



## Winchester City Council June 2025

### July Sun Lane Development:

The excitement of the day is whether the A31 access will open on the earliest date we've been given - 6<sup>th</sup> July. We meet monthly with TW, but high impact nuisance merits an early conversation. If you see a contractors vehicle trying to enter the site from anywhere except off the A31, please make a record of the vehicle registration and the time. A photo helps too. If you have complaints, please address these to Taylor Wimpey at [info@alresfordmeadows.co.uk](mailto:info@alresfordmeadows.co.uk) Please copy us.

**Local Government Reorganisation (LGR):** Whilst the work of collating data continues behind the scenes, here are emerging snippets of changes to HMG policy on how we will be organised. The majority of councils in Hampshire and Isle of Wight (HIOW) are still working together but two have splintered, but more interestingly, rather than being asked to submit one proposal supported by all authorities, each of the 13 authorities may now submit their own proposal for how all of the HIOW is to be formed into Unitary Councils.

It has become recognised as an error of judgement to have councillor divisions represented by three councillors, since this would mean enormous wards in rural areas, where it could take an hour to get from one side to the other. The more likely emerging idea is that there would be single member divisions with an electorate of about 2800. (This is very similar to the existing figure.) The Government has the view that there are too many councillors. We take the opposite view that the present ratio helps residents to access their elected representatives and ensures councillors know their residents and their often-complex needs. Another aspect of increasing the ratio of councillors to residents is the resulting workload. It is not easy to find people prepared to be councillors at district and indeed parish level.

### Kiln Lane Building Upgrading

The building work to make the wooden Swedish houses and cottages in the district more energy efficient and more comfortable is back on track. The Swedish houses were built from imported kits in the immediate post-war years and were put up in many locations not just in Hampshire but around the country. A significant amount of work has been carried out not just in Kiln Lane but across the district to about thirty properties. The upgrading work includes replacing all the old timber cladding with a new and better insulated timber, better doubled glazed windows, better doors, new roofs with excellent insulation, floor insulation and ventilation systems. The residents will benefit from very much lower utility bills.

### Path to the Fulling Mill from Mill Hill Alresford

The path to the Fulling Mill from Mill Hill Path in Alresford, is closed due to flooding. Margot met the Countryside Agency on site to try to establish the cause of the flooding. The flow was restored



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briefly. Subsequent work by a resident, (some of us cannot resist a blockage), removed four bricks from the outflow before immovable tree roots and corrugated pipe from the main channel were found. It has now been referred to the Environment Agency. Meantime, the path will be closed for safety reasons, the edges are difficult to see, and will be eroded by the water. The rivers are complicated at this point, the one in question is fed from a spring line either on or near Ladywell Lane and is (thankfully) relatively slow moving. The River Arle runs below the Fulling Mill and is fed by the mill stream coming from sluices on the lake.

### **West Street Improvements**

The saga started in 2008 goes on, with a meeting held with the Hampshire Highways engineers who have provided a list of the problems and cost of changing anything and pointing out that at the end of it the narrowest part of the pavement won't be widened. However the main driver has always been the unsightly visual appearance. An HCC report on marker towns highlighted it as 'an eyesore'.

On a similar vein the councillors receive many comments from individuals and civic groups on the poor appearance of the town, broken and uneven stone slabs in Broad Street, garnished with patches of tarmac where services have been excavated. We would very much like to see money invested in improving the quality of our streetscape. We have some empty shops at the moment and there is likely to be an economic consequence to these increased signs of neglect. We would be interested in hearing your views.

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