

## **Winchester City Council report November 2024**

### **Pension Credit Coffee Mornings**

Winchester City Council is holding pension credit coffee mornings in the next few weeks to help people apply for any eligible benefits.

Anyone receiving pension credit can also claim other financial support, including the Winter Fuel Payment to ensure they don't miss out this winter.

The coffee mornings take place across the district between 4 and 13 November, where the friendly team will be on hand to help people make pension credit applications (attendees need to bring your National Insurance Number and details of current household income). Full details, dates and locations are available at <https://www.winchester.gov.uk/housing/what-s-on-housing-events-and-activities>

### **Spaces of Sanctuary**

Following the successful launch of WCC's [Spaces of Sanctuary](#) project, which creates a practical route to provide support to asylum seekers and refugees to access support, the council is looking for more partners to join the scheme and increase access to safe places for residents, particularly in our rural parishes.

In the run up to the Christmas period, we want to encourage as many organisations as possible to join the scheme. Parish and Town councils can play an important role in making that happen and several parishes, including Swanmore and Colden Common Parish Councils, are already involved.

Parishes can join the scheme and become a safe space (free training and resources are provided), or help out by promoting the scheme and identifying and encourage organisations in your area to get involved.

To learn more or get involved, contact Community Engagement Officer Mark Maitland on 01962 848518 or email ([mmaitland@winchester.gov.uk](mailto:mmaitland@winchester.gov.uk)). More information is available at <https://www.winchester.gov.uk/community-recreation/city-of-sanctuary>

### **Energy upgrades for off-gas households**

The Warmer Homes scheme, which WCC is involved in alongside other local authorities, is accepting applications for the Home Upgrade Grant until the end of November. The grant provides free upgrades for eligible off-gas households with a combined income of £36,000 or less. To apply or for further information visit Warmer Homes at <https://www.warmerhomes.org.uk/> or call 0800 038 5737.

### **Improved sports facilities in Winchester**

WCC celebrated the official opening of installation of a new community 3G football pitch in Winchester. Replacing an old grass pitch, the new high-quality pitch at Hillier Way football ground (used by Winchester City FC, Winchester City Flyers girls' and ladies' teams, and Winchester Youth FC) offers facilities that can be used all year round. The new pitch has been funded by a grant from the Premier League, The FA and Government's Football Foundation of £1,132,214; Winchester City Council Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding of £300,000; and £16,000 from Winchester City FC.

**Survey: Informing the future of wellbeing in the Winchester district**

WCC is running a short survey, in partnership with Temple Group, to gather feedback from residents across the district that will help shape our new Community Wellbeing and Resilience Strategy. The results will help ensure the strategy addresses the needs of communities. Take take five minutes to participate in the online survey at

[https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=qvePhv458Em1uaEdROB\\_EvHJtx1Y-BBJorplmjkSigFUMFRaTTJYNUwyTE1TSEZWnk5QUUISTUk1Uy4u&route=shorturl](https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=qvePhv458Em1uaEdROB_EvHJtx1Y-BBJorplmjkSigFUMFRaTTJYNUwyTE1TSEZWnk5QUUISTUk1Uy4u&route=shorturl)