



Winchester Council December 2023



May we wish you a happy Christmas, a Joyous New Year, and many more hours of essential work in your Parishes in 2024.

You are the unsung heroes of local government, providing that vital local knowledge of the important factors in your parish and providing constructive criticism of the activities in all other areas of government, both local, occasionally national, and making a contribution on global matters as well.

Two special awards for 2023: first one to Itchen Valley for leading the way on the Green Agenda, a very well attended meeting with multiple providers of useful advice; the second to Bishop Sutton for their engagement in Water quality – to command an audience of 40 to listen to a talk on septic tanks is truly remarkable, and this has been followed up by a community craft project, a wildlife trail camera with some lovely images, and a myriad of information on the parish website. Very well done to both for their initiative

Waste Water treatment

There have been some exciting developments recently, some challenges and some opportunities, as ever. Following a call for information on shared systems – a particular challenge, I was contacted by a manager of an Investment Trust that makes their money from carbon and nutrient reduction schemes. Their typical project scale is upwards of 400k, but there were intimations that smaller projects may be of interest; ones mind of course turns to bulk buying schemes, and a clearing system to put those developers that need nutrient credits in touch with those that would like to upgrade but lack the necessary capital.

There will be a knowledge sharing event early in 2024, probably in the Candovers, and we would ask that parish councils do send a representative.

Carbon Reduction and Winchester City Council

There was an interesting motion to council in November that asked that any carbon reduction investments only be made if they directly benefitted residents of Winchester. This appeared to be based on a belief that we can set a protective dome around Winchester that protects us from climate change, exceptional weather events, global food pressures, etc. We only mention this as it shows the appalling ignorance that we are up against.

Disabled Facilities Grants

We've received very good reports of work done to help residents maintain their independence in their own homes. These are available to home owners as well as tenants. If you hear of those that may benefit from such grants, please support their application, or ask us to! See [Disabled Facilities Grant \(DFG\) - Winchester City Council](#)

Friars Gate

The demolition of Friars Gate has started! There has been little mention of the Central Winchester Regeneration of late. Some concrete steps are underway, with the careful de-construction of the old and redundant buildings on the site. Part of the site can be viewed as an archaeological site at the moment, with the remainder of the area being used as a temporary open space following the demolition.

Post Christmas Debt

Christmas puts a huge amount of pressure on all of us to spend money on any number of items, presents for children, social events etc. All well and good, but hard on those short of money who are in effect shamed into buying lots of 'stuff' with possibly limited usefulness, creating a big debt problem post-Christmas. If anybody finds themselves in this situation, it is worth contacting these organisations:

Step Change; an Online or telephone debt advice service



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Get debt help online. (www.stepchange.org) Available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year
Advisors can be contacted on 0800 138 1111. Monday to Friday 8am to 8pm and Saturday 9am to 2pm

Christians against Poverty (capuk.org/get-help) This is open to all, Christian, other faiths, or none at all. Useful support and counselling on budgets and management.

Citizens Advice Bureau: The Winchester District office is at Colebrook St SO23 9LJ They provide advice on a range of topics, legal matters and debt advice. 08082787861

Remember the real joy of Christmas is that it is a time of hope and appreciating the company of our friends and family and doesn't have to be a huge splurge. The New Year tends to be the time we take up gym membership etc. so it might also be an opportunity to get your finances into shape!

Makins Court Christmas lunch

There is a Christmas lunch organised at Makins Court for those, either single or couples who would like to take part in a communal lunch on Christmas Day. If you would like to be there, for what is always a joyful occasion, please contact Clare Pinniger on 01962 738788.

A call is essential if you want to attend as the organisers need to know the likely numbers that will be there. They do not want to run out of mince pies!

Margot Power 01962 734167

Russell Gordon -Smith 01962 733219