

Report to Sparsholt Parish Council Annual Parish Meeting 24th April 2019 from City Councillor Caroline Horrill

I have been privileged to be the councillor for Sparsholt since 2014. Sparsholt is part of the Wonston and Micheldever Ward which also includes the villages of Crawley, Littleton, South Wonston, Micheldever, Sutton Scotney and Wonston. An area the size of Singapore.

I am the portfolio holder for Housing at the Council focused on our 5,000 council homes some of which we have in the village here and building over 1000 new affordable homes in the next 10 years.

I am also honoured to be the Leader of Winchester City Council.

The Conservative Group continues to lead Winchester City Council with 23 of the 45 councillors. We have elections on May 2nd when one third of the Council will stand for re-election, including myself, so you will be seeing election materials and posters around the village over the coming days.

We represent over 250 square miles across the District, over 120,000 people in 45 parishes, market towns and of course the city of Winchester. We are aware that although the city of Winchester is a key focus, over 80% of the District is rural.

As a place we are often voted one of the best places to live, one of the happiest places and unfortunately one of the most expensive places which is why our programme of building new affordable homes is so important. We are also very keen to ensure that a small number of homes are built in rural communities, so that our villages, just like Sparsholt, remain sustainable.

We are also committed to driving down homelessness in the District. Please don't be confused by those asking for money on our city streets. Many have a bed but are asking you for cash to feed a habit - be it drink or drugs. We are such a generous community we are often misled by those seeking our help.

We are working locally to improve infrastructure with our partners at the County and jointly sponsoring a Movement Strategy for greater Winchester. This was approved by both authorities this week and will mean that we will be having more park and ride facilities and one is earmarked for our side of the City near Three Maids Hill. Importantly as your councillor I am supporting the decision to keep the Andover Road open as part of that strategy.

We are building a new Sport and Leisure Park at Bar End in partnership with the University, the Pinder Trust and with funding from HCC. The facility will open in 2021 and you will see our partners Willmott Dixon hard at work on the site. This is an outstanding new facility for the District including a 50m pool, hydrotherapy suite, fitness facilities, pitches and courts.

Our beautiful environment is a key part of making the District such an attractive place to live so protecting our heritage and landscape, enhancing and increasing use of open spaces is a key

element of your work. Sparsholt is a designated Conservation area and we should protect that status.

Planning and enforcement are a key focus for the Parish, and I have sought to support the Parish Council in their views on specific planning applications. The Council has recently reviewed these services and are working with the parishes to improve our service delivery. We are fortunate to have an agreed local plan unlike neighbouring authorities like Eastleigh where development is not controlled. We have commenced a review of our plan and are seeking input from the parish as part of this process. You are being asked do you want to keep your building envelope as part of that process? An important question for us all and one that I believe we should say yes definitely to.

We are delivering doorstep glass collection from the Autumn. You will be receiving a free box to use for this purpose later in the summer and will be able to have your jars and bottles taken away as part of our waste service.

Importantly even though we are improving services we are not asking for more money from you and so this year we had a zero % city council tax rise - giving you more money back into your pocket.

I believe Winchester residents can be very proud of what their City Council is doing on their behalf, but our work is never done. Please do let me know if I can further support the Parish and the residents of the village. Thank you.

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