



Winchester Council October 2021



Work has been agreed to commission the new Green Economic Development Strategy. This will identify the scale of the task needed and provide a road map of practical steps to transition to a greener, inclusive and more technologically driven, creative economy. Success criteria will be to deliver an economy where existing businesses can grow sustainably; new businesses can be created and thrive, particularly those operating in the green growth sectors, and high-quality job opportunities are provided for all across the district.

A shorter-term deliverable was the first of Carbon Reduction Open Fora on 29th September. The participants were engaged and engaging, with useful suggestions what we should be exploring further. I hope all parishes will be attending and reporting back.

We continue to work with the Home Office and HCC regarding the resettlement of Afghan refugees. Donations of clothes and household goods have been overwhelming, and suspended for now, but the need for smart phones and laptops continues. We are very grateful to Ewan Gardner of Old Alresford who has so far cleaned and made operational twelve laptops.

The Leader of the County Council has submitted an expression of interest to Government on a County Deal without any consultation with us or the other districts throughout the County. District Councils throughout Hampshire are at one in their opposition to the speed with which the County are acting and also the lack of any engagement with us.

The total value of business support grants now distributed to businesses across the Winchester District is £50.3m. A second round of the Transformation, Adaptation and Diversification (TAD) grant opened on Monday 16 August and closed on Monday 13 September 2021. This grants forms part of the discretionary Additional Restrictions Grant fund. It has attracted 35 applications in total. The total value of grant that has been applied for is £412,668. The applications are currently being reviewed for eligibility and to determine the level of grant offer.

A somewhat mischievous article on the front page of the Hampshire Chronicle suggested that developers wanted to build 57,000 houses in the district. All this has arisen from the release of plans of the latest SHELAA sites, the result of the latest call for development sites for housing, employment etc. The list was discussed at the Local Plan Action Group on 27th September. This call for sites is a legal requirement under the NPPF 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. (There will be another call for sites after the preparation of the Draft Local Plan.) The total area of land put forward for development amounts to 3,700 Hectares.

It 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 per year would be between 8.0 and 23.0 Hectares. A very small fraction of 3,700 Hectares. (For those of you familiar with rods, poles and perches and other of the proposed Imperial units, suggested for re-introduction, 3,700 hectares is 8,917 Acres).

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