

# Winchester City Councillor News Central Meon Valley

. As we start a new year, I thought it might be useful to remind everyone of a few useful links:

- the new garden waste service should be getting under way around the time of publication. If you have not ordered your new bin yet but would like one or it hasn't arrived, go to the Winchester City Council website at [www.winchester.gov.uk/waste-recycling/garden-waste-collection-sign-up](http://www.winchester.gov.uk/waste-recycling/garden-waste-collection-sign-up) or call 0300 300 0013. If that doesn't work, let one of us know and we will endeavour to sort it for you.
- if you need a reminder on when your bins are due to be collected and which bins to put out, follow this link and enter your post code - [www.winchester.gov.uk/bins](http://www.winchester.gov.uk/bins)
- if your bins aren't collected on the due date, be sure to report it as soon as possible so this can be rectified - this can be done online at [www.winchester.gov.uk/waste-recycling](http://www.winchester.gov.uk/waste-recycling) or by using the Your Winchester app. Alternatively you can email [customerservice@winchester.gov.uk](mailto:customerservice@winchester.gov.uk) or phone 0300 300 0013. It's important to remember that the Council will only commit to pick up a missed collection if it is reported by midday the day after your usual collection day. So be sure to let them know!
- please check the Hampshire County Council Web site to book in advance to get a slot at Hampshire County Council's recycling centres in Bishops Waltham and elsewhere else- go to [www.hants.gov.uk/wasteandrecycling/recyclingcentres/book-appointment](http://www.hants.gov.uk/wasteandrecycling/recyclingcentres/book-appointment)
- finally, if you do see any fly tipping blighting our beautiful area, be sure to report it unless you see a large W painted on it. This can be done through the Your Winchester app or online at [www.winchester.gov.uk/report](http://www.winchester.gov.uk/report) or by calling 0300 300 0013. If fly tipping is taking a while to be removed, please do let one of us know and we can follow up on what is happening.

## Winchester District Local Plan 2018 – 2038 (Emerging)

An invitation to consultation on the Winchester City Council Strategic Issues and Priorities document will be coming shortly. This next stage is important for the development of the new Local Plan. The decisions made through the Local Plan will be of strategic importance for the district over the next 15 years and beyond. This document has been prepared in the knowledge that the government has recently consulted on a number of significant changes to the planning system and the outcome of these consultations are not yet fully known. Follow the link <https://www.winchester.gov.uk/planning-policy/> to sign up for updates on the Local Plan

## **Timing of updating Village Design Statements.**

Many Parish Councils have now started or are in the process of starting to think about updating their Village Design Statements (VDS) and guidance on matters to include has been published on the web site to help with this process <https://www.winchester.gov.uk/planning-policy/supplementary-planning-documents-spds/guidance-for-producing-vds>

You may wish to bear this in mind when considering any updates or preparation of new design guidance as any adopted between now and 2023 will need to be refreshed to make reference to Local Plan 2038 policies. If you wish to discuss any updates to existing VDS/LADS please get in touch to discuss.

[planningpolicy@winchester.gov.uk](mailto:planningpolicy@winchester.gov.uk)

## Mayor's Awards

Are now open

These awards recognise and celebrate the organisations and individuals who have given outstanding service. The aim is to celebrate the selfless actions that brighten the lives of residents and makes the Winchester district a wonderful place to live.

Citations should be limited to **100** words which will be printed verbatim on the reverse of the certificate.

The closing date for nominations is 19th February 2021

Complete the online form via this link: [https://www.winchester.gov.uk/forms/ShowForm.asp?fm\\_fid=490](https://www.winchester.gov.uk/forms/ShowForm.asp?fm_fid=490) or complete and attached your completed nomination form to [Mayorssecretary@winchester.gov.uk](mailto:Mayorssecretary@winchester.gov.uk)



## Motorbikes update

Many people have commented on how quiet it was when motorbikes with modified exhaust pipes stopped blighting the valley during the first lockdown. And on the contrast when they returned again in the summer. Upper Meon Valley Winchester City Councillor Hugh Lumby has been looking to address the issues of antisocial speeding and noise from motorbikes and other vehicles. He has been working with local group CANS (Communities against noise and speed., - [www.canshampshire.co.uk/community/communities-against-noise-and-speed-15072/home/](http://www.canshampshire.co.uk/community/communities-against-noise-and-speed-15072/home/)) on a number of initiatives. A forum has been set up to bring all stakeholders together, including local MPs, the Police, Hampshire County Council and local councillors. A number of Police operations have also been carried out. The overall objective is to discourage the small minority of motorcyclists who ride in an antisocial manner from coming to the area.

Various parishes have acquired what are called speed indicator devices (SIDs). These show the speed vehicles are travelling and have a good success rate at reducing speed, especially if moved around to various locations.

Another initiative which he has been exploring with Winchester City Council is the use of environmental legislation to address the issue, combined with new acoustic cameras which measure vehicle noise. They are currently investigating whether something called a Public Spaces Protection Order could be used here, which could enable bikes with excessively noisy exhausts to be identified and fined. Watch this space!

Reporting any noisy bikes is also important, especially those early on a weekend morning. Either ring 101 or go online



## Rules for using septic tanks and small sewage treatment plants

The Environment Agency have asked me to pass this information to residents to make sure everyone is aware of the new rules that were introduced in 2015.

I have been contacted on a number of occasions recently with concerns that there is raw sewage being discharged and only very recently, I noticed effluent pouring down one of the lanes in our village. Please make sure that your septic tank/cesspit or sewage treatment system is working efficiently and not overflowing, polluting and causing an Environmental Health issue.

If you have a septic tank or small sewage treatment plant, by law you must comply with the 'general binding rules' by ensuring your system is maintained properly and does not cause pollution.

Extra protection is in place in areas designated as environmentally sensitive, where people may need to apply for a permit.

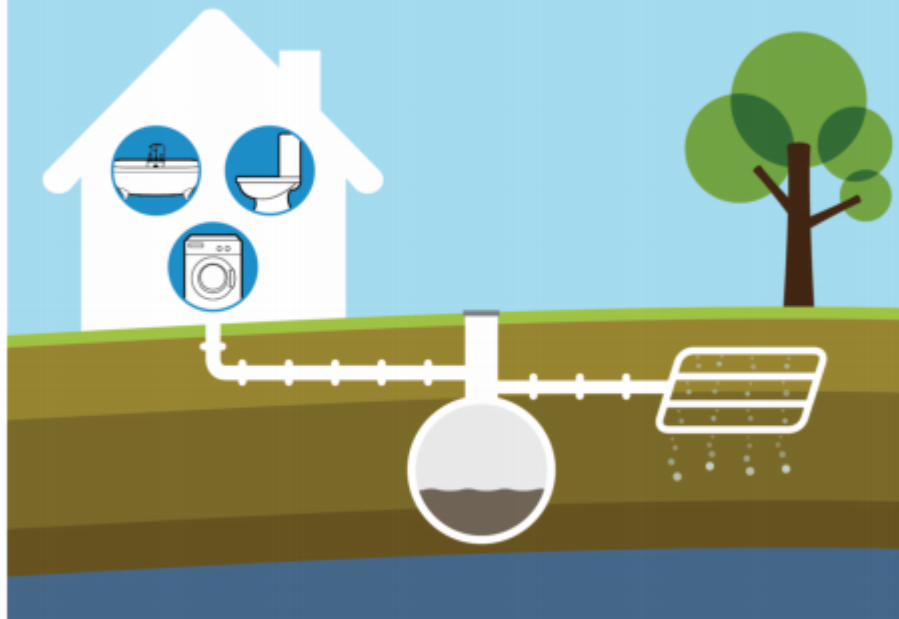
Please see links below to the GOV.UK website which contain all the information regarding General Binding Rules (GBR) and permit requirements for water quality discharges from sewage treatment systems:-

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/discharges-to-surface-water-and-groundwater-environmental-permits>

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/general-binding-rules-small-sewage-discharge-to-a-surface-water>

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/general-binding-rules-small-sewage-discharge-to-the-ground>

## Your sewage – Your environment



Important information for  
households and businesses with  
**septic tanks** and **small sewage  
treatment plants**



# Rules for using septic tanks & small sewage treatment plants

In January 2015, new rules were introduced that simplify the way septic tanks and small sewage treatment plants are regulated in England, protecting the environment and improving water quality.

If you have a septic tank or small sewage treatment plant, by law you must comply with the **'general binding rules'** by ensuring your system is maintained properly and does not cause pollution. Extra protection is in place in areas designated as environmentally sensitive, where people may need to apply for a **permit**.

## What are septic tanks and small sewage treatment plants?

If your home or business is not connected to the mains sewage system, the waste water from your toilets, baths, showers, sinks and washing machines will drain into one of the following systems:

**SEPTIC TANKS** are underground tanks where solids sink to the bottom forming sludge and the liquid flows into a drainage field where bacteria treat it as it soaks into the ground. They're not allowed to discharge into a watercourse.

**SMALL SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANTS** work in a similar way but use mechanical parts to aerate the bacteria, which makes them more effective at treating waste water and means they can discharge treated sewage into a drainage field or directly into flowing water.

**Cesspits/cesspools** are different because the raw sewage is stored in a sealed tank, rather than being treated and discharged, which means they are not covered by the general binding rules. They must be emptied when full and must not be allowed to overflow or leak.

## Top tips for maintaining your septic tank or small sewage treatment plant

Maintaining your system properly will help prevent pollution, avoid costly repair bills and minimise your energy consumption. Here's how:

- Get the sludge emptied regularly by a registered waste carrier
- Get it serviced regularly by an accredited engineer and fix problems straight away
- Regularly check for signs of pollution such as sewage smells, pools of water, sludge, foam, lush weeds or grey fungus growing in your local stream or river. If you spot any of these issues call a specialist for help
- Don't flush sanitary items, nappies, 'flushable' wipes or similar objects down the toilet as they can block the system
- Don't put fats, oils or chemicals down the drain as they kill the bacteria that break-down the waste
- Use low or no-phosphate detergents, which are kinder to the environment
- Keep maintenance records so you know when to service and empty your system

## How to follow the rules and protect your local environment

It's easy to comply with the general binding rules. Here are the main things you need to do:

- Have your system emptied by a registered waste carrier regularly (at least once a year unless the manufacturer says otherwise) to ensure it doesn't cause pollution
- Maintain your system regularly, getting any faults or problems fixed immediately
- You are limited to discharging a maximum of 2,000 litres of treated sewage per day into the ground or 5,000 litres of treated sewage per day to flowing water. If you discharge more you will need a permit. Calculate how much your system is discharging at [www.gov.uk/small-sewage-rules](http://www.gov.uk/small-sewage-rules)

• Speak to the Environment Agency before installing a new system as you may need a permit. Speak to your local council to check your system will meet planning requirements and building regulations. Only install equipment that meets British Standard BS EN 12566

• If you sell your property, inform the buyer in writing that it has a septic tank or small sewage treatment plant

**Go to [www.gov.uk/small-sewage-rules](http://www.gov.uk/small-sewage-rules) for more information, if you are unable to follow the rules, are worried your system may be causing pollution or want to check if your system needs a permit.**

### Who can help?

#### The Environment Agency:

**Email:** [enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk)

**Telephone:** 03708 506 506 (8am to 6pm, Mon to Fri)

**Online:** [www.gov.uk/small-sewage-rules](http://www.gov.uk/small-sewage-rules)

**Incident hotline:** 0800 80 70 60 (24 hours, 7 days a week)

**Local wastewater service companies:** Find an accredited engineer and further guidance at [www.britishwater.co.uk/engineers](http://www.britishwater.co.uk/engineers)

Vicki Weston [Vweston@winchester.gov.uk](mailto:Vweston@winchester.gov.uk)