

Report to Parish Council from Winchester Council

Access for Construction Traffic to Sun Lane

There have been two routes proposed for the construction traffic to access Sun Lane. One is Tichborne Down and the other is White Hill Lane. Both routes carry severe disadvantages: White Hill Lane is narrow and in poor condition with collapsing verges. The Tichborne Down route serves housing areas and has sharp corners. No need to list all the shortcomings, as HCC Highways have rejected both routes as being impractical. HCC are now insisting that access must come across farm land from the Bishops Sutton Road. Apart from this now meaning 44 traffic movements of heavy trucks a day through Bishops Sutton, it also puts the likely entrance some 40 m. from the tight railway bridge.

We is very concerned the impact on neighbouring settlements.

Both the rejected routes and any new proposed access would only be needed until the new roundabout on the by-pass is completed and working. As soon as the roundabout route is working, all access to the site will be via this new road link.

Central Winchester Regeneration

The careful and diligent process of selecting a developer for the Central Winchester Regeneration process is progressing towards the announcement of the selected partner. A final selection for the work will be announced at end of March. There has been huge interest from the market in this project with thirteen companies putting in bids initially. The winner will be from a selected shortlist of three. The appointment of a developer/ designer will be a great step forward in the thirty year saga of failed attempts to sort out this neglected part of Winchester. This effort might seem excessively City centric, but it is a very important economic, social, cultural, and administrative hub for the entire district and particularly Alresford and the Itchen Valley.

£££!

The Winchester Council portion of Council Tax for 2023/24 for a Band D house is proposed to be £155.29, an increase of £4.00 and reflecting an average Council tax increase of 2.65%.

There is no certainty of funding beyond 23/24, we have only an indication for 24/25. The long term pressures remain and justifies the investments necessary to do more with less.

Local Plan

The latest consultation by the Government on changes to the National Planning Policy Framework adds uncertainty yet again at a stage in the Local Plan development process when the strategic planning officer team desperately need some certainty. Answering coherently, purposefully and professionally fifty five questions in the consultation documents uses up valuable and expensive officer time.

Much has been made of the proposed removal of the Duty to Co-operate and therefore whether or not should we delay the Local Plan. Many changes are being consulted on regarding changes to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) but since the previous consultation results were

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never published or resulted in any change, we have decided to go ahead to protect our District.

One of the consultation questions is about a lower housing requirement in exceptional circumstances. Would for example having 50% of your boundaries being aquatic, or 40% National Park be exceptional? Not defined.

There is also a suggested requirement to produce a Local Plan in 30 months, with no indication of the necessary steps.

These consultation responses take an enormous amount of time and money. The frustration when they come to naught is immense!

Margot Power 01962 734167

Russell Gordon -Smith 01962 733219 rgordon-smith@winchester.gov.uk