



## Quality of Life and the Economy

**Cyclist, pedestrians and public transport users are better for the shopping economy – research shows that these groups spend more per head in town stores than car drivers.**

Gridlocked streets limit the access of people – car-free streets allow much greater access through public transport efficiency. The streets are safer, cleaner and give much more space to healthy alternatives of cycling and walking.

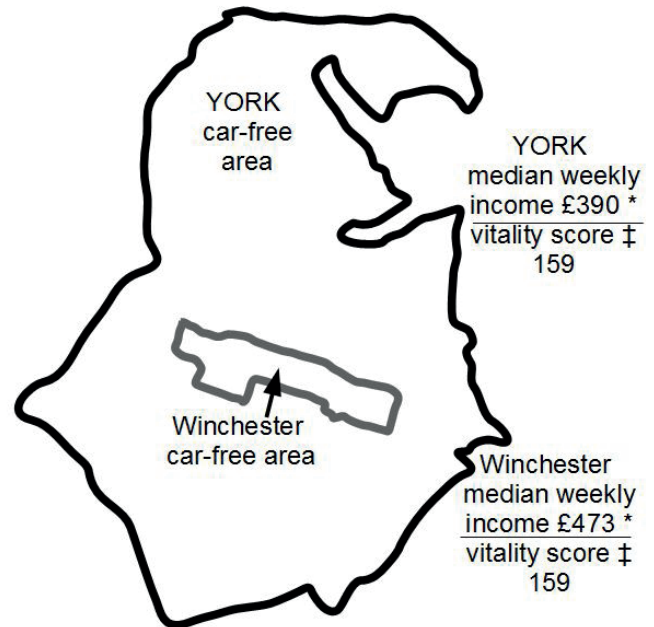
### Green Party Action

There is a Winchester Walking Strategy and Winchester Green Party is looking forward to working with other local groups in encouraging the changes that are so necessary.

We are optimistic that there are already some Council Members who recognise the need to make the urgent shift in priority away from the car towards walking and cycling.

There is scope for more integration of public transport, especially catering for the biggest growth in access via the train. General traffic reduction in Winchester would allow bus services to run at a higher capacity, more frequently, more reliably and more efficiently.

Air Pollution and carbon emissions would be reduced.



\*source: ONS annual survey of earnings 2015

‡ source: retail specialist Harper Dennis Hobbs 2014

Research shows that the most car-dependent towns tend to be the least prosperous. Traffic-filled and polluted streets deter shoppers and tourists alike. Look at York – it has the same 'Vitality Index' (a measure of retail success) as Winchester even though it serves a population of lower average income. It manages this with a car-free area 16 times as big as Winchester.



### Two faces of COP21

The Climate talks in Paris led to a welcome agreement on what was needed. Unfortunately no agreement was reached on a requirement to meet any targets or means of achievement. Our own government, while talking the talk in the right direction, is very much walking the walk in the wrong direction. David Cameron's speech to COP21:

*"What I'm saying is that instead of making excuses tomorrow to our children and grandchildren, we should be taking action against climate change today."*

We wonder then how the Prime Minister could say this and come back here to destroy the promising new renewable energy industry, force through dangerous fracking to extract more fossil fuel, start up a new monster road programme and expand aviation.

## Welcome Winnall to St Bartholomew

**Green Party members have been meeting our new neighbours to listen to their thoughts on the issues important to them.**

The recent Council boundary changes mean that the residents of Winnall and the St Johns area will be joining us in the St Bartholomew's Ward for the Council elections in May. Winchester Green Party wants to make sure residents' views take priority in any changes happening in relation to the Council's Winnall Planning Framework.



## Planning and Development Issues

### Local Plan

**Winchester Green Party's vision for Winchester is for a city that is a good place for visitors and businesses BECAUSE it is a good place to live.**

The creation of an environment that is pleasant and healthy to inhabit, which works economically and which lasts ought to be the principal aim of local planning. It is a pity that this sort of vision is entirely missing from the evolving Local Plan. Indeed the recent consultation on the Plan implementation (the so-called LPP2) appears to be taking us further away from such a vision by abandoning commitments to traffic reduction, indeed looking to increase the attraction of cars to the centre. It seems unlikely that LPP2 will meet the requirements for legality and soundness when it comes to public inquiry this year.

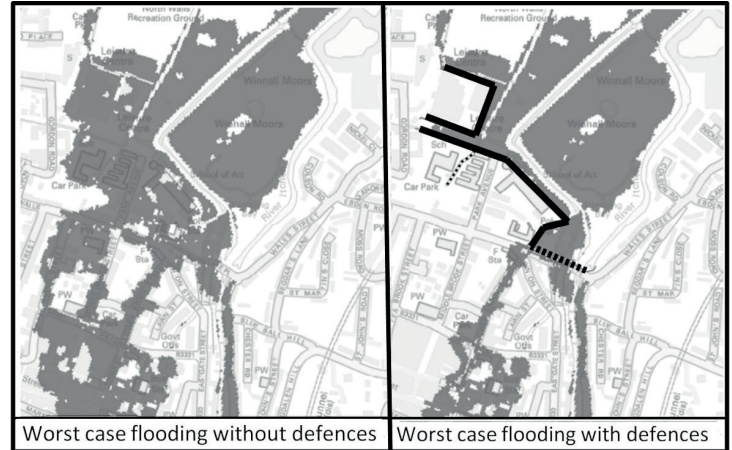
### Silver Hill

At last the flawed relationship between the Council and the developer has been brought to an end, though the flawed scheme itself is not yet dead. We hope the Council will finally recognise that it must start again and look at how this depressing area can be improved. We need less commitment to big planning and single architect solutions - Winchester has grown piecemeal in the past and that is part of its charm. Building gradually and on a human scale will more likely leave a fitting and lasting regeneration of this area.

We all owe a debt of gratitude to Councillor Gottlieb for getting us this far and we must try to avoid this sort of mess in the future. This means public vigilance and public involvement. In future Winchester Green Party intends to bring news of impending developments and relevant consultations to residents in good time for them to be involved in what will affect their localities.

### Winnall Planning Framework

The Council study into the problems faced by residents and businesses in the Winnall area and the opportunities for improvements is at its draft final stage. Recommendations will come before the Council in the spring.



### Flooding

The plan for flood alleviation in Winchester is up for consultation. Work has already been done in Water Lane and further barricade construction is proposed to protect the River Park recreation centre and the School of Art area in Park Avenue. Essentially the plan is to hold flood water back in the water meadows. The capacity of these meadows to hold water and the minimisation of flotsam, damaging to structures in Winchester (like the City Mill), relies on the good management of these meadows by the Wildlife Trust.

If you are affected by the flood alleviation plans you can view the online consultation here: [https://winchester.citizenspace.com/policy/north-winchester-park-avenue-flood-alleviation-sch/consult\\_view](https://winchester.citizenspace.com/policy/north-winchester-park-avenue-flood-alleviation-sch/consult_view)

### Station Area

The Council has learned something from Silver Hill in its approach to the proposed Station Area development by using a design competition process, but there are still worrying aspects. Initial public consultation revealed a clear desire that the development in this largely gridlocked area should involve a proper transport study. Yet that desire has been ignored and the clear preference of the Council is for a new parking dispensation that will significantly worsen the congestion here, especially when Barton Farm traffic arrives. The competition rules are such that the public will have no say in what scheme is chosen.

