

Report to Wonston & Micheldever Ward Parish Councils July 2026 from Cllrs Godfrey and Horrill

Local Government reorganisation in Hampshire. The Mid Hants unitary which consists of the Test Valley, New Forest, East Hants, and Winchester districts has met informally and elected Phil North the leader of Test Valley as their Chair. Four representatives from HCC have been nominated but no further representatives from Winchester have been included. The HCC JR challenging the financial assumptions of LGR has yet to be determined and may yet delay reorganisation.

Devolution is progressing with the inaugural meeting of the Hampshire & the Solent Combined County Authority taking place on the 13th July. The authority will be focused on transport, skills and employment, housing and regeneration and the environment and health. The authority will be chaired by Nick Adams King until the Mayor is elected in 2028.

Local Plan 2044. Following the Cabinet decision on 30 June 2026, the Council has now served a Notice of Intention to Commence Plan-Making. The notice and the current project timetable can be viewed here: [Home - Winchester District Local Plan](#). The letters sent by the Leader of the Council and the Strategic Director to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, can be viewed here: [Letters to Government - Winchester District Local Plan](#) which seeks guidance about the scheduling of the next plan and LGR. A call for sites has been completed but the information will not be published until the Government confirm next steps. The District is being asked to accommodate a further +4500 homes in the next plan.

Chesil Multi-Storey Car Park Closure. Chesil Street multi-storey car park will be closed from Monday 13 to Friday 17 July for renewal works to the entrance and exit as well as refurbished lining inside the car park.

Councils to No Longer Publish an Elected or Co-opted Member's Home Address. From 29 June 2026, section 65 of the English Devolution and Community Empowerment Act 2026 removes the requirement for a councillor's home address to be published in council registers of interest under the Land and Property section. An individual councillor can make a request that their address be published. The address will still need to be declared in the Register of Interests form but will only be for internal use and to prevent conflicts of interest arising. This follows concern from councillors across the county about the increased level of harassment being experienced.

River Park - Former Leisure Centre. At a meeting on 28 May 2026, Cabinet approved the publication of a formal notice (for the intention to dispose of the land (the site of the redundant leisure centre building) - for recreational use by way of a long lease) prior to a final decision in August. You can respond by email (regen@winchester.gov.uk) or in writing if you have any views.

Advanced Leakage Detection (ALD) Surveys. Picarro on behalf of SGN, will be conducting Advanced Leakage Detection (ALD) surveys within our local area as part of ongoing efforts to enhance the safety, reliability, and efficiency of the gas network infrastructure. The ALD trials involve the use of a specially equipped survey vehicle that

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will detect and analyse trace levels of gas emissions from underground mains. The survey work is scheduled to run from the end of July 2026 until April 2027.

Due to these surveys being carried out mostly at night and involving multiple passes, members of the public have previously reported the survey vehicle to the police. To avoid any unnecessary workloads for the Police, they have been advised of the activity. The vehicle carrying out the surveys is a white 2026 Skoda Evoque. The vehicle will also be identifiable through being branded with both SGN and Picarro livery.

Waste services have been disrupted due to the hot weather with some services such as garden waste delayed for one cycle. If you have any concerns, please report issues on email to customerservice@winchester.gov.uk or phone 0300 300 0013.

You can contact your City Councillors at any time, or you can catch us at any of the Parish Council meetings.

Cllr Stephen Godfrey - 119 Downs Road, South Wonston SO21 3EH

Tel: 07903 809375. Email: sgodfrey@winchester.gov.uk

Cllr Caroline Horrill - Wheatlands, Woodman Lane, Sparsholt SO21 2NS

Tel: 07710 067620. Email: chorrill@winchester.gov.uk

Cllr Caroline Horrill