

REPORT FROM CLLR CAROLINE HERRILL JANUARY 2015

Mayors Awards

Nominations from the community for people who deserve to be recognised for the work they do for the community. More details are on the WCC web site but please let me know if you would like to nominate someone and give me a short paragraph about them and their work in the community.

These need to be received by 31st January with the Award Ceremony to be held in the Bapsy Hall on Tuesday 17th March at 6pm.

Fly-tipping

Winchester City Council's Neighbourhood Services Team successfully prosecuted a builder responsible for dumping five dilapidated caravans in the picturesque lanes of the South Downs National Park north of Bishop's Waltham.

Working in partnership with Hampshire Constabulary's Country Watch Team, and with the assistance of members of the local rural community, they identified the individual who had used the caravans as temporary accommodation for his workforce whilst renovating a country manor. The London-based builder was found guilty on five charges of fly-tipping at Fareham Magistrates Court on Wednesday 7 January. The defendant was fined £200 per caravan and required to pay a victim surcharge of £20 and costs of £2,500 – a total of £3,520.

If you know of any issues please let me know.

Portfolio Plans

The Council's Portfolio Plans set out the priorities for the coming year via projects and programmes of work that will deliver the Community Strategy's key outcomes. They are part of the corporate planning cycle along with the Medium Term Financial Strategy and Workforce Strategy. To view them via web link: <http://www.winchester.gov.uk/councillors-committees/portfolio-holder-plans/>

Housing

CAB2631 - report taken at full council looking at the rent setting 2015/16 for social rents. Social, affordable and hostel rents for 2015/16 are to be increased by September CPI +1% from April 2015 giving an overall increase of 2.2%.

Enforcement

We have added 3 new members to the team, and I hope in the next couple of months we will see more activity resolve longstanding enforcement issues. I will keep you posted.

New Tree Officer information has been circulated to your Chairman

Recycling

2015 Winchester will be embarking on The Great Waste Project, which will be a year long campaign to reduce waste and increase levels of recycling across the District. We want to see reduced levels of contamination in recycling material and increased recycling rates.

Budgets

There was a budget briefing meeting for Parish Councils in December but there Attached is the Budget presentation and minutes. It discusses the guiding principles and priorities and key budget Principles like keeping council tax increase to a minimum, protecting front line services, reducing dependency on funding streams, maximising efficiency and value for money in all areas of activity and more.

Useful Information and fund streams available

Protecting Playing Fields – Sport England

The Protecting Playing Fields funding programme is part of Sport England's strategy which is focused on helping more people acquire lifelong sporting habits. It will invest in capital projects to either create new natural turf pitches or improve existing ones that need levelling or drainage works. The programme is being delivered via funding rounds with approximately £4 million being awarded to projects in each round. The first six rounds of funding have benefited 399 projects. Grants are available between £10,000 and £65,000. Local authorities can apply for up to £100,000.

Round 7 opened on 10 December 2014 and will close on 9 February 2015. Decisions will be

made in April 2015.

<http://www.sportengland.org/funding/our-different-funds/protecting-playing-fields/>

Grants for War Memorials – War Memorials Trust

This scheme, funded by English Heritage and The Wolfson Foundation and administered by War Memorials Trust, is currently being reviewed. As such, information may be subject to amendment in the near future. A maximum of 75% of eligible costs are available up to a maximum grant of £30,000. Eligible projects are:

- Freestanding war memorials in England with no other functional purpose than as a war memorial (plaques, bridges and buildings, for example are ineligible)
- Projects must be over £3,000 to be eligible

Eligible works include: urgent and necessary repairs and structural stabilisation; cleaning, under certain circumstances; works relating to 'hard' landscaping which form an integral part of the design of the memorial; reinstatement of lost elements which form an integral part of the design of the memorial when supported by historical evidence.

Ineligible works include: new war memorials; works to graves of any type; maintenance; alterations or additions to the original design; relocation; addition of names; cosmetic cleaning; work which has already started or been completed.

Annual deadlines are 31 March, 30 June, 30 September and 31 December. The scheme is currently confirmed until 2015.

<http://www.warmemorials.org/grantsforwarmemorials/>

Rural Community Energy Fund

The Rural Community Energy Fund (RCEF) supports rural communities in England to develop renewable energy projects which provide economic and social benefits to the community. The fund will provide up to approximately £150,000 of funding for feasibility and pre-planning development work to help projects become investment ready. RCEF provides support in two stages:

- Stage 1 provides a grant of up to approximately £20,000 to pay for an initial investigation into the feasibility of a renewable energy project.
- Stage 2 provides an unsecured loan of up to approximately £130,000 to support planning applications and develop a robust business case to attract further investment.

The fund is being delivered on behalf of the government by the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP). Applications will be reviewed on a monthly basis and there is no set deadline for bids

<http://www.wrap.org.uk/content/rural-community-energy-fund>

Small Grants Scheme – Foyle Foundation

This scheme is designed to support smaller charities in the UK, especially those working at grass roots and local community level, in any field, across a wide range of activities. Applications are welcomed from charities that have an annual turnover of less than £100,000 per annum. Larger or national charities will normally not be considered under this scheme. Nor will the Scheme generally support charities that are able consistently to generate operational surpluses or which have been able to build up unrestricted reserves to a level equivalent to three months turnover. The Foundation plan to make one year grants of between £1,000 and £10,000 to charities which can demonstrate that such a grant will make a significant difference to their work. Demonstrating ongoing sustainability is also important, particularly if the organisation has recently lost local authority or other regular funding. No multi-year funding awards will be made.

There are no deadlines for submission. Applications will be received at all times but it may take up to four months to reach a decision.

<http://www.foylefoundation.org.uk/small-grants-scheme/>

Lastly another useful document that has just been published.

National Planning information

Another document that you might find interesting is the Plain English Guide to Planning published on 5th Jan 2015 by the Department of Communities and Local Government.

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/391694/Plain_English_guide_to_the_planning_system.pdf