

Winchester City Council parish update February 2024

Bushfield Camp – Questions at Full Council

At Winchester City Council, full council session on 17th January, Cllrs Warwick and Brophy both asked questions to Cllr Jackie Porter, the Cabinet Member for Place and Local Plan, to clarify the latest status of the Bushfield Camp proposals.

From: Councillor Warwick

“Public consultation for the Bushfield Camp planning application opened on 27th October and closed on 7th December 2023. When will the application be heard by the planning committee and how many residents will be allowed to address the committee?”

Reply from Cllr Porter

“It’s become clear as the process has continued that concerns about the highways impact of Bushfield are particularly important for residents – and so the Council is absolutely committed to ensuring that National Highways and Hampshire County Council take the time they need to properly and thoroughly assess the impact of the applications.

As a result, based on the timetable they have given us, it is likely that the Bushfield application will not be able to come to committee before May or June – possibly later.

The decision as to how it will be handled is – as was agreed in the new Constitution last month – is a matter for the Planning Committee itself and not for the administration.

If you look at page 67 of the Constitution - Part 3.3, section 1.8a – it makes clear that the Planning Committee decides their own public speaking arrangements and are also able to determine specific arrangements for public speaking on certain applications.

My hope is that the Committee will look to run a process that allows a full range of residents and affected organisations – including Parish Councils to have their say. I have spoken to the Chair of the Committee, Councillor Rutter, and this is her intention as well.”

From: Councillor Brophy

“Given the request by National Highways to have more time to assess the traffic impacts of the proposed development at Bushfield Camp, can the Cabinet Member for Place and Local Plan outline how this will affect the timeline for decision making?”

Reply from Cllr Porter

“I know how concerned local residents are about the traffic and transport implications of the Bushfield planning application.

I am reassured therefore, that National Highways have sought more time to work through the highway implications of the application with the developer.

The outcome of the National Highways’ discussions with the applicant will then be reconsidered by Hampshire Highways who will be given the opportunity to resubmit their comments too.

Once those comments have been received, it will be important for the public to have their say as well – particularly if there is significant new information. And, if this is the case, we will allow time in the process for this to happen.

The combined effect of this is likely to mean that determination will not be possible before May or June this year – possibly later.”

Wellbeing Walks

WCC is running weekly Wellbeing Walks across the district to help people get out and about safely in the fresh air whilst also meeting friendly people. The walks are run by qualified leaders:

Winchester City, Wednesdays, 9:15am
(approx. 60 minutes)
Kings Walk
(Outside The Nutshell, SO23 8AF)

Colden Common, Wednesdays, 10:30am
(approx. 60 minutes)
Colden Common Community Centre (SO21 1UU)

More details of how to join a walk – or become a walk leader at:

https://www.winchester.gov.uk/sport/active-lifestyles-scheme/health-walks?fbclid=IwAR2np9_tYv92cTbFBRsoN6vc2BDUWoxT6X7s5Cx8_BMdFp3I2F0ZYLKO_Jo

Nominations still open for Mayor of Winchester’s Community Awards

Nominations for the annual Mayor of Winchester’s Community Awards are still open, offering an opportunity to recognise and celebrate individuals and organisations who have made a real difference in the Winchester district.

The closing date for nominations is Sunday 18 February. The awards will take place on Thursday 7 March in Guildhall Winchester. To nominate a person or organisation, complete the online form at www.winchester.gov.uk/mayorsawards24.

Boot Fairs in City Centre to resume

The Cattle Market Car Park car boot sales will start up again on Sunday 11 February from 7.30am. These sales are run to benefit local charities. Any charities wishing to apply to host one can find out more on our car boot sale webpage:

https://www.winchester.gov.uk/no-listing/car-boot-sales?fbclid=IwAR1MbixfXNeKLiph_JTq70pxyHfYEHi9TjibvMrRyInMfgRj5ErGGcEWcdI

Warmer Homes scheme open until March 2025

Low-income households in the Winchester district are invited to apply for a scheme providing fully funded energy upgrades. These upgrades aim to reduce energy bills and carbon footprints whilst improving the comfort of homes.

The [Warmer Homes](https://www.warmerhomes.org.uk/) scheme (<https://www.warmerhomes.org.uk/>) which is available through Winchester City Council until March 2025, provides support for households where the main heating source is not gas-powered.

The improvements are aimed at low-income owner-occupiers and private renters with available energy improvements including air source heat pumps, high heat-retention storage heaters, solar PV panels and a variety of insulation measures.

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