

AGENDA ITEM 14

Chichester City Council Report from Sarah Sharp, District Councillor for Chichester South

14th December 2022

Christmas Parking Incentives

Parking Services will be offering parking incentives during the festive period. This includes free parking after 4pm in the Avenue de Chartres car park, Chichester for the two late-night shopping events on Thursday 15th and 22nd December. We will also be welcoming back the 'One-hour free parking when selecting two hours', when using the MiPermit app across the whole district.

The **Christmas market** will be open daily from Saturday 3 December to Friday 23 December. Mondays to Saturdays it will be open from 9am until 5.30pm (except Thursday 15 and 22 December when the market will stay open until 7pm for Chichester's late night shopping events.) On Sundays it will be open from 10am until 4.30pm. You can also find lots of Christmas events and activities at www.chichester.gov.uk/whatson

The normal Wednesday Traders' market will not be trading during December except for Christmas Eve when it will be operating as usual in the City Centre.

The Farmers' Market will be trading from the Cattle Market Car Park on 16th December. The first Farmers' market of the new Year will be Friday 20th January in its usual place on North and East Street.

Pop-up Shop Scheme

The Pop-up shop Scheme was relaunched in August 2022. Chichester College opened their store on 22 November. Students will be taking over the Pop-Up shop, so that they can be young entrepreneurs and try out business in a real-life setting. There are over 200 students involved from across five different departments, business studies, architecture, marketing, IT, accounting, arts, craft, and media.

An application from a vintage clothing business was recently accepted and it is hoped that they will be opening in late November/early December.

St James Industrial Estate

SSEN have completed the works necessary to introduce an upgraded power supply to the new substation on site. The final builders clean is taking place so the units can be made available for snagging. The additional landscaping work both within and along the northern external boundary of the site is nearing completion.

Priory Park

The Priory Park works are now underway and allowing for the Christmas and New Year break, a completion date of 6 February is anticipated. The contract includes both the park

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improvement works, essentially demolition of the old depot building, alterations to provide a new store, landscaping/regrading groundwork together with the additional foul drain repair works that have become necessary. Any potential disruption to park visitors will be kept to an absolute minimum with most of the works limited to a fenced off area to the rear of the public toilets and the Brick Pavilion.

Discretionary Energy Rebate Scheme update

The discretionary energy rebate scheme is open until 30 November 2022. We received £274,650 to support residents and have as of 21 November 2022 awarded a total of £261,217 (95 %). We are on track to fully spend the remainder by 30 November 2022. This scheme has been very positively received by residents and on average we have awarded individual residents eligible a one-off payment averaging £1,238. [£150 energy bills rebate 2022: Chichester District Council](#)

The Government has committed to providing support to consumers with their energy costs this winter. This support is already being made available via the [Energy Bills Support Scheme \(EBSS\)](#) and the [Energy Price Guarantee \(EPG\)](#) for households, and the [Energy Bill Relief Scheme \(EBRS\)](#) for businesses. This support is primarily being delivered directly as a credit to electricity bills and as a reduction to the unit cost of gas and electricity.

Supporting You Team update

[Supporting You Campaign: Chichester District Council](#) the new five-strong team of specialist, trained advisors are working alongside services across the council to help people access a wide range of assistance, including financial help to pay bills, help with housing, and health and wellbeing support.

The team can be contacted by calling 01243 534860 or by emailing supportingyou@chichester.gov.uk.

Community Wellbeing

The Chichester Social Prescribing Service has been working with local groups and businesses to bring a more diverse selection of opportunities to clients who may be feeling isolated or financially unable to attend groups. These groups have included mindfulness walks, music therapy, equine therapy and many more. As a way of bringing them together, the Chichester Social Prescribing Community Alliance was created for creative and complementary health services within the Chichester District. Otherwise known as 'Creative Routes'. The aim for the Creative Routes Alliance is to form a quarterly meeting, to network and build joint working relationships.

The Wellbeing Service will be attending the Christmas Farmers Market on 16 December to promote the service and make people aware of the support and advice we can offer, especially around the cost saving benefits of a reduction in alcohol and stopping smoking. As

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well as this we continue to attend the Community Food Hub events across the district (previously known as the Pop-Up Pantry) organized by UK Harvest, to offer advice to residents on healthy eating amongst other lifestyle support.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

‘Three Harbours summit’ and CHaPRoN projects

There are several partnership projects currently working on water quality and/or habitat creation in our Harbours. The Chichester Harbour Protection and Recovery of Nature (CHaPRoN) partnership is led by Chichester Harbour Conservancy. The focus is on restoring and creating inter tidal habitats in response to coastal squeeze.

Avian Influenza

Housing measures to protect poultry and captive birds from avian flu carried by wild birds, came back into force from Monday 7 November 2022. This means that it is a mandatory requirement for all bird keepers across England to keep their birds housed and to follow strict biosecurity measures, to limit the spread and to eradicate the disease.

CHICHESTER CONTRACT SERVICES

CDC has just launched a pilot of a smartphone app to help residents with their household bin collections. The new app, developed by Cloud 9 Technologies and already in use by several local authorities, enables residents to be sent reminders about their kerbside collections, search for materials to see how best to dispose of them, report incidents such as missed bins and fly tipping. The app also has other information taken from the council’s website, such as local facilities (e.g. car parks or public toilets), food hygiene ratings, news, and Member profiles. More details can be found at <https://www.chichester.gov.uk/ChichesterDCApp>



Collection dates

Our waste and recycling collection dates will be altering slightly over the festive period.

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Below you will find a table showing all changes during December and January. Changes can also be found by visiting www.chichester.gov.uk/wastecollectioncalendar

Normal Collection Day	Pre-Christmas week	Christmas week	New Year week week 1	Post-New Year
Monday	12 Dec 2022	19 Dec 2022	*27 Dec 2022	*3 Jan 2023
Tuesday	13 Dec 2022	20 Dec 2022	28 Dec 2022	4 Jan 2023
Wednesday	14 Dec 2022	21 Dec 2022	29 Dec 2022	5 Jan 2023
Thursday	15 Dec 2022	22 Dec 2022	30 Dec 2022	6 Jan 2023
Friday	16 Dec 2022	23 Dec 2022	*2 Jan 2023	7 Jan 2023

* Bank holidays

The Garden Recycling Service will stop from Friday 23 December and will start again on Monday 9 January 2023. There will also be some slight changes to clinical waste collections; all affected residents will be contacted directly.

How to dispose of your real Christmas Tree

Residents that subscribe to the Garden Recycling service can put their tree out for collection on their scheduled collection day, providing it is free from decorations and *fits within the wheeled bin*. Alternatively, real Christmas trees can be taken to your local Household Waste Recycling Site.

CDC has teamed up with St Wilfrid's Hospice again to offer a simple, green, and charitable way to dispose of your real Christmas tree. From 7th – 10th January, St Wilfrid's volunteers can collect your Christmas tree direct from your home in return for a donation. For more information visit: www.stwh.co.uk/christmastrees

Recycling Advice

If you are not sure what you can recycle over the Christmas period, please visit the recycling A-Z at: [A to Z of recycling - West Sussex County Council](#) for helpful information on what can and cannot be recycled at home.

Possible refuse collection strike.

CDC is continuing with talks with the GMB Union and are working hard to try and avoid a refuse collection strike. CDC is doing everything it can to minimize disruption should industrial action take place, and there are contingency plans in place. You will be kept well informed of this situation. The GMB Union have said that if a strike were to take place, it would likely be in January or February 2023.

Voter ID

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The Government has plans to introduce electors having to show identification at the polling station from the polls on 4 May 2023. Most electors will have an acceptable form of identification but if they don't, they are able to apply for a "Voter Authority Certificate" (VAC) through the gov.uk web portal or in person at the council offices. Staff in polling stations will not be able to issue a ballot paper unless identification or a VAC is shown. A large-scale PR campaign will start in the New Year by the Electoral Commission and the Communications team at CDC. Poll cards will also be A4 size to allow for information what must be shown in the polling stations to be put on them. More information can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/voter-identification-atpolling-stations-and-the-new-voter-card>

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1) Community Highways Scheme for Bognor Road

Sadly this application was not successful. The application for a build out to help people cross the road near the local Coop store failed by one point.

2) County Local Forum

WSCC voted to abolish the County Local Forum in October. This was the replacement of the County Local Committee. This was the only public meeting where members of the public could ask a question of their County Councillors in public. I was the only councillor who voted to keep this Forum and view this as a reduction of everyone's democratic rights to hold the County Council to account. As a replacement County Councillors have been asked to hold surgeries. I run surgeries every second Saturday of the month from 9.15 – 10.15 am in Chichester Library, subject to purdah.

3) Speed Limit Review

A review has been carried out into speed limits. You can read more about the changes here: https://westsussex.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s35093/Agenda%20Item%20No%207%20-%20Appendix%202%20-%20Draft_Speed_Limit_Policy.pdf

There were 201 Killed and Seriously Injured people in the first 5 months of this year in West Sussex, an increase of 47. Each incident costs the public purse £2m approx. There is great concern about safety on rural roads especially.

The new speed limit policy incorporates the new Highway Code and changed priority of road users. Many communities want to have slower speeds and the new policy is supposed to bring back common sense and allow more flexibility. It recognizes the new hierarchy of road users. There will not be a sudden change in policy overnight though. It will mean that each community will have to apply for the changes they wish to see. The hope is that vulnerable road users will feel safer.

Key Changes in the policy is the average speed criteria which is being relaxed to increase the thresholds at which changes can be considered. The limits have come down and the policy states that the speed "should" be below a certain level not that it "must" be below a certain level. The function of a road will be more important than the speed assessment. The policy about frontage onto the road has also been changed so that the definition of a village is less strict.

The Council will be looking at how KSIs are affected by speed limit changes. They will also slightly shortening the lengths of road required for a speed limit change. The hope is that the whole approach will be more flexible and open to reducing speed.

They will also be looking at Quiet Ways as well as Quiet Lanes.

Changing speed limits will affect people's GPS routes. This policy will be delivered through Community Highways Schemes. However, the area covered by the change to 20mph on Chichester's arterial roads is large and the consultation required will be extensive so CCC is requested to discuss the situation with Mike Thomas, the Area Highways Officer first.

Due to limited budgets, there may be a lot of requests for CHS to change speeds and not all will be able to be funded. Some schemes can be paid for by CIL or 106 monies.

Conversations will need to be had with County Planning to tie things in together.

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This policy does not compare that favourably with other county council speed limit policies for example Oxfordshire or Cornwall. There is no new allocated budget and no target to achieve a certain percentage of slower speeds by any set date.

4) **Aspire Adult Education classes**

Since 2012 West Sussex County Council has contracted Aspire Sussex to deliver the majority of the Adult Learning programme for the residents of West Sussex. This was funded through an annual grant from the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA). Over the course of the past 10 years West Sussex County Council has provided significant resource, technical advice, and additional financial support to Aspire Sussex and in response to Aspire's requests. Unfortunately Aspire Sussex have had to go into administration. West Sussex County Council is waiting for more details and confirmation from the administrators about how the services will be withdrawn. As recipients of ESFA funding West Sussex County Council review the Adult Learning contract on an annual basis. Plans will be made for a future sustainable Adult Learning programme to meet the needs of communities in West Sussex to help them to fulfil their potential.

Aspire used to offer a wide range of courses including English and maths, arts and crafts, IT, skills for those wanting to get into work and family support as well as English for refugees.

If you know anyone who is on a course with Aspire Sussex, please email adult.education.enquiries@westsussex.gov.uk for further information.

- 5) The **Household Support Fund** is coming to the aid of residents suffering from financial worries with one-off supply of supermarket vouchers lasting till March 2023. If residents do not have photo ID I am happy to refer them to the Community Hub or residents can ring themselves on 033 022 27980. Once an application has been made residents are not allowed to apply a second time.

<https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/fire-emergencies-and-crime/coronavirus-covid-19-information/advice-and-support/community-hub/#apply-for-support>

- 6) Electric blanket testing is available by calling 0345 870 9719. Other fire stations in the county hold events where this can be done but as Chichester Fire Station is on a very busy roundabout this is not possible.
- 7) The Fire & Rescue team can provide **Safe and Well Visits** to fit smoke alarms and carbon monoxide alarms too. These can be arranged by calling 0345 872 9719.
- 8) The County Council is encouraging older people to renew their **free bus pass** with an offer of some supermarket vouchers as a prize. Apply now online at www.westsussex.gov.uk/buspass or call 0330 222 6222.
- 9) **Lids from plastic bottles** can now be recycled. Please remember to rinse, dry, squash and then put the lid back on the bottle. Recycling also now covers hard plastics eg clothes hangers, garden furniture, toys etc that can be taken to Westhampnett.

10) **Connected Kerb**

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Government funding of up to £1.8million has been awarded to the West Sussex Chargepoint Network, which is providing electric vehicle (EV) chargepoints for residents in areas which have no off-street parking.

The award is to part-fund up to 450 on-street chargepoints and 100 in public car parks. The remaining installation costs will be covered by EV chargepoint company Connected Kerb, one of the UK's leading providers of EV charging infrastructure solutions.

The new wave of installations will provide a significant boost to the growing West Sussex Chargepoint Network, which is supported by the county council along with all the districts and borough councils in the county.

Proposed locations of the on street parking network can be viewed here: [UK's largest public EV charging project \(connectedkerb.com\)](#). The public consultation for these points has now closed but you can register an interest in having an EV charging point here: [Form \(hsforms.com\)](#)

11) Energy Production

The County Council's investment in low carbon, renewable energy is continuing to pay dividends according to the latest annual report.

Over the past decade the authority has steadily increased the amount of clean, green electricity it generates by installing solar panels on its buildings and schools and using surplus land to develop two solar farms at Tangmere and Westhampnett.

In line with its Energy Strategy the County Council is also investing in energy storage and developing 'grid scale' battery sites. The batteries provide a service to the electricity grid and can store and supply electricity as required, for example, to help maintain grid stability as intermittent sources of renewable power, such as solar farms and wind farms, fluctuate throughout the day.

According to the County Council's latest solar generation report for the 2021/22 financial year, its renewable energy systems generated more than 16,000 MWh of clean electricity for the grid, which is enough to power more than 5,500 average UK homes. This prevented 3,700 tonnes of CO₂e being released into the atmosphere compared to generating the same amount of electricity from fossil fuels.

By selling much of the electricity to the grid and making use of its batteries at Westhampnett solar farm, the County Council earned more than £2.5 million after running costs during 2021/22. This is helping to offset, but not completely cover, the increase in the authority's own energy bill.

- 12) If you are interested in taking action on Climate Change you can find out more here: [Actions you can take - West Sussex County Council](#)

Here is the map where you can add your personal actions or the actions of the City Council
[Click to explore the map | Community Climate Action Map | Your Voice West Sussex](#)

- 13) This page gives advice to residents about dealing with extreme weather: [Dealing with extreme weather - West Sussex County Council](#)

14) UK-wide Veterans' Survey

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Hearing from the veteran community is vital and that is why the Government has launched a UK-wide Veterans' Survey. This is the first-ever exercise to collect feedback from the veterans' community across the UK, co-ordinated by the Office for Veterans' Affairs and the Office for National Statistics (ONS).

The online survey was launched on 10 November and will be live for 12 weeks. The survey gives ex-UK armed forces personnel and their families the opportunity to provide direct feedback to the Government on their experiences, access to and use of services for veterans. Responses to the survey will help the Government to better understand the experiences, needs and well-being of our veteran community, and guide future action. The Government would like to encourage as many ex-UK armed forces veterans and their families to share feedback as possible. Veterans and their families are asked to complete the Veterans' Survey on the ONS website.

[Veterans' Survey - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](https://ons.gov.uk/veterans-survey)

15) Bus Survey

The way buses are organised is being changed. There will be an Enhanced Partnership governed by a Board chaired by the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport. The Assistant Director for Highways and Transport will be on this board, as well as heads of local bus companies, and an equal number of members or officers from Council. This will mean that WSCC has much more influence on bus services, although the present regime involving 'commercial' and 'socially necessary' bus services is not replaced.

Bus users will also have voice and recognition when changes are proposed that affect them.

You can take part in the consultation here: <https://yourvoice.westsussex.gov.uk/enhanced-partnership-statutory-stakeholder-consultation>

Alternatively, you can email: transporthub@westsussex.gov.uk

Please share your views by midnight on Tuesday 3 January 2023.