



Winchester Council April 2024



Casework confidentiality

One of the most interesting aspects of our work as councillors is casework, when a resident asks for our help in sorting out a particular problem. The problems can vary from a damp council flat (Margot's favourite) to unfortunate behaviour by a neighbour. Our town and villages are small communities, it is only in very rare circumstances, for example where action by parish councils or the community could prevent recurrence or mitigate consequences, that we would mention this in our reports. It would be all too easy to breach confidentiality, which remains paramount. Even an anonymous description of the case, can allow particular residents to be identified. Hence neither Margot nor I mention the successful casework we have undertaken.

Upgraded Waste Water Treatment Plants for Itchen Abbas and Cheriton

Two water treatment works owned by Winchester City Council in the Itchen Valley, at the Northington Road plant near Itchen Abbas and at the Goodens plant near Cheriton have now been upgraded to reduce the phosphate and nitrate nutrient output. These WWTP serve residential areas that are not on main drainage.

The results so far are encouraging, but it does take time for the residual nutrient content to be addressed. The waste water will be monitored monthly.

Winchester Council manages fifty waste water plants of varying types, and there is a plan to upgrade them all. The plant at Hobbs Close in Bishop Sutton is the next to be considered for improvements.

There are twin benefits; the first is that the water quality of our wonderful chalk streams is improved, the second is that the council gains phosphate and nitrate credits which enables our council house building programme to move forward. Winchester City Council is one of the first in the country to install this new generation of treatment plant. A pleasing contrast to the usual news of sewage pollution.

Save Our Tip Again

Save Our Tip (AGAIN), and the 240 bus and 67 bus. These campaigns all sound sadly familiar. Many have asked if we have managed to have these proposals from Hampshire County Council rejected. The decision will not be made until after the elections in May.

59 Colebrook Street

In a city and district of high property values and a severe shortage of rental property it is sad to see a neglected building, with peeling paint and rotting woodwork. The house holders amongst us know very well that ignoring maintenance doesn't save money in the long run. It is pleasing therefore to see 59 Colebrook Street is to be restored and brought into use as six one bedroom flats. WCC has allocated a good sum for this work and two weeks ago planning permission was given for the construction work to be started. The building has had many uses in the past, private residence, barrister's chambers amongst others. We look forward to seeing six new tenants moving in to enjoy secure rentals and energy efficient flats. A much improved exterior to the building will smarten up this corner of the city centre.

Going greener Faster

Our Winchester Park & Ride buses are making the switch to renewable Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO) fuel to significantly reduce their carbon emissions.



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The HVO fuel which will only be purchased from accredited, sustainable sources, produces around 30% fewer fine particulates and hydrocarbons, 25% less carbon monoxide and 10% less nitrogen oxide than diesel, meaning a smaller impact on air quality in the city. This green upgrade is part of a new contract we recently agreed with bus operator Stagecoach.

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