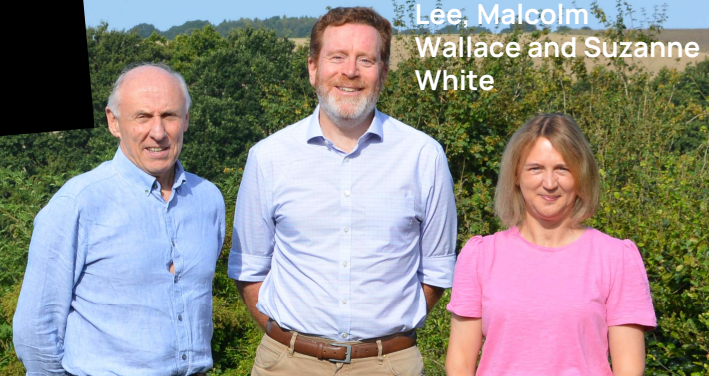


MEON VALLEY GREEN NEWS

Councillors Danny Lee, Malcolm Wallace and Suzanne White



SWANMORE COLLEGE SHINES WITH SOLAR

CLLR MALCOLM WALLACE SUPPORTED THE SCHOOL IN MOVING TO A GREENER FUTURE



Cllr Wallace and Swanmore College site manager, Brett Parker

Together with the solar panels installed in 2021, it's estimated that the college will now generate 120,000kWh of electricity on-site each year.

Swanmore College has taken another significant step towards a greener future by installing 152 solar panels on its sports hall. Thanks to a partnership with Hampshire County Council, the college is expected to now generate approximately 120kWh of electricity annually, reducing the college's reliance on fossil fuels and lowering its carbon footprint.

In addition, the college will soon enjoy substantial savings on its electricity

bills: after approximately four years, the college anticipates annual savings of between £15,000 and £20,000. Cllr Wallace worked with the Swanmore College team and the County Council to play a key role in developing this innovative scheme, which could potentially be expanded to other schools and council buildings across the region.

So why aren't solar panels more widespread?

Cllr Wallace explains: "A key barrier to widespread solar panel adoption is the current energy market. Local producers can only sell surplus electricity to large energy companies at a significant discount. This means it is only financially viable for organisations to produce energy for their own needs." He adds: "If Swanmore College was able to sell its excess electricity directly to the local community, it would then make financial sense to install more solar panels. This would both create a more sustainable community and reduce energy costs for the college and for local residents."

PLANNING APPLICATION SUBMITTED FOR SILVERLAKE GARAGE REDEVELOPMENT AND EXPANSION

Silverlake Automotive Recycling have applied for planning permission from Hampshire County Council for the proposed expansion of Silverlake Garage in Shedfield. The expansion is to enable the creation of a new fully-enclosed recycling facility and workshop building to dismantle end-of-life vehicles, including electric vehicles.

Comments on the application must be submitted by 27th September at: tinyurl.com/silverlakeplanning



Illustration of how the proposals could look

GREEN COUNCILLORS TAKE ACTION ON LOCAL ISSUES

“STOP VEHICLES HARMING RARE CHALK STREAM BY DRIVING IN RIVER” SAYS CLLR MALCOLM WALLACE



Cllr Malcolm has asked Hampshire County Council to place a traffic order to stop vehicles using this 'splash route' through the River Meon in Droxford.

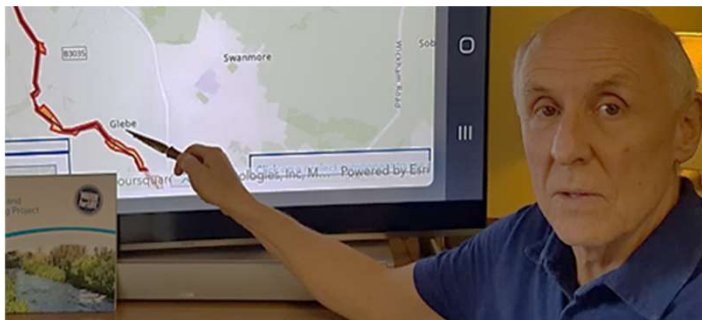
Cllr Malcolm says: “There is strong evidence that the vehicles are damaging the river. Local residents and environmental groups have been raising concerns about the harm to this precious chalk stream for several years. Hopefully, the repeated ecological surveys and further meetings with councillors will allow a review of the next steps to resolve the issue.”

CLLR SUZANNE WHITE CALLS FOR MORE HELP FOR SMALL EVENT ORGANISERS TO MINIMISE WASTE



Cllr Suzanne has been helping organisers of local events, such as the Newtown fete, minimise waste and recycle more.

Suzanne says: “Having found little support or guidance on minimising waste for these small community events, I have asked Winchester City Council what help they could provide and found good examples of toolkits provided by other councils. It's hard work coordinating these valued events, so support is needed.”



CLLR DANNY LEE CALLS FOR STRONGER STANCE ON SOUTHERN WATER SCHEME

Cllr Danny Lee has highlighted the missed opportunities in an upcoming water improvement plan. Southern Water is planning to build a 40km pipeline from Havant to Otterbourne. The project

will convert treated wastewater into recycled water at Havant, which will be transported via Otterbourne Water Supply Works for further treatment and distribution as drinking water.

Danny says: “As this infrastructure project would involve some disruption whilst the pipeline is being laid, there are surely opportunities to include broadband and improvements to the biodiversity. If considered, I suggest these would provide further benefits for our local area as the planned pipeline route passes through parts of Waltham Chase and Shirrell Heath.”

WINCHESTER GREENS WORKING HARD FOR YOU IN THE MEON VALLEY

HOW TO CONTACT US

We want to hear what matters to you and to help where we can, so please do get in touch.

Councillor Malcolm Wallace

✉ Malcolm.Wallace@hants.gov.uk

Councillor Danny Lee

✉ DLee@winchester.gov.uk

Councillor Suzanne White

✉ SWhite3@winchester.gov.uk

Winchester Green Party

🌐 winchester.greenparty.org.uk

✉ contact@winchester.greenparty.org.uk



@winchestergreenparty



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WORKING HARD FOR THE LOCAL COMMUNITY