

HARBOUR VILLAGES COUNCILLORS REPORT TO PARISH COUNCILS

Richard Bates – Stephen Johnson - Adrian Moss

February 2024

WARD MATTERS Will be reported separately

50 Years of Chichester District council

This year marks 50 years since the council was formed, along with all other district councils in the country. Much has changed and is to be celebrated.

JANUARY FULL COUNCIL DECISIONS

Council agreed the revised Corporate Plan.

www.chichester.gov.uk/corporateplan

Highlights for the year will include:

- Submission of the Local Plan
- Focus on delivering housing and minimising homelessness
- Bringing forward a Regeneration Strategy
- Supporting our communities with grants, community wardens, improving leisure provision, social prescribing and Cost of Living support
- Continue our work on the environment with the development of a biodiversity strategy and starting work with Coastal Partners to develop an Investment & Adaption Plan for Chichester Harbour and work on developing options for a sea defence scheme for Selsey
- Delivering a range of new projects to support the council and our communities
 - Ice Skating for Xmas 2024
 - Childrens Play Areas
 - Commence work on Food Collection plan

Car Park Charges

Council agreed to increase Car Parking Charges by inflation, increase limited evening charges, changes to Sunday charges and changes in rural areas.

These increases will help the Council safeguard critical Council services including Cost of Living and “Supporting You”

Culture Grants

Council agreed to continue supporting grants to Festival Theatre and Pallant Gallery for their community activity

CULTURE/ENTERTAINMENT

Two Laser light shows will be held at the Canal Basin on Feb 16th & 17th between 6pm and 7.30pm at the Canal Basin in Chichester. Each show will last for around 15 minutes and will be choreographed to music.

Novium - Half Term activities and events

(Monday 12 February to Friday 16 February) Toy inspired activities at the Novium, in celebration of our ‘May The Toys Be With You’ exhibition! Toy Detective Trail: An interactive toy tour around the museum. Play a Roman dice game, Peek inside a miniature dolls house world. Keep an eye out for Popeye! Collect the clues and receive a ‘brick model’ reward. £3 per trail

Thursday, **15 Feb:** Traditional Toy Making Workshop - Create a groovy kaleidoscope, a whirling spinning top and decorate a wooden yo-yo! Sessions at 10am, 12.30pm, 2.15pm. £7 per child

Saturday, **17 Feb:** Junior Jedi’s - A Star Wars themed craft session! Make and personalise a lightsabre, create a Yoda bookmark and decorate a Star Wars themed headband! Sessions at 10am, 12.30pm, 2.15pm. £8 per child

For more information and to book, visit: www.thenovium.org/whatson

Thur **Feb 22nd:** An Evening Talk: Toy Stories: 'Frozen Charlottes' and Penny Toys from the Victorian/Edwardian Era.

HARBOUR VILLAGES COUNCILLORS REPORT TO PARISH COUNCILS

Richard Bates – Stephen Johnson - Adrian Moss

The Guildhall: On Sunday, **25 February**. Find out more about a wedding at The Guildhall. See everything the Guildhall can offer for a wedding ceremony at our Wedding Showcase. From 11am – 3pm

Other news:

The Novium Museum Shippam's Grant

A grant of £44,593 from the Arts Council has been awarded to unlock the advertising archive of the former local family-run business, Shippam's, in a new project to culminate in an exhibition in 2025.

A volunteer recruitment event will take place on Thursday, **29 February** from 10am to 12pm at The Novium Museum. This event is for anyone who wishes to find out more about the project and volunteering opportunities.

To register book here: <https://chichesterboxoffice.ticketsolve.com/ticketbooth/shows/873642742>

For more information, email thenovium@chichester.gov.uk or call 01243 775888.

Guildhall Open Mornings

We will be opening The Guildhall to the public on the **first Thursday of every month**, from 10am – 11.30am.

GRANTS

Trees and Community orchards

A grant of £12,000 has been obtained to increase tree cover and community orchards in the district, as part of the government's £2.5 million Coronation Living Heritage Fund,

If parish councils are interested in starting a community orchard planting project, please get in touch with the Tree Project Officer by emailing treescheme@chichester.gov.uk or by calling 01243 521161.

UK Shared Prosperity Fund

There have been 110 applications received in total, totalling £1.7m (The total grant available is £977,000).

Assessments and decisions will be made in February

COMMUNICATIONS, LICENSING & EVENTS

Taxis : Proposed fees and charges Consultation

The current set of fees and charges have remained unchanged for several years. However, the income from fees and charges is not now covering the full cost of providing the service, and therefore associated fees and charges must increase to reflect the true costs. If the new fee structure is agreed it will come into effect on 1 April 2024.

Chichester Vegan Market

Chichester city centre will welcome an exciting new Vegan Street Market on Sunday 28 January for the first time. The operator, Vegan Market Co delivers similar markets across numerous locations throughout the UK, but this will be the first time they have visited Chichester. Try a variety of tasty vegan products. The market will feature a range of stallholders set up along East Street between 10.30am and 4pm offering foods along with handmade cosmetics, ethical clothing and jewellery, arts, and crafts plus more!

Visit their website at www.veganmarkets.co.uk

Cross Market & More – Dates for 2024

This street market showcasing the best products from across the district, including our local young entrepreneurs and collectives, will come together again for another four Sunday Cross Market & More events in 2024. The events will be on **3 March, 29 September and 24 November**, between 10am and 4pm with an opportunity to buy unique crafts, gifts, jewellery, arts, handmade soaps/creams, vintage clothing and more. There will also be a selection of street food, drinks and entertainment from local musicians creating a vibrant visitor experience. Sunday 7 July will once again see 'The Cross Market & More' combined with the annual Summer Street Party.

Communications

The Council Website has been awarded a Plain English Crystal Mark again!

HARBOUR VILLAGES COUNCILLORS REPORT TO PARISH COUNCILS

Richard Bates – Stephen Johnson - Adrian Moss

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - Growth & Sustainability

The 'Sustainable Growth Summit', on 24 January, was over-subscribed. We expect 80 business delegates to the event and will be able to provide an update in the next bulletin.

Midhurst Recovery Whilst the dedicated Economic Development resource for Midhurst has come to end, officers continue to support the Midhurst Recovery Group and the payment of any remaining grant awards. 'Retail Spark' are currently booking businesses to undertake business resilience training and we have developed a linked grant scheme which will distribute the remaining funds from the Midhurst Business Grants pot.

Parking Services Parking incentives over Christmas benefited 10,431 people. MiPermit usage increased from 24% to 26% of total parking transactions.

HOUSING & COMMUNITIES

Communities & Wellbeing

Community Wardens will soon be recording incidents on a new database system, called DISC which has the facility to report issues directly to Sussex Police, a real benefit to the Community Wardens. Training on the new system is planned in the next few weeks and the whole team should be using the system by the end of February. More details on DISC can be found here <https://discagainstcrime.com/>

The Wellbeing Workplace Health advisor supports small to medium enterprises (SMEs) to help their staff stay healthy and well. In February, she will be working with Chichester Festival Theatre, Witterings GP, Natures Way and Westgate Leisure Centre to keep their staff healthy and well into the new year. Our new February – April 2024 HeartSmart Walk programme is now available to download from our website www.chichester.gov.uk/heartsmart

PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT - DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT

The Development Management Division provides planning services, including dealing with applications and enforcement matters, on behalf of the South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA) for land within the national park area of our district. The current agreement was due to expire in October 2024. Terms have been agreed to extend the agreement for a two-year period between 2024 and 2026. The agreement will see an uplift in the fee received by the council for the services delivered in recognition of the increasing costs of delivery.

PLANNING POLICY

The Local Plan: Planning Advisory Visit between PINS and CDC – 15 January 2024

The council is progressing a number of Statements of Common Ground with key stakeholders. The inspector emphasised the importance of these, to set out both areas of agreement and disagreement. The issue of housing land supply was discussed, and the ways in which the council is proposing to deal with it. The key message from the inspector was that the council needed to show that it was doing everything it could to meet the Objectively Assessed Need (OAN). He suggested that provided the council's site assessment evidence was robust, in principle the council could rely on a stepped trajectory. An early review of the Plan would be necessary.

The inspector was concerned about the effect of delivery of the Southbourne Broad Location for Development, He questioned if there was insufficient evidence of delivery. Work needs to progressed on this, alongside the submission of the Local Plan, either by CDC beginning work on a further development plan document, or by the Parish moving forward with another neighbourhood plan which includes the strategic number of dwellings envisaged in the Plan. A meeting will be arranged with Southbourne Parish Council to discuss this.

The inspector advised the council to consider the pros and cons of a further regulation 19 consultation. It would likely add significant delay to the local plan submission - probably by around 6 months. It may also invite further issues to be raised that had not previously been mentioned and risks more underpinning evidence becoming out of date. The Council intends to submit the Plan in the early part of this year.

HARBOUR VILLAGES COUNCILLORS REPORT TO PARISH COUNCILS

Richard Bates – Stephen Johnson - Adrian Moss

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Air Quality Monitoring

Using £25K of DEFRA air quality grant money the council has upgraded its air monitoring capability at its Stockbridge air quality monitoring station. We have procured and installed a new particulate monitoring (PM) analyser. This will allow us to measure smaller particles related to effects on human health.

Litter and Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) Dog Control enforcement

After a review, East Hants District Council has decided to withdraw from the arrangement to provide enforcement for littering and dog related offences. This was unexpected.

CDC will be considering the best way forward. and update Members in the near future.

Stray Dog Kennelling Provision

The council does not have its own kennelling facility and since April 2021 it has had an arrangement with Portsmouth City Council's facility. The council has a duty to detain stray-dogs for a period of seven days. Dogs that have not been reunited with their owners are commonly re-homed via charities. We have dealt with approximately 65 stray dogs since April 2023. This arrangement will continue until April 2027.