



## Winchester Council February 2024



### Revised WCC Constitution

On 22<sup>nd</sup> February we have our first budget setting under the new Constitution. We have put in place measures to prevent it going on until 0230 the following day. Apart from the quality of decision making after 7.5 hours, there was no respect for those that had to work or look after families the next day. This is all part of having councillors from the best possible representation of those in our communities, you do need to make being a councillor possible for all.

### Sun Hill Employment Zone (23/02845/REM)

There are almost as many comments as on the outline planning application. Comments have now closed. We look forward to further information. No doubt the Planning Meeting will be of great interest.

### 'Free' replacement for your Septic tank

You'll have received the 'replace your system for free' flyer through the door. There are now multiple offers of this sort, some from locally established providers, some more remote. I'm putting together questions to ask of upgrade companies to make sure quality and reliability is not sacrificed for profit on you 'free' upgrade.

Two offers that I have been made aware of locally local companies are

Burrow Environmental [Wastewater Treatment Plant Installations](#) | [Burrow Environmental \(burrow-environmental.com\)](#)

CSG [Household Sewage Services](#) | [Sewage Collections & Maintenance](#) | [CSG](#)

I have had discussions with both, Burrow have information events in Cheriton Village hall on 13<sup>th</sup> February. Both were able to consider systems which are informally shared with other properties

### Questions to ask

- a) How many annual services are included as part of the installation? And what is the current cost of a service?
- b) Do you provide a full service, from surveys, through planning, to accreditation?
- c) will the service provide a report on the effectiveness of the new system in removing Phosphates and Nitrates? (P and N).
- c) are your installation and maintenance engineers Accredited British Water Technicians?
- d) high ground water levels have damaged systems in some areas of the Itchen Valley How is the system resilient to flooding / high groundwater levels (e.g. overflows, electrical insulation, pump damage) ?
- e) What are typical annual costs of running the system?
- e) Do you include restoration of landscape?
- f) We share a system between three homes, what barriers are there to upgrading such a system.

For the technically minded

1. What is the recommended maintenance regime ? Frequency and cost, including consumables
2. How does the plant remove P and/or N?



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3. What accreditations / quality marks / certifications does the plant have ?
4. Are any additional chemicals required to strip out or settle N or P?
5. What happens in areas close to watercourses where there are high groundwater levels. Sealed tanks may have a tendency to “float” under such conditions.
6. Will the service provide a report on the effectiveness of the new system in removing P and N. How will you determine the “before” and “after” conditions? Will this be by measurement for each system or a generic estimate?

And remember – There Is No Such Thing As A Free Lunch – or TINSTAAFL

TINSTAAFWWTP doesn't work anything like as well.

Margot Power 01962 734167

Russell Gordon -Smith 01962 733219