

AGENDA ITEM 7



Friends of Chartres report for Community Affairs committee meeting 5th June 2023

At the end of April we welcomed a large group of friends from Chartres, filling four happy days with activities and friendship between our two groups. The Chartrains arrived on the evening of 28th April, and the following morning were greeted officially in the Assembly Room by our Bailiff, Craig Gershater (Mayor and Deputy Mayor were unfortunately unable to attend, so Craig very ably welcomed them). In the afternoon they made a visit to Tangmere Aviation Museum, and the evening was taken up with a most enjoyable and convivial dinner at the Walnut Tree at Runcton.

Saturday was completely taken up with a visit to Lewes, with a tour of Lewes Castle and a friendly pub lunch, followed by a couple of hours in Brighton, where some enjoyed the views of the sea - Chartres not being situated near the sea – and others simply sat and chatted over snacks and drinks, relaxing after a full day.

Sunday was a day mostly organised by their hosts, some joining together for joint activities, while in the evening everyone brought food to share at Fishbourne Club.

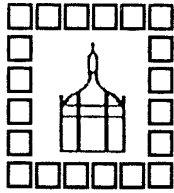
We all met up at 7.15 on Monday morning to see our friends off on their coach and back to Chartres. Altogether, a very friendly and successful weekend. Next year it will be Chichester's turn to travel to Chartres to meet once again with our friends.

Our next event will be the Four Cities event on 26th June in the Assembly Room, when, as part of the Festival of Chichester, the joint twinning associations will hold 'An Evening with Author Simon Brett' in the Assembly Room. Simon is a most entertaining performer. Tickets are £12 and include refreshments from France, Italy and Malta after the talk (next year, after Speyer has set up membership of their new association, they will also provide nibbles and drinks) – all welcome! And then, on 15th July, we will be attending our annual Friends of Chartres Garden Party in the garden of vice-chairman Michael Bevis.

If any City Councillors want to know more about any of the twinings, all of which have been officially signed by the Mayor of the day, please make contact.

Anne Scicluna

Chairman, Friends of Chartres



FRIENDS OF RAVENNA

CHICHESTER

Friends of Ravenna Report for the Chichester Community Affairs meeting on Monday 5 June 2023

Programme of Events 2023

On 15th March we learned about Naples as an early centre of learning. Dr Lorenzo Gaianfrancesco, Senior Lecturer at Chichester University came and gave us a most interesting talk on the intellectual climate and scientific developments in 17th century Naples.

On 26th April Charles Hind, Chief Curator and H J Heinz Curator of Drawings at the Royal Institute old British Architects came to speak about Anglo-Palladian architecture.

We celebrated our year together as Friends of Ravenna with a social evening at St Paul's Church Hall, Chichester, Jonathan Rogers from Vin Wines in Emsworth came with 6 Italian wines to taste. We enjoyed 'spuntini gustosi' (tasty snacks) and a game of 'Call my Bluff' to round off the evening.

The AGM will also be held at St Pauls' Hall, presided over by our new Mayor. This will be followed by a shared meal at Franco Manca.

Programme of Events 2023-2024

The new Programme Card has been printed and is now available for Members. Subjects include: a talk from Canon Ruddock entitled 'Roman Reflections, Italian design in transport (think beautiful cars!), Italian gardens, the rise and fall of fascism in Italy, the city of Matera, Ravenna mosaics, a Roman invasion?

Developments

The new President of Friends of Chichester is Livia Caprara.

The Ravennati will visit 4-8th October 2023 and a planning group is currently working out the programme

The Committee agreed at a meeting on 11th May that it would celebrate our 30th anniversary in 2026 with a special programme (rather than belatedly celebrate our missed (Covid!) 25th!) There may be an opportunity to invite a music ensemble from Ravenna.

We have had an enquiry from one of the Friends of Chichester about the possibility of choirs in both cities participating in an exchange.

The Dante sculpture has been made. Planning advice and permission is still in the process of being sought for its installation in Midhurst.

In April, Liz Turner and I were invited to share with a Year 5 Group (10 year olds) about Italy and Ravenna as part of their curriculum that involves the children taking part in learning about Europe. Their Year Group teachers wanted to find a local connection and so they got in touch with us because of the twinning link. The feedback has been very positive.

Recent news

Responding to the news of terrible flooding in Emilia-Romagna, friends sent a group as well as individual gifts to express our support at this difficult time.

Membership

In the process of renewals, we cannot give a precise number at this time.

Jacky Storey
Chair Friends of Ravenna

AGENDA ITEM 7

Friends of Valletta

Report to Community Affairs Committee



June 2023

Past Events

On 9 March Dr Karsten Xuereb, who since 2020 has been working on a project addressing UNESCO sites with particular reference to Valletta, gave an interesting Zoom talk on the issues facing Valletta's Heritage.

Tourism is a key source of income for Malta and on 5 April Claudette Buttigieg gave a Zoom talk on the aspects of Maltese culture used to promote tourism.

Future Programme

The Friends have invited the cast of a musical about World War II to give a performance of "Star of Strait Street" in the Assembly Room at 7.30 pm on 19 June. Tickets are available from the Novium priced £10. The visitors arrive on 16 June and a programme will be discussed with them showing them around the city and local places of interest.

The annual Garden Party at my house, previously planned for July, has been brought forward to Sunday afternoon 18 June so the cast, and our members will have the opportunity to meet informally.

The Four Cities event in support of the Festival of Chichester will be on Monday 26 June in the Assembly Room at 7.30 pm when Simon Brett will be the guest speaker.

The Committee is currently looking at the possibility of a group visit to Malta later in the year.

General

Anne continues to prepare issues of the Melita newsletter every two months for members with interesting articles from various sources as we are concerned to keep in touch with our members, and she always keen to receive new material.

Graham Pound
Chairman, Friends of Valletta

Report to: Chichester City Council - Community Affairs
for its Meeting on Monday 5th June 2023

From: Paula Chatfield, Chair of Chichester Tree Wardens

Date: 29th May 2023

Firstly a warm welcome to Councillors newly elected and/or new to this Committee. Chichester Tree Wardens' are volunteers who work to promote, protect and plant trees, with a focus on the right tree for the right place with the right care. (An overview of the Tree Warden scheme and what we do is included as an Appendix.)

Since we last reported (1st March 2023), Chichester Tree Wardens' volunteer activities to promote trees and encourage protection of and planting trees include:

- Representations made on the Submission Draft Local Plan (not yet published online by Chichester District Council, but the thrust being to encourage CDC to produce a [Trees and Woodland Strategy](#)).
- Supporting the Novium's Earth Day event in Priory Park on Saturday 22nd April, including an information and activity stand and "How Trees Work" talk-and-walks by the County Arboriculturist. (We handed out over 100 Tree Spotters' Challenge sheets created for the event. A photo of this sheet can be found in the [Events Archive](#) on our website.)
- On Monday 8th May, I joined volunteers from St Paul's Church to record their churchyard trees as part of our [ChiTrees project](#). They will use the results to support their [Eco Church](#) endeavours.
- Tree recording recommenced more generally with practice sessions taking place on Tuesday 16th May at Oaklands Park and on Thursday 18th May at New Park Recreation Ground. In response to feedback, we intend to draw up a programme of group recording sessions in addition to encouraging independent recording.
- We issued [young tree watering guidance](#) on 3rd May and are in the process of touching base with volunteer waterers from previous years. The last 2 weeks of dry weather, with strong winds, have highlighted once again how important it is to have a watering regime in place.
- We have decided not to continue with our [Mind the Gap](#) crowdfunder for new trees, as we were unable to promote it effectively last year. West Sussex County Council continues to offer its [donate-a-tree scheme](#) aimed at facilitating neighbours to request trees in public highway verges where they live. The required donation per tree (traditionally representing half the cost to WSCC) has risen to £236.20 with April's price increase.
- Our website now includes a new Orchards and Copses section ([Orchards and Copses \(treesinchi.org\)](#)); details of the fruit trees in the Oaklands Park Community Orchard; and a volunteering form for Chichester District Council-led working parties at [Brandy Hole Copse](#). I continue to work with CDC on behalf of Friends of Brandy Hole Copse.

Public Highway (WSCC) Trees

After a transition period, the online public reporting system for concerns relating to highway trees managed by West Sussex County Council changed in April 2023 and this is the new [link](#). Although we can contact WSCC's local tree officer direct, the reporting system enables the volume of work to be logged and more easily managed. Each report is allocated a job number. Examples we have reported include concerns about the health of trees and to check if consent has been given where a highway

AGENDA ITEM 7

tree seems to have been removed to facilitate construction works. (The latter has resulted in WSCC action to ensure safe working on the highway and require a replacement tree.)

Chichester District Council has announced that its **“Tree Chichester District” scheme** will continue for a further 2 tree-planting seasons (2023/24 and 2024/25) thanks to DEFRA extending its project to investigate ways to increase tree cover in communities across the country ([press release 24th May](#)). We understand that details for this year are not yet known (each year has had a different focus - 2020/21: promoting others’ free tree schemes; 2021/22: free whips; 2022/23: subsidised whips - alongside supporting other authorities’ pilot schemes e.g. for orchards, hedges).

Coming Up

in addition to sustaining our routine promotion of trees, responding to enquiries, watering, etc:

- We are working with Chichester Festival Theatre staff as part of CFT’s participation in [Big Green Week \(10th to 18th June\)](#).
- The first of a new monthly series of Working Parties at Brandy Hole Copse, led by CDC, takes place on Tuesday 13th June. Volunteers will be cutting back laurel.
- We will host “Art in the Park: Celebrating Chichester’s Trees” with local artist [Fiona Bell Currie](#) and sculptor Sue Machado as part of the Festival of Chichester on **Thursday 6th July** in Bishop’s Palace Gardens.
- Our new North-East Chichester Tree Trail is under development. We have mapped the route and which trees will be featured. The next steps are to complete our research for each tree, write it up with route instructions, and publish online.

Professor John Richardson has resigned as our Tree Warden in Franklin Place, after 24 years in this role. I have no doubt he will continue to champion trees and have really appreciated his support over the last few years since I became Chair. His resignation email made me smile, as he hopes to encourage someone new to take his place: “if I do not resign now, no replacement will come forward”!

With best wishes,

Paula (tel. 07788 140698; email paula@parklands-chichester.org)

Appendix: Chichester Tree Wardens and the national Tree Warden Scheme

The Tree Warden Scheme is a national initiative to enable people to play an active role in conserving and enhancing their local trees and woods. The scheme was founded in 1990 and is co-ordinated by The Tree Council, the charity which set it up. Tree Wardens (TWs) are volunteers, who gather information about their local trees, get involved in local tree matters and encourage local practical projects related to trees and woods. West Sussex County Council’s County Arboriculturist (now Jordan Walker) co-ordinates the scheme at a county level, and has historically provided resources, training, advice and guidance.

Volunteers are appointed by civic parish area and work with their parish, district, borough, town and city councils for the benefit of the local environment and local community. There are currently 9 Chichester Tree Wardens appointed for Chichester City Council’s area. (This number has dropped from 13, as many of our long-standing older volunteers have chosen to retire.)

AGENDA ITEM 7

As volunteers, TWs do not have any special powers and take on only what each of us can handle. Chichester Tree Wardens currently do our best to:

- Familiarise ourselves with the trees in the areas we cover and where we get out and about, finding out who owns/manages them, keeping an eye on their health and anticipating/reporting any problems;
- Participate in training to improve our knowledge and skills and continue to learn about trees (from practical to policy matters);
- Raise the profile of trees in the city, and improve understanding, including organising/taking part in tree talks, tree awareness events, tree trails and encouraging civic pride in our tree heritage;
- Communicate with local people interested in trees and respond to queries about trees, trying to find ways that trees and people can support each other and sign-posting relevant information/contacts (we are not qualified to give advice);
- Be aware of development proposals and consider their impact on trees, and the impact trees have on both people and place (including wildlife); respond constructively to planning applications;
- Contribute to the formulation/evolution of CDC planning policy in relation to trees and the environment and other important policies where trees have a part to play e.g. air quality, biodiversity;
- Encourage the creation of a Tree Strategy for Chichester;
- Look for opportunities to improve the local environment by planting appropriate trees in appropriate locations and encouraging replacement planting where trees have been lost.

Our ChiTrees project is a step towards creating an inventory of Chichester's trees (the city's tree "asset base") and understanding the ecosystem services these trees provide.

In September 2018, we were invited by Chichester City Council to report to its Community Affairs Committee as a way of raising awareness of trees in Chichester and the work of our volunteers.

END

AGENDA ITEM 7

COUNCILLOR REPORT

Report from Councillor Rhys Chant following a visit on 26 May 2023 to UKHarvest Warehouse in Donnington

Following the attendance of UKHarvest to the Community Groups Briefing (23 May 2023), both the Town Clerk and I attended an open morning at the UKHarvest depot and warehouse in Donnington on Friday 26 May 2023.

This open morning involved a round table presentation from members of the UKHarvest organisation and we received some incredible insight into the operation. We were shown round the warehouse where they have both refrigeration and freezer storage containers which contained high-quality, diverse ingredients and foodstuffs including over-prepared KFC chicken, expensive cheeses which were going to go to waste and fresh herbs which they had frozen.

The operation is immense. The work which UK Harvest do is truly understated, even at the evening of May 23rd, you really must stand in their freezers and hear who they support to grasp the brilliant work that they do.

Their work aligns with the Liberal Democrat ambition for a healthier, happier and more environmentally friendly future and I believe is an organisation which we should fully support.

During their presentation, they explained that some of the work they do is around cookery courses and demonstrations, in addition to a project funded by Hammersmith and Fulham Council. This project, known as a Community Café, provides affordable meals which are nutritious, tasty and good quality to all in the community who want in – in the process ensuring that families and communities are able to access food which is good for them and also combating the overwhelming environmental issue of food waste and landfill.

It would be my feeling, as a Councillor, that we should aim to a similar ambition within our Business Plan through collaboration with Chichester District Council and West Sussex County Council, to find somewhere suitable, being affordable and accessible, for UK Harvest to be offered the opportunity to create and run a Community Café within Chichester City. This would be a brilliant opportunity to put the community at the centre of our work, to ensure that more people have access to affordable and nutritious food, to combat food waste and the environmental impact of wasted produce, and to earmark Chichester as a city which seeks to eradicate hunger, improve environmental conditions and that puts all citizens at the heart of it's operation through community projects which will make a difference to everyone; from students, to families, to the elderly – a life long project for the community.

Rangers' replacement, Chichester City Centre

Proposal May 2023

Background

Since 2018, Chichester BID, in partnership with Chichester City council, have provided City Rangers. There have never been any significant issues.

The Rangers were SIA accredited and were provided by Blayde Security, who are an approved contractor (ACS) company with the SIA and has been for the past 8 years scoring in the top 25% of ACS companies – meaning they are gold standard bearers in the industry (a good benchmark for us when choosing our provider).

Our issue is that since the incident on March 22nd 2023 at Superdrug, East Street, the Chichester Rangers brand and role has become a talking point in relation to the incident. Many comments from the public have been very negative specifically around the Rangers modus operandi, although it should be stated that comments about the Rangers from local businesses have overwhelmingly been positive post the incident.

However, all things considered, it is felt that we should now rebrand the Rangers, tweak the role and expectation and relaunch the new service to the city residents and BID Levy payers. We wish to do this in full consultation with Chichester City Council as a potential part funder, Chichester District Council, chiBAC and Sussex Police. We are aiming to get the new service back on the streets of the city centre by July 2023. We do not believe we should wait for the outcome of the police investigation to relaunch as we have been informed the investigation could be a long process.

Having discussed the above intention with the District Commander for Arun and Chichester Police, taken a view from all BID Levy payers through an online survey, researched how other BID's have set up their city security service and gained input and feedback from key partners (Chichester City Council, Chichester District Council and chiBAC), please find below Chichester BID'S proposal for the re launch of the Chichester BID service.

The Proposal

The Service:

Chichester BID will provide 2 operatives, working in the city centre for a minimum of 3 no. 6 hours shifts weekly. These hours could be increased dependent on peak footfall, time of year and available funding.

The newly created service will be called **Chichester BID City Ambassadors**.

First Floor, 82 North Street, Chichester, West Sussex, PO19 1LQ
E: office@chichesterbid.co.uk T: 01243 773263 W: www.chichesterbid.co.uk

The Objective:

- To increase the safety and security in Chichester City Centre through a highly visible presence in the city centre
- To provide support to businesses when experiencing anti-social behaviour and shoplifting
- A commitment to enhancing the city's inviting atmosphere for all who work, visit, study, and live here.
- Provide a suitable solution to the issues that city businesses and shoppers face on a daily basis in respect of Pedlars and Buskers and other traders to name a but a few.

The BID's monitoring of these activities will promote a less congested, more organised and safer city centre which will benefit our whole community, shoppers and businesses alike.

Implementation Plan:

- The BID will partner with Blayde Security Ltd to provide 2 operatives per shift (preferably one male and one female) – from amongst their SIA, ACS fully accredited, professionally trained staff. It is important that the team is SIA accredited as SIA trained staff are proficient in dealing with confrontation and First Aid – which will be very useful skills in this role.
- The City Ambassadors will be easy to spot in their highly visible Chichester BID City Ambassador branded uniform and will patrol the BID area. City Ambassadors will focus on patrolling the street area and only in exceptional circumstances, will step across the threshold into a business to assist.
- City Ambassadors will always carry body cams and the chiBAC radio, and never carry hand cuffs.
- The City Ambassadors will be working with key BID partners, including Chichester Police and chiBAC and the Chichester District Council Wardens, and will take a friendly approach to deter antisocial behaviour or disorderly conduct and act as a reassuring presence to curtail potential crime, particularly shoplifting.
- City Ambassadors will serve as a welcoming presence, available to give information and assistance to residents and visitors to the town.
- Their responsibility is to act as the interface between the shop front and the street; they will patrol the city centre to prevent, intervene and report crime to the relevant authorities; deter anti-social, offensive or obstructive behaviour; provide advice and directions to visitors. In short – they will facilitate enforcement but will not enact enforcement.
- Facilitating enforcement in practice means:
 - Calling emergency services if required
 - Attend site of disturbance / emergency
 - Feedback to all relevant authorities as required during incident
 - Ensure safety of staff and public during the course of the incident
 - Monitor ongoing situation
 - Will not attempt to restrain offenders

First Floor, 82 North Street, Chichester, West Sussex, PO19 1LQ

E: office@chichesterbid.co.uk T: 01243 773263 W: www.chichesterbid.co.uk

- The City Ambassador's presence on the streets of Chichester does not replace everyone's responsibility to continue reporting all incidents to West Sussex County Council, Chichester District Council or Sussex Police, but they will be there now to help the city's businesses and residents do this more effectively.
- The City Ambassador's will use the chiBAC DISC system for reporting and identifying suspects, in addition to submitting a written report – detailing all incidents. This report is lodged with both Blayde Security and Chichester BID at the end of each shift.
- Chichester BID and Blayde Security will commit to meet at least quarterly to review the role, performance and progress of the City Ambassador's and an annual review where costs and the overall operation are reviewed.

Summary

The role of City Ambassador's differs from that of the Rangers in just a few key but important ways. Given that Rangers were voted on in the Business plan in 2021, it is important that the service we offer does not radically change from what was voted on but is a tweak and no more. In summary, the key differences are as follows:

1. The predominant difference to the public and businesses will be the change of name of the service and the deployment of different personnel.
2. City Ambassadors are not active enforcers and therefore will not carry handcuffs.
3. City Ambassadors will be in a highly visible uniform that does not look like a "security" uniform. (We are researching options like branded polo shirts in a vibrant colour, with matching fleece and wet weather gear).
4. City Ambassadors will only by exception go into business premises to assist. Their role is to stay out in the street and be visible to the public and businesses alike.
5. City Ambassadors will not be a substitute security guard for some of our larger retail businesses but will still be able to support in helping those businesses to be more self-supportive.

These subtle differences are important and will need to be explained quite clearly to a minority of some of the BID Levy payers.

Next Steps

1. Meet with the following key partners to agree final strategy and implementation plan:
 - Sussex Police
 - Chichester City Council
 - ChiBAC
 - Chichester District Council
2. Once we have agreement with our key partners, we will approach Blayde and discuss the new requirements and agree the new uniform and personnel.

First Floor, 82 North Street, Chichester, West Sussex, PO19 1LQ

E: office@chichesterbid.co.uk T: 01243 773263 W: www.chichesterbid.co.uk

3. We will then proceed to launch to the BID levy payers via our Newsletter and individual meetings with key retailers.
4. We will send out a press release about the new role so City residents (who in the main were our most vocal critics during the incident) are informed.
5. Launch the “new” City Ambassador service for July 2023

Helen Marshall

Chair / CEO Chichester BID

First Floor, 82 North Street, Chichester, West Sussex, PO19 1LQ
E: office@chichesterbid.co.uk T: 01243 773263 W: www.chichesterbid.co.uk



Chichester City Council

MEMBERSHIP OF OUTSIDE BODIES – 2023-2024

Body	Effective 01/07/2023	Period
Brandy Hole Copse Local Nature Reserve Management Board		to 30/06/2024
Chichester City Centre Partnership (BID) Board of Directors		to 30/06/2024
Chichester City Neighbourhood Plan		to 30/06/2024
Chichester City Public Realm Project Board		to 30/06/2024
Chichester Conservation Area Advisory Committee	Councillor Anne Scicluna (at present)	to 30/06/2024
Chichester District Association of Local Councils Chichester Sub-District		to 30/06/2024
Chichester District Car Parking Forum		to 30/06/2024
Chichester District Council All Parishes Meeting		to 30/06/2024
Chichester in Partnership (formerly) Local Strategic Partnership (CDC)		to 20/06/2024
Chichester Information Shop for Young People		to 30/06/2024
Chichester Vision Steering Group		to 30/06/2024
Chichester Welfare Trusts		to 30/06/2024
Evening and Night Time Economy Working Group (ENTE)		to 30/06/2024
Friends of Chartres Executive Committee	Mayor in Office as President + up to 2 Councillors Councillor Anne Scicluna (at present)	to 30/06/2024
Friends of Ravenna Executive Committee	Mayor in Office as President + up to 2 Councillors Councillor Anne Scicluna (at present)	to 30/06/2024
Friends of Speyer Executive Committee	Mayor in Office as President +up to 2 Councillors	to 30/06/2024

AGENDA ITEM 11

Friends of Valletta Executive Committee	Mayor in Office as President + up to 2 Councillors Councillor Anne Scicluna (at present)	to 30/06/2024
Goodwood Airfield Consultative Committee		to 30/06/2024
Goodwood Motor Circuit Consultative Committee		to 30/06/2024
New Park Centre	Councillor Anne Scicluna (at present)	to 30/06/2024
Oliver Whitby Foundation (C of E only)	Councillor Anne Scicluna (at present)	to 30/06/2024
Oxmarket Centre of Arts		to 30/06/2024
Rolls Royce	Mayor in Office	
St John's Chapel Trust (a 3-year term)	Councillor Anne Scicluna (at present) – renewed in 2022, due to run until 30/06/2025	to 30/06/2025
Sussex Community Rail Partnership Arun Valley Steering Group		to 30/06/2024
West Sussex Association of Local Councils (WSALC)		to 30/06/2024

AGENDA ITEM 12

Green Spaces Fire Wardens

A proposal from Councillor Corfield

Presented at the meeting of the Community Affairs Committee
5 June 2023

Last summer, we all watched our TVs, horrified, as a wild fire swept in across a field on the outskirts of London. It threatened, and then devoured the houses at the edge of Wennington. More locally, we had our own wild fires to contend with.

It was shocking to watch the speed of the flames on TV, knowing the climate emergency will make these more frequent events.

With the need to prepare for these inevitable wild fires I have spoken with Fire Chief, Anton Mezzone, at Chichester Fire Station, to suggest a project for volunteers to act as **Green Space Fire Wardens**. He was very enthusiastic, offered to lead on volunteer training, and has shared the idea within the Fire Service, who are also very positive about the initiative.

I have developed a project plan to recruit and train volunteers, assign them to specific green spaces within our boundaries, and enable them to 'Fire-Watch'.

Once established, the activity should become self-managed, with Fire Service support.

This Committee is asked to support the plan as a community project start up with a small fund of less than £250 for printing flyers, a pitch at the July Gala and free use of the Assembly Rooms for a Public meeting.

I am also looking for a few hours' engagement from Councillors from each of the wards to facilitate the setting up of Ward-Specific Groups.

Councillor Maureen Corfield

Motion to Full Council of the City of Chichester

Cost of living support – Establishing a Hygiene Bank in Chichester City Council Building

Proposer: Rhys Chant

Seconder: Louise Pramas

This council notes that:

- a) In June 2022, a Plan International UK survey found that nearly one in four girls were struggling to afford period products since the cost of living crisis began, and nearly one in five reported being unable to afford sanitary products at all
- b) The survey by Plan International UK found that girls and women across the country were cutting back on food, other resources and particularly for younger girls school supplies, to afford period products
- c) According to the Poverty Report 2022 from the Hygiene Bank, hygiene poverty impacts 6% of the overall adult population, 13% of those from lower-income households and disproportionately impacts those who are disabled
- d) According to the [Homelessness in England 2022](#) report from Shelter, an estimated 166 people are homeless in Chichester (of which 59 are estimated to be children); Shelter estimates 6 in 10 homeless people living in temporary accommodation in England are women ([2021](#)).
- e) People who are suffering from hygiene poverty are at an increased risk of poor mental and physical health
- f) Surrey County Council, Oxford City Council and Southwark Council have all already acted to curate schemes to provide free period and hygiene products
- g) In a YouGov survey undertaken in 2022, at least two-thirds of Britons supported making it a legal requirement for local authorities to provide free period products,

Furthermore, the Council notes locally that:

- a) There is a local branch of the Hygiene Bank who provide access to hygiene products through school services.
- b) There are severe areas of deprivation within our City and the cost of living is exacerbating these issues
- c) There is currently a lack of a comprehensive service, supported by local government body, who is supporting those experiencing hygiene poverty

This council believes that:

- a) No-one should experience hygiene poverty

This council resolves to

- a) Request the Town Clerk to draft an application for Chichester City Council to register as a member of the Hygiene Bank Scheme.

AGENDA ITEM 13

- b) Request the Finance Officer to conduct a brief report establishing an estimated cost for installing and maintaining a Hygiene Bank, to then be submitted for approval by the relevant part of the council
- c) Establish a Hygiene Bank at Chichester City Council

Supplementary Report for Hygiene Bank Motion

Across the country, in response to the rising cost of living, there is a growing section of the population who are having to choose between food and bills. Inflation is at a record high of +8.9%, according to the Office of National Statistics, in the twelve months between March 2022 and 2023. Household goods have particularly driven this increase, as the cost of living rises whilst wages have continued to stagnate, with a significant rise in the cost of food staples such as bread, wheat and cereals which rose 19.4% in the year to March 2023.

Nationally, Plan International UK conducted a survey which revealed that in response to the increased cost of food and household goods, there is rising number of women and girls who are unable to afford sanitary and hygiene products, with the number being as high as 1 in 5. Moreover, the Hygiene Bank's Poverty Report for 2022 revealed that since 2018, the charity has provided more than 1,059,000kg of hygiene products to families and communities through schools, foodbanks, family support services and other local support groups.

In spite of Chichester's relatively wealthy appearance, there is a real concern about the increasing impact of the rising of cost of living and the hidden deprivation and poverty experienced across the City. Particularly in Chichester East and South, where there is a prevalent number of current and former social housing, there is a real risk of an ongoing financial struggle where families are faced between buying goods for their household and paying for the bills to keep the heat and lights on.

Work is already being done by both UK Harvest and the Trussell Trust Chichester District Foodbank to provide and support families and communities in immediate and ongoing issues relating to food parcels and the cost of living crisis. However, there is no centralised or committed place for access to additional supplies which may be unaffordable to those suffering in the cost-of-living crisis. Whilst the Hygiene Bank Chichester, who are doing credible work through schools and other outlets, are providing an element of support, there is room for the City Council to make a meaningful, lasting and empowering contribution for our residents.

Through this motion, I am proposing that we establish a Chichester City Hygiene Pantry, similar to those previously established at Bracklesham and the Witterings, through a collaboration between ourselves, the community and the Hygiene Bank Chichester. This motion provides consent for the Town Clerk to draft an application, on behalf of the City Council, to become a member of the Hygiene Bank and act as an outlet to provide access to sanitary products, toothpaste and brushes, hairbrushes, toilet paper, nappies and wipes, deodorant etc.

In addition to our collaboration with the Hygiene Bank, I am also asking for the City Council to decide a relevant figure which we will contribute to the procurement of supplies, on a monthly basis, to supplement and bolster the products available at our Hygiene Bank. My suggestion for doing this is to delegate for the Finance Officer to investigate the potential cost to reasonably stock the supplies on a monthly basis and to make this money available within our precept.

This will make a real change. The City Council will be sending a message out to residents that, in our post-covid world, in a nation undergoing financial crisis and where people are forced to pick between heating and eating, that there is someone out there who cares, that we as a Council care about our residents and that we can, and that we will, support them in any way that we can.

Councillor Rhys Chant