



## Winchester Council July 2021



### Roads!

We asked Parishes to consider if they wished to form part of a Highways Group, in the hope that together we could achieve more in the way of behavioural change. We have so far only 4 parishes that have nominated a delegate, which you may consider is below the critical mass necessary to prove purposeful.

### Sun Hill

Meetings with the Developers continue. The Construction management Plan is the next big hurdle and at present we are reassured that the delivery of large machinery will be of minimal disruption, and that excavated material will not need to be moved on or off the site. The closure of the Alresford end of Whitehill Lane for a year whilst the construction of the roundabout takes place is a major concern, not only through inconvenience to the homes south of the Bypass, but also as large trucks need to reach the sewage works and other locations. As soon as possible the new roundabout on the bypass must be brought into use to prevent additional traffic movement on the existing road junctions within the town.

### Verges

The pilot of a reduced cutting regime has been very worthwhile. There were some communication difficulties regarding sight lines, and we will have to trim some areas for the safety of operatives (dog fouling in long grass).

This is a work in progress and the full potential for biodiversity will not be demonstrated for some years, a fuller explanation at <https://www.winchester.gov.uk/planning/landscape-countryside/road-verge-management>

Responses have been largely positive but some matters need more thought, primarily where paths are narrow and there is a risk from ticks. Mown grass is needed to cope with heavy footfall and uses, such as children's play. The more cared-for look of mown grass is appropriate in some areas close to the town centre. Lower soil fertility is needed to allow wildflowers to compete successfully with grasses, this means removing grass clippings, an added expense. Lowering soil fertility takes several years but does allow more flourishing wild flowers.

### M3 Junction 9

The Consultation closes on 8<sup>th</sup> July. Although the revisions improve on the original design, concerns remain, especially about cycle and pedestrian routes. The debate about whether the carbon load from the build is justified by the pollution reduction from moving traffic more smoothly, also continues. WCC is to submit a 35 page document with the initial responses. Much of the detail necessary to assess and mitigate the impacts, such as levels, disposal of excess cut, and the appearance of signage gantries has yet to be shown. The desirability of including a solution for the Cart and Horses Junction within the engineering solutions of the new route has been pointed out. A comment has been added on the necessity of monitoring, air quality, noise mitigation and the effects of traffic diversions, in order to develop on-going solutions is also in the report. We will continue to push to achieve the best possible scheme, both in the construction phases and in the long term.

### Fly Tipping

WCC has put together a pilot project to put cameras into various locations where fly tipping is known to be a common problem. We will monitor the result of this exercise, and adjust as necessary, as we do not want to just push the problem into another location.

### HCC Budget Cut Proposals

Hopefully you have been able to comment on the proposals for cuts at Hampshire County Councils. The cut to subsidised bus services, locally the 67 and 240, and potential closure of the tips are of particular concern locally. The consultation closes on 18<sup>th</sup> July. <https://www.hants.gov.uk/aboutthecouncil/haveyoursay/consultations/balancing-the-budget>

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