

Parish council ward report

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Welcome to the January report.

Firstly, I would like to wish you a Happy New Year! I hope you managed to have a restful Christmas break.

Ward matters:

Upcoming surgeries to be held next in March. More details to follow in February's report.

District council matters:

I'm pleased to say the range of events and activities arranged over the past couple of months have been a huge success. As you know, the council supported the City Sounds event in November for the second time – and it has continued to go from strength to strength. It featured more than 50 acts, playing across eight city centre venues and gave a welcome boost to our night-time economy. The Christmas market and Culture Spark events were also well received and helped attract people into the district over the Christmas period. We're already planning to further build on all of this great work in 2024.

In December, the council led another successful multi-agency operation to tackle anti-social behaviour problems along the rail network through the district. Operation Petra brought together the British Transport Police, Sussex Police, Network Rail and Southern Railway, West Sussex Fire and Rescue and Stagecoach, along with our officers to carry out these joint action days. You can find out more about this here:

www.chichester.gov.uk/article/38258/Operation-planned-to-tackle-antisocial-behaviour-along-Chichester-rail-network

The council are continuing to move forward with our work to help tackle climate change. Having completed the first stage of our comprehensive climate education programme, giving officers and councillors the tools to further address climate change in their policies and projects. This has led to staff pledging changes to their everyday activities, which could amount to a reduction of around 12 tonnes of carbon – the equivalent of two return flights to Australia! We know that education is a crucial tool in our fight against climate change. The more conversations we have that help us understand the causes and impacts of this issue,

the more empowered and motivated we feel to make the changes necessary to reduce its impacts. So, our progress with this new carbon literacy training project is a positive milestone that will enable our staff and councillors to further integrate climate considerations into the council's day-to-day work. It is just one of over 60 actions outlined in the council's Climate Emergency Action Plan: www.chichester.gov.uk/climatechange.

The 'Tree Chichester District' scheme has also continued to go from strength to strength. Since the initiative was launched, it has seen nearly 25,000 trees planted across the district through 175 individual projects. This has benefited our district in so many ways, including improving biodiversity and enhancing the local landscape for community enjoyment. This year, the scheme was extended thanks to a £120,000 funding boost from the Government's Shared Outcomes Fund. This funding means that we can continue to research ways to increase tree cover, outside of woodlands, in rural and urban areas over the next two years. As part of this work, we have launched a new grant scheme to help people plant trees and hedgerows in priority areas across the Chichester District with the aim of better connecting woodland habitats, which you can find more about at: www.chichester.gov.uk/treescheme As part of the scheme, we have created an interactive map which outlines the areas of the district that have been marked as 'priority areas.' These are spaces within which we have identified that new trees and hedgerows will make a real difference in terms of connecting woodland habitats, providing wildlife corridors for a number of different species. The map is a quick and easy way for people to check whether their land falls within one of these priority areas and, if so, we'd encourage them to apply for a grant by 8 January by emailing our Tree Project Officer at: treescheme@chichester.gov.uk. Our officer will then be able to discuss ideas and options and offer advice on tree planting and protection.

I look forward to working with you throughout the year- as always, please do not hesitate to contact me if I can help in any way.

Best wishes
Joseph