



## Winchester Council February 2022



### 20 mph Speed Limits

Parishes have received a copy of the Hampshire 20's Plenty document. We drafted a resolution for IVPC to consider and parishes may wish to decide if they would like this on their agenda. When IV have amended further we will report back. It is important that parishes show their support for lower speed limits across the County, this is not a parochial problem. If we can create a county in which inconsiderate road users feel unwelcome you do create change. The draft resolution is:-

#### **Support for the draft resolution of 20 is Plenty.**

Request Hampshire County Council to implement 20mph in the parish of The Itchen Valley; and will write to Hampshire County Council to request that the county: a) makes 20mph the default speed limit on streets throughout Hampshire in places where people live, work, shop, play or learn, leaving 30mph as the exception on those roads, where full consideration of the needs of vulnerable road users allows a higher limit; and b) allocates a ring-fenced amount from Hampshire County Council's Environment, Transport and Economy Capital Program and Revenue Budgets to enable 20mph to be implemented county-wide within 5 years.

### New Car Park on The Dean

We have been asked to provide a view on the proposal for housing and the new car park on The Dean, the design is uninspiring and may run into trouble with planning, and only 42 spaces would be provided.

### Police & Crime Panel

I have been asked to provide a synopsis of what we do. I joined this Panel in mid-July 2021; our declared function is to hold the Police & Crime Commissioner for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight to account. In practice we have very little power except to veto, by 2/3 majority of all panel members, not just those at the meeting, the precept, and senior appointments.

So far, we have considered the appointment of the Chief Executive, and the Deputy Commissioner. With each of these appointments our major concern was that they, and the Commissioner, are all based in Portsmouth/Gosport.

We have four sub-committees, Finance, of which I am Deputy Chairman, Planning, Equality & Diversity, and Complaints, which only considers complaints against the Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner. The papers for these sub committees are not public, it is only our reports to the full panel that are recorded in the public domain.

The papers and agenda for the most recent meeting may be seen at <https://democracy.hants.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=185&MId=7733&Ver=4>

This was to consider the precept for 2022/23. The proposed increase for a Band D property is £10 per annum. The presentation by the Chief Constable bore out what I had heard at local Focus Groups to support the increase in officers and making the estate fit for purpose. There is also a substantial capital budget.



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I was however, able to table an amendment to request, we cannot require, regular quantitative and qualitative updates on how the key objectives of the Commissioners plan are being delivered, which will be in the public domain. Surprisingly, this had not been requested before.....

I do need to declare an interest on the capital budget. Some members had the pleasure of a demonstration of the work of the Marine Unit. These are first and foremost Police Officers, with the added complications of the marine environment; the territory is from Mudeford to Langstone, the Isle of Wight; and they provide aquatic services to Oxfordshire and Berkshire Police forces. As the demonstration included tanking across the Solent at 40 knots on a bright but very cold November day I am biased in their favour.

The three RIBs they have at present do need to be upgraded, but given the ability of criminals to fill gaps in policing – as we see locally – I am supportive of keeping our enormous coastline protected.

The unit works with some 30 other authorities including about 17 harbours.

### Central Winchester Regeneration

The council has agreed after a gruelling full council debate in the evening of 12<sup>th</sup> January and the early morning of the 13<sup>th</sup>, that the procurement process to secure a development partner of a suitable calibre for the Central Winchester Regeneration shall be started. This is an important opening move. There can be no doubt that development of sensitive city centre sites is a difficult process, from inception through to implementation. The truth of Robbie Burns's immortal lines: *"The best laid schemes o' mice an' men, Gang aft a-gley,"* has been made very clear to all after the events of the last two years. The City Council has taken the best economic and legal advice it can. Many foreseeable problems have been addressed, but no doubt unforeseeable matters will appear that will have to be solved as the project progresses.

For twenty years the regeneration of Central Winchester has stalled, with two failed attempts. The reasons for the two failures have been learned and many safeguards built into the development process, so the WCC remains firmly in the driving seat. The easiest and most financially rewarding course of action would have been to sell off the land to the highest bidder. This course would not gain the full socio-economic benefits that are needed, as gleaned during the consultation process with the people of the city. Reaching this stage has taken much investment in officers' and councillors' time and financial resources to seek the best advice from a range of economic, legal and design consultants.

Why the effort and what is the relevance to Alresford and the Itchen Valley? Our wonderful ancient city, although no longer as pre-eminent as a millennium ago, remains the county seat and the administrative hub for a large district. It is still the economic and commercial hub for the northern part of the district and to a certain degree the remainder. It is still a magnet for many of the rural settlements along the Itchen Valley. It is with its heritage, the cultural centre of the district. The investment in time, effort and money to reach the first step in creating a vital, thriving and attractive centre to Winchester has been huge. The alternative of debating the issue for another decade or worse still, doing nothing, let us hope, now behind us.

### SHELAA sites and the Local Plan

The mischievous and alarmist idea that all 3,700 Hectares of land put forward in the SHELAA list are to be covered in houses, continues to be circulated. The call for sites is a legal requirement under the National Planning Policy Framework and part of the lengthy process to establish the Local Plan as a valid legal instrument. Landowners and/or their agents can put forward their land repeatedly at every SHELAA call. It



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is worth repeating that the SHELAA does not recommend which sites are most suited to meet any remaining requirements and it is not a policy document and does not allocate sites. The housing needs of

the district are currently estimated at 700 per annum. (This is an estimate as the housing needs algorithm is subject to change by the Government and the number is also subject to variables such as 'windfall' sites). Housing density varies between about 30 to 90 units per Hectare so that the total land take to accommodate 700 units per year would be between 8.0 and 23.0 Hectares. A very small fraction of 3,700 Hectares. This deliberate misrepresentation wastes the time of planning officers who have to deal with unnecessary queries. The officer's time is better spent on sorting critical planning issues.

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