

Winchester City Council February parish report

Additional £1.18M investment for parking improvements

As part of the council's ongoing commitment to support a vibrant local economy, Cabinet has agreed to invest £1.18m into parking improvements to be delivered this year. £305,000 will be spent to improve CCTV provision, tackle anti-social behaviour at the Park and Ride sites and upgrade payment machines. A further £40,000 will be invested to improve and upgrade the multi-storey phone signal.

Later this year, Middle Brook Street car park will be upgraded to become a Pay and Display facility. This enables the council to provide disabled parking spaces closer to the shops, make entry and exit easier, and improve traffic flow along Friarsgate. This will require some phased closure periods, but the council is committed to minimising disruption and ensuring users are kept well informed throughout the process.

Nominations open for Mayor of Winchester's Community Awards 2025

Nominations for the annual Mayor of Winchester's Community Awards are now open, offering an opportunity to recognise and celebrate those who have gone above and beyond the call of duty to help others. The closing date for nominations is Sunday 16 February 2025. The awards will take place on Thursday 13 March 2025.

To nominate a person or organisation, complete the form at <https://winchester.citizenspace.com/communications/mayor-of-winchester-community-awards-2025/>

Shared prosperity funding

An additional year's Shared Prosperity funding by government has been confirmed for Winchester district following successful 1.7 million cash injection in the past 3 year period. The additional funding, totalling £327,146, is being made available to spend on projects that help support city council priorities throughout the district until April 2026.

The last three years of funding has seen a total of 57 projects supported through the government's UK Shared Prosperity and Rural Prosperity funds, with the schemes' match-funding element generating an additional £1,688,245 of private investment – making for a total of £3,433,000 of district investment so far as a direct result of the programme. 20 of those projects have helped to tackle the climate emergency – for example 11 solar panel projects have been funded, including those at community centres in Colden Common, Denmead, Easton, Sutton Scotney and Upham, and seven EV charging stations have been installed across the district. 280 residents are also currently set to gain qualifications in alternative energy installation and digital communications through a variety of workshops being delivered across the district by the city council and its partners.

Community Grants

WCC currently has two different community grants schemes that not-for-profits in the district may be able to benefit from – to learn more visit the grants pages at <https://www.winchester.gov.uk/grants-for-not-for-profit-organisations>

Grant Stream	Amount	Application Opening Date	Application Closing Date
District Small Grant Scheme	Up to £1,000	OPEN	28 February 2025 or sooner on full allocation of budget
Winchester City Community Grants	£500 - £3,000	OPEN	28 February 2025 or sooner on full allocation of budget

Go Greener Faster: Community workshops for renewable energy

Energise South Downs is running a series of renewable energy workshops for communities across the district, supported by the council's Go Greener Faster grants scheme.

Participants at the Future Energy Landscapes workshops can learn about the benefits of locally generated renewable energy, how it can power communities and help reduce their carbon footprint. They are open to everyone who wants to learn more about renewable energy, whether they are a supporter, or have concerns about what the transition away from fossil fuels may mean for their local area.

Upcoming Future Energy Landscapes workshops are taking place in the following areas:

East Meon – 7pm–9.30pm – Wednesday 5 March

Denmead – 7pm–9.30pm – Tuesday 11 March

Residents can find out more and book a place on Future Energy Landscapes: <https://esd.energy/events/future-energy-landscapes/>