: The Cabinet Member for Housing and Asset Management (Cllr
Learney)

“Could the Cabinet Member please update us on the progress of the depot build here in Bishops Waltham as it appears to have stalled yet again?”

Reply

“Winchester City Council has appointed LST as the main Contractor to undertake the redevelopment works. The Contractor is currently finalising detailed design and discharging the remaining pre-commencement planning conditions. Works on site are anticipated to commence in early March 2021 and completion in late December 2021/ January 2022.

Winchester City Council are finalising Heads of Terms with a prospective tenant for unit 3 and are in discussions with a tenant for unit 1.”



Winchester
City Council

COUNCIL MEETING – 13 January 2021

Question under Council Procedure Rule 15(3)

QUESTION 10

From: Councillor Lumby

To: The Cabinet Member for Housing and Asset Management (Cllr
Learney)

“The Cabinet will be fully aware of the importance of sport in the physical and mental wellbeing of the residents of the entire District. In that context, and given recent press comment, will the relevant Cabinet Member confirm their commitment to the provision of new facilities at North Walls Recreation Ground in Winchester that will not only provide ECB compliant facilities, for both pitches, for the district’s cricket teams but also all-year-round facilities for other sports, schools and community groups, too?”

Reply

“I am happy to confirm that the Town Forum remains committed to the provision of new facilities at North Walls recreation ground.

The £595,000 approved by Town Forum at its meeting in January 2020 remains allocated to this project. Tenders for the proposal brought forward by the Pavilion Project have come in significantly higher than the available budget. We are currently reviewing options that will ensure an appropriate new pavilion is delivered.”



Winchester
City Council

COUNCIL MEETING – 13 January 2021

Question under Council Procedure Rule 15(3)

QUESTION 11

From: Councillor Lumby

To: The Cabinet Member for Sport, Leisure and Communities (Cllr Prince)

“Given the importance of sport in the physical and mental wellbeing of the residents of the entire District, please can the relevant Cabinet Member provide an update on the tender process to find a new operator and on the refurbishment works at the Meadowside Leisure Centre in Whiteley”

Reply

“Tenders for the operation of Meadowside Leisure Centre have been received and are currently being assessed.

Works to strengthen the support floors at Meadowside have now been completed which will enable more activities to take place in these areas thus increasing the usability and flexibility of the centre.

Mechanical air handling units have been installed in the sports hall which will enable it to be used under current Covid-19 guidance, once centre’s are permitted to reopen.

Part window replacement to the side elevation is be undertaken from 20 January, and will be completed by the end of January 2021.

Flat roof covering to the sports hall store is programmed for March 2021, as this is subject to weather and anticipated to be completed by end of April 2021.”