Paper B

Annual Report 2019/2020

Message from WinACC's Chair

At the AGM of 2019, I wrote (following in the footsteps of Tony Stoller, my predecessor) about the subject of change. Now at the AGM of 2020, in my report about the last financial year, I can only write that changes happened thick and fast.

Thinking Globally as WinACC does, one can see a world embroiled in dark confusion with nation flexing muscles against nation. Acting locally, as WinACC also does, we see by contrast some sunshine lighting up the scenery. Last year our local authorities, one Conservative, the other Liberal Democrat, egged on by WinACC and others, both declared a state of Climate Emergency. Now they are really trying to get a grip on the problems, difficult though that may be for many reasons – and they are collaborating.

In WinACC we have gone slowly through an important strategy review to prepare us for the future: for the initiatives we intend to take and for the unexpected opportunities we must seize. The review would probably have been completed by the beginning of April if we had not been hindered by the Lock that came down upon us in the middle of March. It is difficult to put into words how awful the Pandemic has been. But last year it would not have been easy to predict that this year we are now speaking of a new normal, and for tackling Climate Change that means new hope.

Jock Macdonald

Review of 2019/2020

This has been a year of action and long-awaited momentum on climate change. WinACC has been busy both behind the scenes and leading the way on climate action in Winchester.

None of this would have been possible without the tireless support of our volunteers and members.

Working with the Local Authorities

This year we had the positive news that both the City (WCC) and County (HCC) Councils have declared climate emergencies. We have a long and positive history of working in partnership with both Local Authorities. WCC has published an action plan committing to an ambitious target of 2030, with WinACC named as a prospective partner in the plan.

WinACC's Science and Technology Advisory Panel ensures our work is based on evidence, and explores new approaches. A member of the panel, Bob Whitmarsh,

wrote *Greenhouse Gas Emissions in Winchester District (9th edition),* a report on local emissions based on official statistics, which was published in September 2019.

Working with Business

We have further developed our connections with local businesses. This year, WinACC was contracted to work with the Boomtown Music Festival on a waste management project. This also lead to WinACC being chosen as the Festivals Charity Partner and a large donation from Ticket Sales.

For the first time, we took part in a Social Innovation Programme with the University of Winchester Student Hub. This was a very positive experience, both for the students and for WinACC, and one that we would look to repeat.

Working with Communities

WinACC has continued to be the host organisation and key member of the steering group of the Winchester Food Partnership.

Our Renewable Energy Action Group was re-launched this year with the aim of promoting the benefits of renewable energy projects to a wide range of local stakeholders.

WinACC, and particularly our Community Engagement Action Group, supported the second Winchester District Green Week, and was well represented on the steering group. Green Week took place from 29 September to 6 October 2019, with 60 events contributed by 40 different organisations in the District, attended by more than 8,000 people.

Campaigning

We attended *The Time is Now Mass Lobby*, held on the 26 June, with around 35 people from Winchester attending along with an estimated 12,000 people who lobbied more than 380 MPs for urgent action on the natural environment and climate change.

We worked with Winchester XR and Winchester Friends of the Earth to hold one of the country's first Climate Hustings to be held for the 2019 General Election. The event was very successful with a large attendance of over 250 people and guest speaker, Sir David King, former UK Government Scientific Advisor and Special Representative on Climate Change, as well as the political candidates.

We have also run engaging campaigns opposing the proposed M3 J9 widening project and an extension to the existing Southampton Regional Airport.

Governance

The Trustees announced WinACC's response to the climate emergency in a challenging new Mission Statement, approved on 4 June.

> '*WinACC's Mission is to play the pivotal role in Winchester becoming one of the first districts to achieve a net-zero carbon footprint. We will build a partnership of local councils, employers*

and community groups willing to pledge policies and quantifiable actions consistent with the climate crisis.'

The Trustees then commissioned a long-term strategic review. Members and supporters were invited to share their views at a series of Open Meetings, all of which were well attended.

In the final few days of the financial year we, along with the rest of the UK, were hit with the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and the UK-wide lockdown.

2019/2020 in Numbers

Website visits

In this time period there were 19,628 visitors to the website, an increase of 15% on the previous year. Of these new visitors, 84% were first-time visitors to the WinACC website.

WinACC News

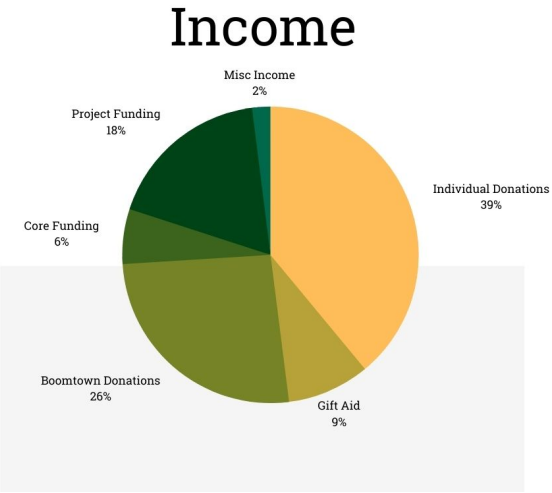
A further 176 people signed up to receive a copy of *WinACC News*, bringing the total number of recipients by March 2020 to 679. That's an increase of 21% on the previous year.

Social Media

WinACC had 964 followers on Facebook and 2,224 followers on Twitter by the end of March 2020. Facebook has seen the number grow by 33% on the previous year, whilst Twitter saw a 3% increase.

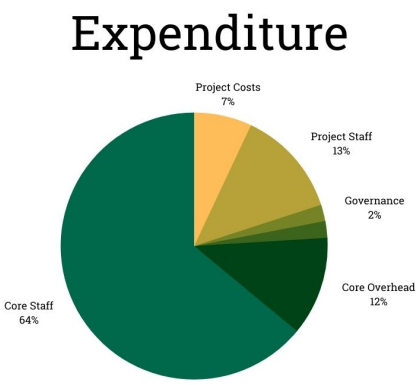
Finance Review

For the first time in a decade, WinACC embarked on a financial year without the benefit of core funding support from Winchester City Council, latterly worth £20,000 per annum. The improvement in our financial position over the year is therefore cause for satisfaction, together with gratitude to those who have made it possible.



Financial commitment from WinACC's supporters has remained typically firm, bolstered by a small number of exceptionally generous donations. Boomtown festival-goers also demonstrated empathy for the cause of climate change by donating £18,000 to WinACC, as the chosen charity partner for the 2019 Festival.

The Company's income for 2018/19 increased from £72,612 to £80,878, whilst expenditure fell from £90,070 to £56,280. The share of this surplus available to unrestricted funds is £8,409, boosting reserves to £33,145 at 31 March 2020. This figure exceeds the upper threshold of the policy range for reserves by approximately £8,000. Trustees view this excess as an appropriate cushion to support expenditure during the Covid-19 lockdown and its immediate aftermath, enabling the charity to continue its activities as far as possible. Beyond that period, much uncertainty remains, as for all charities, but WinACC's reserves offer a degree of financial resilience to the crisis.



With Thanks

WinACC is very grateful to 52 supporters who maintained regular monthly or quarterly donations to the charity and to 9 other individuals who made one-off donations during the year. Four of these donations exceeded £1,000.

We also thank those foundations, institutions and businesses that have supported WinACC in this period, with particular mention of our partnership with the University of Winchester for its continued generous support.

About Us

Our Mission

WinACC will play the pivotal role in Winchester becoming one of the first districts to achieve a net-zero carbon footprint.

Patrons

Joy Carter CBE, Vice-Chancellor, University of Winchester
Tim Jackson, Principal, Sparsholt College

Directors and Trustees (at March 2020)

Jock Macdonald (Chair), Bill Gunyon (Treasurer), Mary Tiles (Vice-Chair), Jenny Hobbs (HR Trustee), Cllr Roger Huxstep (Hampshire County Council nominee and Vice-Chair), David Jones, Sarah Gooding (Lead Trustee on Safeguarding), Cllr Lucille Thompson (Winchester City Council nominee), Jo Crocker, Bob Whitmarsh, Paul Coverdale (Sustainable Business Network nominee), Phil Gagg and Sue Turner.

Staff (At March 2020)

Alison Skillen, Operations Manager; Kay Mitchell, Communications Manager

What Can I Do?

Join WinACC

A strong membership gives us more say with politicians, businesses and communities.

Membership is free. Find out more.

Donate

The climate emergency demands skills and experience. WinACC has a track record of effective local action. Your donation to Winchester Action on Climate Change shapes a safer future.

Donate

Our Partners

WINCHESTER BID

Friends of the Earth Winchester

Hampshire County Council

City of Winchester Trust 1957

Winchester Green Week

Winchester Food Partnership

University of Winchester

Boomtown

Winchester Cathedral

Churches Together in Winchester
Working Together for the City
Part of the Churches Together Network