



Winscombe and Sandford
Parish Council Newsletter
Edition 45
December 2023



Contact us

We like to hear of your concerns and any issues that you wish to bring to our attention.

- Use the Contact Us form via our website: www.winscombeandsandford-pc.gov.uk/ContactUs
- Send us a message on our Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/winscombeandsandfordparishcouncil
- email: clerk@winscombeandsandford-pc.gov.uk or deputy@winscombeandsandford-pc.gov.uk
- phone the Parish Council Office on 01934 844257
- write to the Parish Office, Winscombe Community Centre, 11 Sandford Road, BS25 1JA

Christmas Late Night Shopping – Tuesday 5 December

This year's Late-Night shopping event will be on the first Tuesday in December (5th December). The main through road, Woodborough Road (A371), will be closed from 6pm until 9pm. Please remember this will affect residents living off the closed section of the road with cars not being allowed in or out during this period.

Parish Councillor Vacancy

Becoming a Parish Councillor gives you a great opportunity to get involved and influence issues which directly affect the Parish of Winscombe and Sandford. Contact the Parish Council office to find out more.

- The spending of money on Parish assets
- Giving your views on planning applications in the villages
- Working with North Somerset Council (NSC), the Police and neighbouring Parishes to help to resolve local problems and issues
- Helping local organisations with funding and ideas
- Having a say in what play equipment is installed in the village play areas and how the footpaths are improved.
- Representing the Parish Council (PC) on the Committees of local organisations

Strawberry line Volunteers nominated for an Award

Members of the local Strawberry line maintenance team were nominated for an award at the BBC Radio Bristol Make a Difference Awards 2023.

The ceremony was held on WSM pier and with the group having been reached the final four in The Green category, Garry as team manager attended. He reported “a most enjoyable evening had by all, similar to an Oscars event but without the red carpet and paparazzi.”

The group were highly commended at the ceremony. Our thanks go to this fantastic group.



WERN - Your Community Oil Buying Scheme – buying oil together, to pay lower prices.

West of England Rural Network operates a Community Oil Buying Scheme to help people in our area save money on the cost of their heating oil. We do this by combining orders from all over our area, then once a month, approaching multiple suppliers for their best price upon our bulk order and placing that order with the supplier tendering the lowest negotiated price.

Thanks to a grant awarded by Quartet Community Foundation, annual membership (*normally £20/year for domestic users) is free for domestic heating oil users aged 70 and over.

If you're interested in joining or learning more about the Community Oil Buying Scheme, give Kaz a call, on Tel: **01275 333701**, email: karen@wern.org.uk or visit WERN's website

<http://www.wern.org.uk/community-oil-buying-scheme/>

WiNSpace – Financial Support by Winscombe & Sandford Parish Council

In June 2021, we asked you to take part in a consultation on the WiNSpace project. The consultation asked you whether the Parish Council should provide support to Winscombe Community Association (WCA) for the WiNSpace project by:

1. The Council offering a gift of £250,000 to the project which would result in an increase in your precept payment of around £6 per household per year over 30 years (representing about an 8% increase on the 2021 precept)
2. In addition to the gift do you support a loan of £250,000 with security taken for this against the existing Community Centre.

The results of the consultation (received in August 2021) can be found through the 'News' section of the Parish Council website. To summarise the results, a majority of respondents were in favour of this course of action.

Since June 2021, a lot has changed, both locally and nationally. Planning permission has been granted, though the project will now look slightly different (an update on the progress of WiNSpace can be found here: <https://winspace.org.uk/deliver-winspace-2024/>). We have also seen a significant rise in inflation and interest rates. The latter has increased the annual cost of repayments associated with the gift of £250,000 by nearly 50% compared with 2021. We now expect this to cost £18,000 per annum, which would account for £8.15 (or 9.7%) of an annual precept of £84.02 for a typical household. This is an increase of £0.91 (or 1%) on what a typical household currently pays in 2023/24.

The Parish Council has increased the precept in the last two years (2022/23 and 2023/24), as required by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, in order to prepare for the financing of the gift. However, in light of the above changes, and as part of our due diligence process, we would like to gather the views of parishioners. We would be most grateful if you could spare a few minutes to complete the survey below (which can also be found in the 'News' section of the Parish Council website, [or by scanning the QR code on the next page](#)):

Winspace Survey

Do you consider a new and improved centre in Winscombe will be an important asset for the entire parish?	YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>
Do you think the Parish Council should provide any funding towards a new parish Community Centre in Winscombe by either a grant or loan?	YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>
Would you support the Parish Council gifting £250,000 to the WCA which would result in a cost of around £8 per household per year to be funded through the precept payment you make to the Parish Council over 30-years? This would result in an increase of about 1% based on the 2023/24 precept (equivalent to an 11% increase on the 2021/22 precept).	YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>
In addition to the gift, do you support a loan of £250,000 with security for this taken against the existing Community Centre, and with the WCA meeting all repayments in full for this loan?	YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>
Which area of the parish do you live in? Winscombe / Sandford / Hamlets (delete as appropriate).	Winscombe <input type="checkbox"/> Sandford <input type="checkbox"/> Hamlets <input type="checkbox"/>

The survey will open on Monday 13th November at 9am, and close on Wednesday 20th December at 9am.

If you would prefer not to use the online version of this survey, then please drop this paper copy back to the Parish Council Office. Full results of the original consultation are available to view in the 'News' section of the Parish Council website:
www.winscombeandsandford-pc.gov.uk/

