



City Councillors Report for September 2022



The writing of this report has sadly been overtaken by the news of the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and of the accession of King Charles III to the throne. There has been a vast amount written about and spoken about these events and not doubt there will be a great deal more. Admiration and respect has to be paid to someone who so diligently applied herself to undertake so many duties and responsibilities for so very long. So many stories are coming out about her kindness and consideration of all who worked either with her or for her. So much evidence too, of her sense of humour, which was displayed more as she became older. So very much for us to be thankful for.

God save the King!

And so back to the everyday.....

Day to day work of the council will continue, with a greatly increased work load for democratic services in particular, organising ceremonies at short notice under National Mourning criteria, of for which they have little experience.

All public meetings, for which an agenda and summons have been sent out already, will be held, but will be adjourned. Public meetings for which no agenda has been send out will be postponed.

Solar PV

We wanted to ensure that you are aware that the Solar Together campaign, run by HCC, has recently re-opened. This is a 'bulk buying' initiative whereby WCC residents can register an interest in solar panels, a battery or an EV charging point. A reverse auction is then held to produce most competitive price by installers vetted by HCC. The resident is then offered a price which they can choose to accept or not.

The application process is quite easy. However, there are questions about the size of your roof, its orientation and also about your annual consumption of electricity. (this is shown on your bills). Collecting this data beforehand makes the application quicker. People who already have panels already, can apply for just a battery.

Deadline for Registering interest is 27th September.

For more information or if you receive enquiries, you can direct residents one of the sites below. There are some posters for parish boards

- [How does Solar Together work? | City of Winchester](#)
- [Guarantees and warranties | City of Winchester \(solartogether.co.uk\)](#)
- [Benefits of solar PV | City of Winchester \(solartogether.co.uk\)](#)
- [About us | City of Winchester \(solartogether.co.uk\)](#)

Costs of Living

In the lack of any visible signs of support from elsewhere Winchester council are pulling together various pots of money to support those organisations that support others. There is also a small discretionary pot that will be targeted towards Council tax payers that receive additional help from the state but pay reduced or no council tax.

Winchester Council is also impacted of course, not only our own staff and operations, but for contracted services. Likely inflationary pressures have been reviewed and the £2 m. set aside to cover these risks is adequate for the rest of this and next year. However, the medium-term financial strategy is a great deal more challenging.