

## Chichester Ward Councillor report

### From Councillor Sarah Sharp Chichester District Council, Chichester South

Presented at the meeting of the Council of the City of Chichester  
28 June 2023

#### 1) Impact of Voter ID on election results

This was the first election where you needed Voter ID to vote.

Ward	The number of polling station electors who applied for, but were not issued with, a ballot paper	The number of polling station electors who were not issued with a ballot paper and who later returned with accepted ID and were issued with a ballot paper
Chichester Central	1	1
Chichester East	3	0
Chichester North	6	5
Chichester South	2	2
Chichester West	6	1
Whole of the District	119	70

Across the whole country this added up to 14,000 people.

The government portal to apply for voter authority certificates is available at all times as voters will be required to use ID for any by-elections etc that come up or to prepare for a potential general election. Chichester District Council are able to process applications and take photos in the offices free of charge. Please encourage residents to ring 01243 521010 to make an appointment to get the necessary documentation so that they won't be excluded from voting for the next election or alternatively email [elections@chichester.gov.uk](mailto:elections@chichester.gov.uk).

#### 2) Launch of a new Euro 6 buses on the 700 Coastliner route and 500

There are new, cleaner buses and new timetables. There will also be a new 500 service to Littlehampton starting in July.

Tickets still cost £2 for a single and make a good day out. For a week from 23<sup>rd</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> the 500 to Littlehampton will be free for all journeys.

#### 3) Change to Parking Permits

Digital permits will soon be available for drivers purchasing on-street parking permits in the district. From 4 July 2023, customers will be gradually moved over to MiPermit digital permits, with paper versions no longer being issued or used. CDC issues on-street permits on behalf of the highway authority, West Sussex County Council, and over the last couple of years officers have been working to switch to an entirely online permit service. The change means that all the information relating to the permit is held against the registration number of a

person's vehicle and it will benefit our customers as they will be able to manage their permits online using a secure account, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, at a time to suit them. For those customers who don't have access to the internet, officers have put in place a system for them, and there is also a dedicated phone where residents can listen to all the relevant information - the number is 01243 534500 and customers should select option 2.

Going paperless will also deliver further benefits to customers, these include: • customers no longer needing to wait for permits / replacement permits to be posted; and, • no longer needing to display a permit in their vehicle. In addition, permits cannot be lost, stolen or fall from view in the vehicle. Customers won't be moved over to the digital MiPermit system until their existing on-street permit is due to be renewed, or, if a change of vehicle registration for their current paper permit is needed. Customers should continue to display their paper permit in their vehicle until they receive further notice. From July 4, the council will also stop selling paper Resident Visitor Permits (RVPs) although any existing RVPs will be honoured for use onstreet for as long as they are valid. Residents can still buy visitor permits using the council's eform at: [www.chichester.gov.uk/residentvisitorpermits](http://www.chichester.gov.uk/residentvisitorpermits) until July 4. The council has also produced a series of Frequently Asked Questions and details on how digital permits work which can be found at: [www.chichester.gov.uk/digitalcontrolledparkingzones](http://www.chichester.gov.uk/digitalcontrolledparkingzones). People can also email [parkingservices@chichester.gov.uk](mailto:parkingservices@chichester.gov.uk) if they need further help.

#### **4) Friends of the Amphitheatre**

A date is being set for September to set up a new group to champion this possibly slightly unloved area of Chichester. The aim is to raise awareness via an event about the history of the amphitheatre in the short term and to work with residents, users of the space, the wider public and Novium/CFT/Great Sussex Way etc to bring focus and enhance this space.

#### **5) Whyke Developments**

A new group has been set up to champion the Kingsham Area of Chichester. Kingsham Area Action Group has visited the empty shop on Hardham Road. It is planning a community event in the summer on the Whyke Oval on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> August with the support of UK Harvest and the Neighbourhood Funding pot of the District Council. The aim is to provide local activities and reduce social isolation, hunger and provide activities for younger people. The City Council has kindly agreed to help with this event (dealing with money matters until the new group has a bank account) and potentially help on the day. As Sussex Clubs for Young People is no longer delivering the promised youth engagement sessions during the summer this Fun Day will be more important for the community.

#### **6) Arundel Park**

Negotiations re the Sea Cadet lease are ongoing. Two dates have been booked with the Sea Cadets to engage with the local community on the issue of the 106 Public Art monies linked with Bartholomews: Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> September 6 – 8 pm and Monday 25<sup>th</sup> September 3.00 – 5.00 pm. These events are drop-ins and will cover any matters raised by local residents.

There is a **Play Day** Community Event on August 16<sup>th</sup> (2-4pm) which is being planned with a sustainability theme on Florence Park with the support of C.A.R.E – Charles Avenue Residents' Engagement, Clarion and a growing number of charities. This is using the money applied for by Cllr Gaskin in the last administration.

#### **7) Choose Work**

This is a service to support people into work. They have resumed face to face workshops. They are a good way to ease people into addressing mental health issues or other barriers to work generally and overcome challenges to moving on: [Choose Work Programme - Chichester District Council](#)

Residents can contact the team at [choosework@chichester.gov.uk](mailto:choosework@chichester.gov.uk) or call on 01243 534889.

## **Chichester Division Councillor report**

### **From Councillor Sarah Sharp West Sussex County Council, Chichester South**

Presented at the meeting of the Council of the City of Chichester  
28 June 2023

#### **1) Major Road Re-Surfacing Project in Chichester South**

The condition of the roads on the Whyke Estate were assessed after reports to me from residents that requests for repairs to the junction near Bramber and Cherry Orchard hadn't been actioned going back 30 years. The roads scored quite highly, and as such they made it into the short list for next year's works programme. The County are currently going through the design process. Once this design process is complete, the intention is to include the works in the next tender package. This package will go out to prospective contractors in September, with a contract being awarded in early 2024 to the successful bidder, and construction taking place around this time next year.

However, whilst the above is the intention, at this early stage next year's works programmes are draft only and the council can't guarantee what works will be included in them just yet. Exactly how much work that can be included in next year's programme is as always dependent on budgets, which are not set until later in the year.

I felt that these works were important and followed on from works on York Road where implementation of the re-surfacing had been slightly problematical.

#### **2) Repainting of Lines and Signs**

Some 20mph roundels have also been re-painted on Cleveland Road after having been reported many months ago. If you have concerns about lines and signs it is worth reporting using this link: [Road markings and signs - West Sussex County Council](#)

#### **3) Active Travel Strategy**

The County's new Active Travel concentrates on walking, wheeling and cycling and was scrutinised by the Communities, Highways and Environment Scrutiny Committee on which I serve. As central government spending on Active Travel has been cut by £200m the cuts are affecting priorities. Cycling improvements are seen as more expensive and so there is greater concentration on walking. However, the National Audit Office casts doubt on whether Active Travel England or the Department for Transport will achieve their decarbonisation targets to limit climate change.

There is a renewed focus on young people and active travel and the introduction of School Streets. I am talking to Rumboldswyke and Kingsham Primary School about the potentials of this scheme where I know that parent

parking is an issue. There are currently no plans for spending on school streets in the Chichester District. (£30k was allocated to 5 other schools in the county as part of the package to improve West Sussex's grading by Active Travel England. WSCC is currently graded as zero and so can't bid into more funds until it has improved its grading to 1).

When the Active Travel Strategy is open to public consultation (in September) it would be important to send in views. The relevant side-lining of cycling (due to expense) is of concern to me as micro mobility (especially with e-scooters and e-bikes) is an easier way to shift more journeys out of the car than walking that can't replace slightly longer journeys so easily.

#### **4) Food Provision and Schools**

I visited one of my schools in Chichester South and was told that families and staff are reliant on the Foodbank especially due to mortgage increases. I am trying to encourage the County Council to do a piece of work on dependency to analyse the reasons and to see if more permanent solutions might be possible that are less complicated and bring more dignity.

I have written to all my schools and nurseries in Chichester South with details of the Household Support Fund provided by the County, the Supporting You team at District as well as the UK Harvest Community Food Hubs that staff and families can hopefully access in the school holidays.

#### **5) Carbon Literacy Training**

Some County Councillors, including myself, have completed Carbon Literacy Training. Part of this training involved making a pledge that in my role as a County Councillor I would need to support new groups being set up at very local level eg at the Parish Council level to work on the environment and climate change.

It would be good if Chichester City Councillors could get more involved in supporting actions at the parish level with a Climate Change group and potentially organising more events for the Great Big Green Week next year. This is a nationwide week co-organised by a local resident for the UK wide organisation, the Climate Coalition.

You can see the work of the Great Big Green Week organisation here: [Great Big Green Week](#)

There is also this interactive map from the County Council that could usefully be populated with more local activities supporting our journey to zero carbon: [Community Climate Action Map | Your Voice West Sussex](#)

#### **6) Bognor Road**

I will be sending in a more detailed report about the Community Highways Scheme for Bognor Road for the P&C meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> July. This application was first made in July 2021. It was assessed last year but failed to score highly enough against all the other applications in the County. Getting written support from Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group and the City Council will be key to try and get the scheme over the line.

## **7) City Centre Pavements - Update**

West Sussex have now received a revised quote from WSP for design work and officers took this proposal to the recent Highways Hub to try and secure a budget for this.

County officers have begun drafting an outline business case to support a funding proposal for designs and engagement. This business case will highlight the justification for investment set against the wider capital programme investment priorities for WSCC. Should external funding become available, the County will be in a better position to be able to attract inward investment.

- 8) I hold regular Cllr Surgeries in the Library, second Saturday of the month 9.15 – 10.15 am (but I am having August off).  
Other appointments by mutual arrangement. The next appointment is Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> July.
- 9) I am organising two bus trips for July to encourage more use of buses and to find out about how other communities run their Community Spaces.  
July 15<sup>th</sup> trip to Portsmouth to visit the Library of Things.  
July 24<sup>th</sup> trip to Littlehampton to visit the Creative Heart Hub – the bus is free that week to mark the launch of the new 500 route.  
Please email [GreenSarahSharp@gmail.com](mailto:GreenSarahSharp@gmail.com) for more details.

## **10) June celebrates Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month**

There is a lot of ill feeling and discrimination towards these persecuted people. The pack gives the opportunity to find out about the rich and diverse histories, traditions and cultures of Irish Traveller, Romany Gypsy, Roma, New Traveller, Boater and Showmen communities..

[FFT\\_GRTHM\\_2023\\_Digital-Engagement-Pack.pdf \(gypsy-traveller.org\)](#)

Especially due to the new Police Act raising awareness of the difficulties associated with this lifestyle we need to work hard to challenge discrimination, racism and inequality experienced by Gypsy, Roma, and Travelling people whilst helping people to understand their rights. The theme of the month is “Weaving Journeys” looking at the pattern of journeys in the past and into the future to celebrate this unique lifestyle.

**Chichester Division Councillor report**  
**From Councillor Simon Oakley**  
**West Sussex County Council, Chichester East**

Presented at the meeting of the Council of the City of Chichester  
28 June 2023

- As part of WSCC's [Decision - Bus Services Improvement Plan/Enhanced Partnership Spending Plan HT14 \(22/23\) \(modern.gov.co.uk\)](#) , the new 500 Chichester – Littlehampton service is expected to commence on 2nd July. The 55 service's route is also changing on 2<sup>nd</sup> July to go to the Cathedral first then the bus station. [ServiceUpdatesArticle | Stagecoach \(stagecoachbus.com\)](#) . Improvements to other routes bus stops are being considered as part of the BSIP programme.
- The government funded £2 single fare scheme (as part of Help for Households) continues until 31st October 2023 before rising to £2.50 for a further 12 months. Overall bus patronage has not recovered to pre-covid levels.
- The second consultation (on more detailed design proposals) for the Tangmere – Chichester active travel route is currently expected to take place in the Autumn.
- Groundworks in preparation for the installation of
- the Western Shopwyke Lakes foot/cycle bridge is currently expected to commence in July.
- Operation Watershed funding for addressing flooding issues continues to be available.
- Proposals for further on street EVCPs in Chi East, in addition to the scheme on Palmers Field Avenue, are being progressed.
- The resurfacing of Spitalfield Lane, as part of WSCC's Highways, Transport and Planning Delivery Programme 2023-2024, has been completed. Also, as part of this programme, a design study is to be undertaken on a permanent scheme for the A286 Westhampnett Rd River Lavant embankment West of the Lidl roundabout.
- WSCC's Community Hub continues to provide help and advice on increasing range of subjects, including on Government grants (e.g. the Household Support Fund) in response to cost of living pressures. More info at [www.westsussex.gov.uk/CostOfLiving](http://www.westsussex.gov.uk/CostOfLiving)
- At present the Active Travel Strategy is intended to go out to public consultation in September. It is noticeable that Active Travel England is emphasising that most of any uplift in active travel movement will be via walking.
- WSCC is continuing to work closely with CDC on the Transport aspects of CDC's new Local Plan.
- Ofsted's latest report on WSCC's Children's Services can be found at [50216276 \(ofsted.gov.uk\)](#) .
- and
- as always to emphasise the need for residents to report issues via Authorities online reporting facilities. E.g. [Make an enquiry or report a problem with a road or pavement - West Sussex County Council](#) and [Operation Crackdown](#) .