

# District Councillor's Report

December 2022

CDC has welcomed the new 'Supporting You' team to the council – Alan Coombs, Tatiana Doslic, Eloise Kenchington, Louise Jackson and Guy Evans. The five-strong team of specialist, trained advisors are working alongside services across the council to help people access a wide range of assistance, including financial help to pay bills, help with housing, and health and wellbeing support. The team has been pulled together in direct response to the cost-of-living crisis. The team can be contacted by calling 01243 534860 or by emailing [supportingyou@chichester.gov.uk](mailto:supportingyou@chichester.gov.uk)

CDC has launched its new smartphone app. One of the biggest benefits of this is that they can provide residents with personalised updates and notifications on their waste and recycling collections. This allows residents know if the collection crews are running late, and also notify them of planned changes to collections. Residents can also report issues such as street cleaning, fly-tipping, and even request a new bin. Download it from both the Apple Store and the Google Play Store at [www.chichester.gov.uk/chichesterdcapp](http://www.chichester.gov.uk/chichesterdcapp)

Business Contact Programme figures

For the month of October 2022, the Business Contact Programme has provided

support to 101 businesses across the district, helping to protect 35 local jobs, seeing 11 new jobs created, and assisting with funding for 47 district businesses. Responsive planning application support has also been provided to 12 businesses.

### Virtual High Street Platform update

In total, 221 businesses have now registered across the district. 77 in Chichester, 39 in East Wittering, 26 in Petworth, 30 in Midhurst, and 49 in Selsey. The sites for Chichester and East Wittering were launched in the Spring and Summer; Selsey launched at the end of September; and, the Midhurst & Petworth launch is planned for 25 November. The site now features over 2164 products. Businesses across the district can take part, not just those in the high street.

### Christmas Collection Dates

The waste and recycling collection dates will be altering slightly over the festive period. Changes can be found by visiting [www.chichester.gov.uk/wastecollectioncalendar](http://www.chichester.gov.uk/wastecollectioncalendar)

The Garden Recycling Service will stop from Friday 23 December and will start again on Monday 9 January 2023. There will also be some slight changes to clinical waste collections; all affected residents will be contacted directly.

## How to dispose of your real Christmas Tree

There are number of ways that your real Christmas tree can be recycled this year rather than going to waste. Residents that subscribe to the Garden Recycling service can put their tree out for collection on their scheduled collection day providing it is free from decorations and fits within the wheeled bin. Alternatively, real Christmas trees can be taken to your local Household Waste Recycling Site. CDC has also teamed up with St Wilfrid's Hospice again to offer a simple, green and charitable way to dispose of your real Christmas tree. From 7 – 10 January, St Wilfrid's volunteers can collect your Christmas tree direct from your home in return for a donation. For more information visit: [www.stwh.co.uk/christmastrees](http://www.stwh.co.uk/christmastrees).

## Elections (including Parish Elections)

The Elections Act 2022 is planned to be implemented from next year, and a number of changes are due to take place. This is to give you a brief update of those changes.

- Voter ID – the Government has plans to introduce electors having to show identification at the polling station from the polls on 4 May 2023. Most electors will have an acceptable form of identification but if they don't, they are able to apply for a "Voter Authority Certificate" (VAC) through the gov.uk web portal or in person at the council offices. Staff in polling stations will not be able to issue a ballot paper unless

identification or a VAC is shown. A large-scale PR campaign will start in the new year by the Electoral Commission and the Communications team at CDC. Poll cards will also be A4 size to allow for information on what must be shown in the polling stations to be put on them. More information can be found at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/voter-identification-at->

- [Polling-stations-and-the-new-voter-card](#)

Postal & Proxy Voting Rule Changes (from July 2023) – there will be a new requirement for postal voters to reapply for a postal vote every three years instead of 5 years. There will also be new identity verification requirements for absent vote applications to try and make the system more robust and secure. An option to apply for a postal vote via a new central government online system will be introduced.

Postal Vote Handling Rules Changes (from Autumn 2023) – there will be a ban on postal votes being handled by candidates and campaigners. Postal votes being handed in to a polling station will also be limited to 5 and they must complete a form to establish who has delivered the postal votes and for whom. These changes will deter fraud and will also deter candidates and campaigners from undertaking activity which is perceived to be linked to fraud.