

## **Report from Cllr Caroline Horrill to Sparsholt Parish Council Annual Parish Meeting on 15th April 2021**

I have been privileged to be the councillor for Sparsholt since 2014. I represent the Wonston and Micheldever Ward along with my fellow councillors Stephen Godfrey and Patrick Cunningham. I am currently the Leader of the Conservative group at the Council.

Winchester City Council represents over 250 square miles across the District and although the city of Winchester is a key focus, over 80% of the District is rural. Understanding the wants and needs of all our residents is crucially important to the work of the Council.

The Conservative Group is in opposition at Winchester with the Lib Dems in control. We have elections on May 6<sup>th</sup> when one third of the Council will stand for re-election. This is because the 2020 elections were cancelled.

We will also have the all-out County elections and the postponed Police and Crime Commissioner elections on the same day.

What a year under the Covid -19 restrictions. Sparsholt proved its amazing community spirit in the last year with the Support group, and the community shop. Moving the shop to the pavement has been an outstanding success.

The last 2 years have been a disappointment at the Council with many projects delayed. There has been little progress except charging you the residents in many new ways.

Planning and enforcement are a key focus for the Parish, and I have sought to support the Parish Council in their views on specific applications. The most important document currently being developed by the City Council is the new Local Plan through to 2038 which has some options that will be seriously negative for our parish. The Royaldown development is excessive, and I will be opposing this option and the 100 houses proposed in option 4 for Sparsholt is equally frightening. We will recommend building on brownfield sites first and support the proposed Hampshire Green Belt.

We are proposing to reverse the damaging green tax imposed on garden waste and make it free again. You have had a 40% increase in Council Tax through the back door and your city councillors think this is wrong.

Delivering economic growth in the District is essential. Supporting tourism is a major focus and with over 5 million visitors each year pre pandemic it plays an important role in the District. We also want to support our high streets by cutting Sunday and evening car parking charges.

The new Sport and Leisure Park at Bar End in partnership with the University, the Pinder Trust and with funding from HCC is a legacy from the Conservative administration and we are very proud to be able to advise it will open in May. River Park will not reopen.

We are delighted Patrick Cunningham has been the Mayor this year and he has done a great job despite lockdown. Patrick supported our Macmillan coffee morning before we were all locked down at the end of last year but sadly missed the opportunity to open the fete. All part of our vibrant and active community in the village.

Please do let me know if I can further support the Parish Council and the residents of the village.

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