

Murrell Green proposal – the impact on Winchfield

Winchfield Festival news and programme inside

Welcome to the Winchfield News which is issued twice each year with news and community information about your village. An e-copy is available on the Parish Council website www.winchfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk



Winchfield Parish Council (WPC) invites you to contact any of the councillors if you need help with a local issue or concern. The five councillors work on your behalf with other councils in Hart, Hampshire and many other local organisations. clerk@winchfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk

The **Annual Parish Assembly** will be held in the **Village Hall** on **Monday 18th May at 6.15pm, drinks from 6pm**, followed by the Parish Council Meeting. You are encouraged to attend and participate if you wish to do so.

Murrell Green Housing Proposal

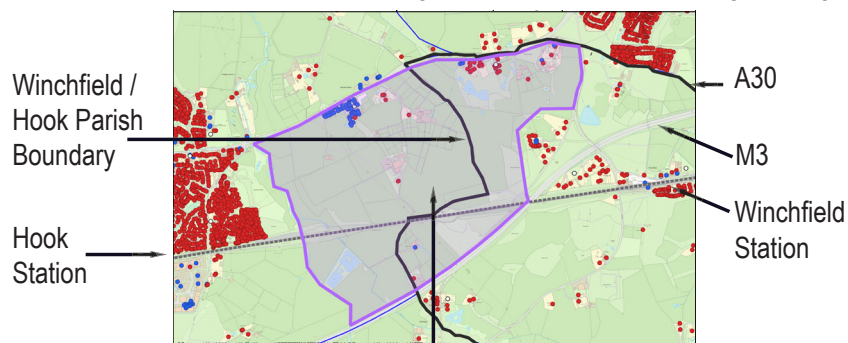
HDC is now faced with providing 15,000 new homes in the next 20 years. As a consequence of the calculated reduction in the current housing land supply to be less than 5 years the existing Local Plan is superseded by a presumption in favour of sustainable development. More information can be found on the Hart District Council website <https://www.hart.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/planning-policy/new-hart-local-plan>

In essence, it becomes a developer's charter until the revised Local Plan is in place probably in late 2028. To date, the Government has yet to publish the new National Planning Policy Framework. This uncertainty is further complicated by the prospect of Local Government Re-organisation, the new Unitary Authority for North Hampshire taking control in 2028 as well as the elected Mayor being responsible for strategic planning at that point. (see page 2)

Speculative developments have been proposed around Eversley, to the West of Hook and now a major development of 2200 houses by Lightwood Land at Murrell Green, partly in Hook and partly in Winchfield.

Between 600 and 900 additional houses are proposed in Winchfield; today we have around 300.

This map shows the area of currently open land between Winchfield and Hook which will become 'Murrell Green Village'. The red areas are existing housing.



Proposed area of Murrell Green Village Continued on page 2



First Friday of each month
Coffee Morning, Village Hall 10-12



Every Saturday until 29th August
CaruCoffi and cakes at 'Trimmers Cottage' in The Hurst. 7-6. Plant swap on 30th May

First Sunday of each month
St Mary's Ark. Village Hall 3-4.30
Find the 2026 programme in the April edition of 'Contact' Parish Magazine

First Wednesday of each month
Barley Mow Quiz night, special menu offer 7.30

Third Sunday of each month
Mow and Motor at The Barley Mow. 9-12

Monday 11th May
WoW. Ukulele Band. Winchfield Village Hall 7.30

Sunday 14th June
NGS open garden for charity. Old Thatch, Sprats Hatch Lane. 2-6

Friday 19th – Sunday 28th June
Winchfield Festival... see page 3
Full details on the website
<https://www.winchfieldfestival.org/>

Saturday 18th July
Annual Flower Show and Fete
Pilcot Farm, Dogmersfield

Winchfield Community Choir dates
20th June 2pm Barley Mow Pub
3rd July Summer Concert, 7pm Winchfield Inn
19th July Mary Magdalene Service, 4pm Old St Mary's.
Hartley Wintney

It is expected that Lightwood will submit a planning application to HDC later this year. WPC is working with consultants to prepare a response to ensure that any development is both sustainable and accessible given the many constraints that have been identified in and around the parish.

Lightwood Land will host a public consultation in Winchfield Village Hall on Monday 11th May, 3.30 - 6:30

In addition there is a new challenge in that all Councils now have to inform the Housing Minister should they intend to refuse a planning application for more than 150 homes. This means that decisions will be taken away from the Local Authority. Therefore our response as a Parish Council needs to be carefully researched and crafted based on evidence that will sustain scrutiny both by the District Council and by the Government. We will keep the WPC website regularly updated. <https://winchfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk/local-and-district-planning-issues>

We have to accept that change will happen. The Parish Council will do its best to ensure that the right thing is done, in the right place and for the right reasons.

Devolution and Local Governance Review – decision for Hampshire.

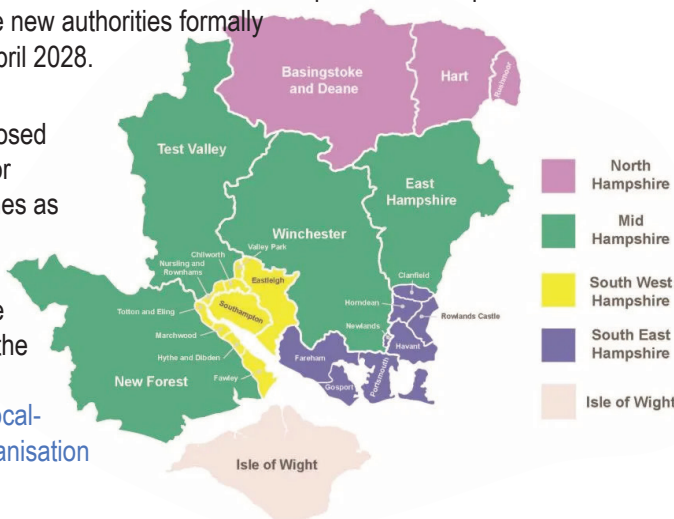
The Government has supported the proposal put forward by Hart District Council to join with Basingstoke and Deane and Rushmoor Borough Councils to form one unitary authority to cover north Hampshire, incorporating Hampshire County Council services. This means the current two-tier system – where county, district and borough councils share responsibilities – will be replaced and the new unitary authority will deliver all services for its area. The whole of Hampshire will be divided into 5 new unitary authorities:

- North Hampshire Council
- Mid Hampshire Council
- South East Hampshire Council
- South West Hampshire Council
- Isle of Wight Council will remain as a separate unitary authority.

During this process there will be no disruption to council services. Hart District Council and Hampshire County Council will continue to deliver services as normal and residents will still be able to access support in the same way. Elections for the new councils are expected to take place in May 2027, with the new authorities formally taking over on 1 April 2028.

There are no proposed changes to WPC or surrounding parishes as part of devolution.

You can read more information about the changes at www.hart.gov.uk/local-government-reorganisation



Have you considered becoming a Parish Councillor?

In May 2027 Winchfield Parish Council will elect two additional councillors; we need more volunteers to represent our community and introduce fresh ideas. Being a Parish Councillor is not an onerous task. Involvement and commitment can be managed according to the time you can make available and be in line with your own particular strengths and interests. Come along to a WPC meeting and consider whether you would like to join the team.

The Council meets every two months, usually for about two hours, at the Village Hall on the third Monday of the month. The majority of business is managed by e-mail and occasionally by a 'teams' call. Local residents attend the public meetings and are encouraged to participate and contribute to any discussion.

WPC is very fortunate to have an experienced and knowledgeable Clerk who will always advise on any issue and provide support. Training courses on a variety of topics are also available. There is no salary but expenses can be claimed.

A desire to help organise village events, financial know how, or an interest in planning issues would be warmly welcomed. Your life experience, everyday skills, passion and commitment to people and communities are key attributes.

Please help us to look after Winchfield now and as we plan for the future of the village. You can contact the Clerk on clerk@winchfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk or call on 0798 066 0001 for an informal and no commitment chat with the Chairman or one of the current Councillors.

The Winchfield Neighbourhood Plan

Contains information about the village, its history and the importance of our local biodiversity. In the built environment section there is planning guidance you might find helpful. <https://winchfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk/neighbourhood-plan/>

Defibrillator Training

It was wonderful to see 22 residents at the training event last month! That brings our total to over 50 residents now trained in a life-saving skill. We're planning another event this summer so if you're interested, please get in touch with the clerk.





Winchfield Festival

The Winchfield Festival is a charity born from a belief in the power of music to unite, inspire, and uplift. By bringing the community together through music festivals, we raise precious funds that open doors for local children aged 7 to 11 — giving them the chance to discover the joy of music in ways they never imagined. Guided by the passion and dedication of our community, we strive to spark creativity, nurture self-confidence, and ignite a lifelong love of music in every child. Together, we dream of a future where every child, no matter what their background, can realise their unique potential.

The funds raised by Winchfield Festival support the charity's aims of providing children's musical education within primary schools across North Hampshire. These schools, working in partnership with Hampshire Music Service, offer children the opportunity to experience music which they might otherwise be denied. The Winchfield Festival has enabled over 7,500 children in the local community to have access to instruments but there are many more we could reach.

The need has never been greater. Music is no longer a guaranteed part of every child's education. In many schools, budget pressures and curriculum changes have squeezed creative subjects to the margins. Fewer children get the chance to learn an instrument, sing in a choir, or experience the shared joy of performing together. What was once a universal part of growing up is now a privilege that depends on where you live or the resources your school can afford.

That's why the work we do matters. Access to music education doesn't just teach notes and rhythms; it builds confidence, empathy, and teamwork. It encourages children to listen, express themselves, and connect with others. Studies show that children involved in music perform better academically, develop stronger communication skills, and gain emotional resilience that benefits every area of their lives. Most importantly, music gives children a voice (literally!) and a sense of belonging that stays with them for life.

Through the funds raised by the Winchfield Festival, we help ensure that the next generation has the opportunity to experience that same magic: to pick up an instrument, to sing with friends, to be inspired and to know that their (your!) community believes in them.

The Festival is not purely about music, but about bringing people together, enjoying delicious food and fun family activities. There is something for everyone. In June there will be 9 days of varying styles of music creating weekend and week night opportunities to come out and enjoy the long English summer evenings.

The Winchfield Festival is about having fun but at the same time helping to address a serious educational need. Enjoying music while increasing the opportunities for local children. What could be better?!

BOOK TICKETS NOW AT
winchfieldfestival.org



The Easter Bunny dropped in to help the children find the eggs at The Winchfield Inn and the Easter Story was told at St Mary's Church. WPC thanks Lyn, Pat, Sam and Olivia for ensuring the children had a great time.



Winchfield Village Hall

We need volunteers to offer support keeping this fantastically well used and loved village facility running. The tasks are not at all onerous and are on the lines of

- Checking the hall on a rota basis
- Helping setting out tables and chairs for village events.
- Letting hirers into the hall for village events.

Please offer your help to Ed, Sarah and Lynda

winchfieldvillagehall@gmail.com



Litter and Fly Tipping

Thanks to everyone who took part in the Spring Litter Pick in March, another successful village clean-up was held on the morning of Sunday 8 March. 26 people volunteered and over 42 sacks of litter were collected – which is an incredible amount (and sad). Unusual finds included a number of unopened Diet Coke tins and unopened large bottles of hand sanitiser scattered in both Pale Lane and Bagwell Lane.

Everyone enjoyed the delicious bacon and egg baps in the Village Hall afterwards and the opportunity to chat with friends and neighbours. The next litter pick will be held in the Autumn (once the summer vegetation has died down). If you would like to get involved, please email winchfieldlitterpick@gmail.com

Sadly Winchfield is seen as a perfect quiet spot for irresponsible people to dump unwanted goods and we frequently see large loads of rubbish tipped in our lanes. Please help by reporting any fly tipping you see so it can be cleared up quickly. <https://hart.fixmystreet.com>. If you witness a person or vehicle actually dumping rubbish or other suspicious activity please DO NOT get involved but report any details, photo of registration plate, description, time etc. to Hart District Council on 01252 622122. Offenders have been successfully prosecuted.

Residents can easily verify if someone is a registered waste carrier by checking their name or licence number details www.hants.gov.uk/wasteandrecycling/flytipping Hart District Council can help, for a fee, if you have large household items to dispose of <https://www.hart.gov.uk/waste-and-recycling/bulky-household-waste-collection>

History & Nature Walks

Join us on a Guided 2 hour ramble along the canal at Winchfield and walk to St Mary's Church. Your guides will tell you many interesting facts about our village. Where are the Sarson Stones and what are they? How old is St Mary's Church? Can you recognise ancient woodland and hedgerows? How, why and when was the Basingstoke Canal built? Where is the old School House in Winchfield? History of the Winchfield Inn (originally the Beauclerk Inn) and the Barley Mow Pub. The first walk will be in Festival week and then each Sunday afternoon in August. Adults suggested £5 donation which includes coffee/tea at the Barley Mow before we set off. No charge for children and well behaved dogs are welcome. There will be lots of stops and stories during the walk and quizzes for the children. Please register your interest by sending an email to winchfieldwalks@gmail.com We will be in touch with dates for you to make your bookings. Numbers will be limited and donations will go to Friends of St Mary's for the upkeep of our beautiful Norman Church.

Summer events in Hart

If you are looking for something to do these all have local information:

<https://forfleetssake.co.uk/whats-on-in-fleet-events/>

<https://lovefleet.co.uk/events/>

<https://www.hart.gov.uk/countryside-and-leisure>

<https://www.hart.gov.uk/about-council/hart-news-media-and-filming/>

<https://www.visitsoutheastengland.com/family-fun/family-activities>

https://www.hartleywintney-pc.gov.uk/council_events/

<https://www.fleetlions.org.uk>

<https://www.victoriahallcharity.co.uk>

<https://hook.gov.uk/village-life/focus-magazine>

Hart News and residents newsletter is delivered to you (also online at HDC) and often has suggestions for outdoor activities at little or no charge.

CPRE – the countryside charity has 'skills days' to learn something new and HDC always welcomes countryside volunteers.

Some of the events coming up in Fleet, Hartley Wintney and Odiham

13th June – Hartley Wintney Village Festival 12-5

12th, 13th, 18th, 19th, 20th June – Hartley Arts Group 'The Good Life'

27th June - Hartley Rocks Choir Summer Concert

4th July – Fleet Carnival 10–8

9th July – The Great Gatsby at Old St Mary's by 'This is My Theatre'

1st August – Lions Beerfest, Fleet 11-9.30

22nd August - Music on the Views, Fleet 11-9

31st August – Odiham Food Fayre 11-5

6th September – Elvetham Heath Food Festival

Stay Informed and Updated

Anything WPC can help you with - clerk@winchfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk

More information: www.winchfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk

Cepta Hamm for more information about most social events, Winchfield

Residents Group on What's App or WoW e-mail distribution list

cepta.hamm@btinternet.com or 0773 346 4550. Search for Winchfield

Community in FaceBook

Report something in Hart that needs to be fixed: <https://hart.fixmystreet.com>

Find a service, support or information: <https://hereforhartdirectory.org.uk>

Road blocked or flooded? Call 0300 555 1388 for a highways emergency during office hours (8:30 am to 5 pm) or 101 outside of those hours. For situations posing an imminent threat to life or property, dial 999.

WoW

The Women of Winchfield, is a well-being and social group for ladies in Winchfield and the surrounding areas. There is no membership commitment and you don't have to be resident in Winchfield. Since the group was formed in 2023 they have been amused, educated and inspired by a variety of guest speakers at meetings, events and outings. There is always a spare chair and a warm welcome so come along and make some new friends. cepta.hamm@btinternet.com or What'sApp

St Mary's Church

Work on the roof has been completed and a 'composting loo', supported by WPC Community funds, will soon be available whenever the Church is open or to those who have a special access key.

Our Grade I listed church is very special and even if you never attend a service go and have a look when you are next walking in the area. Arrangements can be made for you to see inside the most historically important building in Winchfield if you are interested.

There is also a group of 'friends' who support the fabric of the church and new members are always very welcome.

<https://www.stmaryswinchfield.org.uk>



Residents What'sApp

Provides useful information for residents e.g. road closures, trees down, lost dogs, local events etc.

Contact Cepta to be added.

cepta.hamm@btinternet.com

Food Banks

Foodbank donation points are at 4 The Hurst and the porch at St Mary's. A list of what is especially needed is here:

<https://hart.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food>

If you need to receive help from a foodbank:

<https://hart.foodbank.org.uk>



WPC Community Funds

If you have an idea for a project that you think would benefit the Winchfield community or if you need to hold a meeting about a community matter and would like to use the Village Hall please talk to one of your Councillors or contact

the Parish Clerk,
WPC may be able to help.

