

District Cllr Caroline Horrill

Thank you for your support and kindness in Sparsholt during the last year and especially to the Parish Council.

There is a significant change coming to the ward with the implementation of the recommendations following consultations with the **Local Government Boundary Commission for England's review of electoral arrangements in Winchester**. The ward of Crawley, Headbourne Worthy and Sparsholt will be amended with Crawley and Sparsholt joining Littleton, South Wonston and Micheldever to form the Wonston and Micheldever ward.

This reflects the move from 57 to 45 councillors overall for the Winchester District. On May the 5th all councillors are standing down and you will have the opportunity to vote for 3 candidates instead of one. Polling will be here in the village hall as normal and I will be re standing.

There have been several key projects that are of significance to the Winchester District during the last year.

Silver Hill has grabbed most of the headlines and it has now been confirmed that the Developer known as Hendersons or SW1 have will not be developing the site with WCC following their failure to confirm the necessary agreements negotiated in the middle of last year regarding funding and the affordable housing partner.

The Council has initiated a process to redefine the needs of this space in the city and it is hoped later this year to consult further on possible options.

In addition, the design competition is coming to the final stage of this first step in the process for the Station Approach area where architects have submitted proposals for the site and a panel of experts is judging the preferred schemes

And the third major project has been the decision to work towards a new leisure facility for Winchester in conjunction with the University most likely at Bar End and consultations are currently under way.

After six years holding **Council Tax** at 2010/11 levels, Winchester City Council has agreed that there should be an increase in Council Tax for 2016/17; the Band D Council Tax will increase from £126.27 in 2015/16 to £130.65 for 2016/17 (an increase of 3.47%) in order to meet the estimates of expenditure for services administered by the Council. This budget continues to progress the Council's priority to maintain and develop the economic prosperity of Winchester and continuity of essential services.

The commencement of the **Barton Farm** development has been delayed due to the ongoing negotiations between Winchester College the landowner and Cala Homes the developer over the price of the land. This has meant the opening of the school has been put back until 2018 and the first phase of housing has still to commence.

I have been lobbied extensively in the ward about not closing the Andover Road and I know this will continue to be a discussion.

Devolution - the best interests of Winchester are served by keeping as many options for devolution open as possible. And as I am sure you are aware the landscape has been changing on this over the last few months. To ensure that we are in a position to receive the best available deal, Winchester should be in the next wave of deals to be announced, as it increasingly appears likely that funding for subsequent deals will be far more limited. To enable this, proposals for a much simpler set of devolution proposals than we proposed for the Hampshire and IOW deal are emerging. Although this will not be as beneficial for either Winchester or the Government, it should get our foot in the door. Government have indicated that further changes might then be agreed at a later date to improve those benefits.

The basic elements for the emerging deal should include the following:

- An annual additional grant of £15m-£30m
- Devolution of responsibilities and funding for business support, trade and innovation
- Devolution of responsibilities and funding for skills and employment, including adult training and education
- Modest acceleration of delivery of housing targets contained in Local Plans, on condition that infrastructure funding is provided to enable the major developments (No additional housing is now proposed)
- Devolution of responsibilities and funding for transport and infrastructure, including delivery of integrated public transport networks across the region.
- Additional funding to complete the commercial rollout of access to fast broadband for all homes and businesses not already

The emerging deal does not include any localised Business Rate Retention or the related loss of grant funding. Nor does this proposal seek devolution of any powers that are not already – at least in part – influenced locally.

The main benefits for Winchester of this deal might include:

- Safeguards Winchester City Council from the worst impact of any further funding reductions that are likely to fall on areas without Combined Authorities
- Ensures that Enterprise M3 LEP bids for Local Growth Deals have a better chance of being successful
- Significantly reduces the risk of Winchester being used as an area for delivering unmet housing need in the Solent area. Without our own deal, Solent authorities might find ways to meet their housing needs (and their promised housing delivery targets under their devolution deal) by building in Winchester, which we would find hard to resist
- Additional control over business and skills funding that will allow the economy of this area to grow even stronger
- Give Winchester and its neighbours the platform to demonstrate to Government that we are able to be more prosperous when we have control of more powers in the future and should allow more responsibility to be devolved down to the most appropriate level.
- Reduce the significant risk that Winchester City Council will be pressured

Finally, this week brings the decision on a **key Planning issue** likely to impact you and many of your surrounding parishes should it proceed – the AD plant at the college. I as your ward councillor will be asking the planning committee to refuse the application on the basis of traffic, safety and sheer scale. All of which will have a detrimental impact on our area.