

# The Worthys City Councillors' Report to Parishes July 2025.

## **Winchester City Council marked as the 'top performing' district council in the country for their work on the climate crisis**

Climate Emergency UK has scored all UK councils on their performance in addressing the climate crisis, with Winchester City Council being awarded a score of 68% overall (an increase of 19% compared to the last score card in 2023.) It leads the way by far in Hampshire with a 22% higher score than the next highest performing council in the county.

The Climate Action Scorecard system was devised by Climate Emergency UK to rank councils on how they're tackling climate change. It makes an assessment based on seven areas:

- Building and heating
- Transport
- Planning and land use
- Governance and finance
- Biodiversity
- Collaboration and engagement
- Waste reduction and food

The City Council scored particularly highly in in the categories of Buildings & Heating and Planning & Land Use, reflecting both their work to increase the energy efficiency of their buildings and housing stock and the carbon reduction policies in their emerging local plan. Collaboration and engagement was also recognised as a particular strength of the council – visible in the collaborative work they are doing with partners, businesses and organisations to be a carbon neutral district by 2030.

### **Next steps for the former leisure centre site**

Winchester City Council is inviting residents to engage with it with their ideas for the next steps for the former leisure centre site.

Earlier this year, the city council received confirmation that the University of Southampton were no longer taking forward their planned investment in the site. Therefore, the council is beginning an open process of finding a partner to invest in the site. The initial engagement event is too late to report here, but you can read the supporting project information on the website

- [www.winchester.gov.uk/former-leisure-centre-site](http://www.winchester.gov.uk/former-leisure-centre-site) and then complete the short feedback form  
- [www.winchester.gov.uk/former-leisure-centre-site-feedback](http://www.winchester.gov.uk/former-leisure-centre-site-feedback)

Winchester City Council is committed to finding a new partner to invest in the site, on a long lease basis, as long as the following three conditions are met:

- The green space – whether park, sports or play area, tennis courts or access through the site - is wholly out of scope
- The public have a proper say during the process
- Provision of the skate park and indoor bowling must be absolutely protected

### **Winchester City's Water Works shortlisted for Planning Award**

Winchester City Council's water treatment facilities strategy has been shortlisted for a Royal Town Planning Institute award. The initiative helps keep new housing "nitrate neutral" to protect the River Itchen and local chalk streams. Instead of outsourcing, the Council upgraded its own wastewater

treatment works and improved water efficiency in council homes. A pilot scheme is complete, with funding secured to expand further. Winners will be announced in July.

Councillor Jackie Porter, Cabinet Member for Place and the Local Plan, said: “Being shortlisted for this award is testament to the teams’ commitment and ingenuity in finding solutions to an important but complex issue which both protects our rivers and waterways, and allows for the development of much needed homes. I am delighted the Royal Institute for Town Planners has recognised this project and we look forward to hearing the outcome.”

### **Public toilets in Abbey Gardens reopened after major refurbishment**

Winchester City Council has reopened the Abbey Gardens public toilets after an £85,000 refurbishment. Upgrades include new cubicles, sinks, tiles, ventilation, and energy-efficient lighting. This is part of the Council’s ongoing Public Toilets Improvement Strategy, which also funded works at Market Lane and Chesil car park. Council Leader Martin Tod has highlighted the importance of quality public facilities, especially with over 4 million annual visitors. The toilets remain free and are open daily from 8 am to 8 pm until the end of September.

### **New Community Pavilion coming to River Park**

Construction has officially begun on the new community pavilion at River Park, Winchester. The old pavilion, which served the community for around 60 years, is being demolished due to its poor condition.

The new facility will be multi-purpose, serving not only cricket but also other sports and community groups year-round. Cabinet member Cllr Steve Cramoysan praised the project as a vital community hub, and the construction contract has been awarded to Management & Construction Services Ltd (MCS).

The pavilion is expected to be completed by February 2026, barring unforeseen delays.

This project reflects a total investment of £2.3 million which includes capital funding from the city council, £1.5 million from district Community Infrastructure Levy and contributions from the Town Forum, The Pavilion Project and grant funding from Hampshire County Council.

### **Kings Barton Forum**

The Kings Barton Forum met on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> June. It had a full agenda covering the construction of the junctions north and south to link the main access road to the existing Andover Road, the new community centre, updates on the bus service and other amenities, plus the proposed Community Governance Review and ‘tidying up’ proposed boundary changes. Steve Cramoysan chairs the Forum and will provide verbal updates and a summary of the meeting in the next Councillors’ Report.

Jane Rutter, Steve Cramoysan and Jackie Porter

27.06.25