

County Councillor's report

Annual Parish Meeting of the Bramshott and Liphook Parish Council

I am now coming to the end of my first year as a Councillor and I would like to thank the Parish and District Councillors for their encouragement and support to me as a new councillor. I have enjoyed my bi-monthly visits to the Bramshott and Liphook PC meetings: the debate is always robust and challenging and that is as it should be in a representative democracy. We must take care to remember, though, in our robust debates that our Parish Councillors give up their time freely as volunteers and deserve a lot of respect for that.

It has been a very busy ten months or so. I outline below some of the issues which I have been dealing with during the year.

Issue	Steps taken	Next steps
Liphook Transport study	I have been in regular communication with the two transport officers who, at different times during the year, have been heading up this project. Progress has been slow but I have kept the PC informed. On 22 March, I met with the HCC Transport Team Leader, the Deputy Chair of the parish council, and the EHDC Head of Planning to discuss local views and concerns to feed into the Task Order for the next phase Atkins study. The study is funded by EHDC but is led by the HCC Transport Team Leader.	The first stage of the Study will include traffic modelling to track the flow of traffic through the village. The second stage will be to look at a cost-benefit analysis of all viable options, including the five from the original Atkins study.
A3 signage sending traffic for Haslemere through Liphook	I met with residents and our MP, had discussions with HCC traffic management team, researched accident figures and bridge strike records, obtained agreement in principle from Surrey County Councillors, and wrote to Highways England. Although the response from Highways England was not as positive as I had hoped for, it does open the door to action by HCC.	This issue will now be considered as part of the overall traffic management strategy for Liphook.
Parking restrictions in the Avenue	I approved restrictions as per the plan, as amended following consultation responses. Works were meant to have been carried out in October half term but were seriously delayed. The Executive Member for Transport intervened at my request and the works have now been completed.	I am in touch with EHDC about parking restriction enforcement options
Liphook parking	I met with residents and the Chair of the Parish Council, and with the EHDC officer to whom the work has been delegated under an	Completion expected in March

	agency agreement. A parking scheme is currently being finalised.	Parking review is ongoing.
Bramshott traffic management	I approved a traffic calming scheme for Bramshott which includes village gateways, "slow" road markings, and buff coloured road markings on Burgh Hill Road and Tunbridge Lane. These works were also subject to delays but are due to be completed in March.	Completion expected in March
Pavements in Liphook	I have worked hard to improve the worst areas of uneven pavement in Liphook. Some of the most uneven surfaces are in areas of pavement which are not owned by HCC and I am in the process of identifying the owners.	Identify land owners and work with them to improve the block paving in Station Road
Sandy Lane and Hewshott Lane	I agreed traffic management measures for this area which included a weight limit, additional signs and warning lines.	Due to be carried out in the Spring
Station Road/Midhurst Road	Visibility at this junction is impaired by an overgrown hedge. Unfortunately the hedge is on land owned by a defunct company. I persuaded HCC officers to cut it back, but it remains a concern.	Parish Council has kindly agreed to trim the hedge further back.
Longmore Road speed restrictions	I have approved the plan proposed following consultation and this is now going through the formal sign off process	Awaiting final approval by HCC
Woolmer Lane	I am looking into options for putting in one or more passing places in the lane and cleaning the road surface	Investigate options under Community Funded traffic management initiative; liaise with HCC and EHDC over cleaning road surface
Disabled access at Liphook Railway Station	I have made several enquiries about using the S106 funds from the Silent Gardens development to improve the station so that it has disability access and this has been agreed in principle. I am liaising with the office of Damian Hinds MP who has recently been contacted by one of his constituents.	Discussions are ongoing between HCC and South West Trains

Other matters arising during the year

Devolution in Hampshire	I kept the PC up-to-date with developments in this highly complex area and encouraged the PC and residents to respond to the HCC consultation in the summer. Devolution plans now appear to have been dropped by the Solent partnership and I am pleased that the risk of breaking up Hampshire appears to have receded.
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Household waste recycling centres	Following the HCC consultation last year, HCC decided not to close any of Hampshire's HWRC. Instead, a small charge is being levied on non-domestic waste eg DIY waste (which the HWRCs are not obliged to take). In addition, and for the first time, HWRCs are now able to accept commercial waste, for a charge. Fly tipping across the county has <u>reduced</u> since the new system was introduced. Changes to the opening hours have been put back to October 2017. The changes involve a small reduction in opening hours, and closure on Thursdays. A survey was conducted of all the Hampshire sites to establish the periods of lowest usage before the changes were proposed.
Council tax precept	On 16 th February at Full Council HCC voted to approve the budget for 2017/18 under which the HCC Council Tax precept will increase by 4.99%. This equates to about £1 a week extra on the average Band D household and means that Hampshire's precept will remain one of the lowest in the country. In real terms the precept is lower than it was five years ago, taking into account inflation. 3% of the precept is the amount authorised by government to pay specifically for increases in the cost of funding social care. In Hampshire this increase amounts to an additional £21m in 2017/18. Additional funding has been allocated by the Chancellor in the budget and that will go some way to alleviating this difficult situation.
Traffic management schemes	Traffic management schemes including Minor Highway Improvement schemes, are now being prioritised by HCC in relation to "road casualty reduction need". A new initiative, the Community Funded Initiative, has been launched to enable communities to fund minor improvements which have community support, using expertise and advice from HCC.
Councillors' grants	<p>I was pleased to be able to make the following grants to local projects from the Councillors' grant scheme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £2,000 towards the set up costs of the Liphook Church Centre Day Nursery project, the Ark; • £836 for rainwater harvesting to Liphook in Bloom; • £500 to pay for the Age Concern Liphook Christmas Party • £500 towards the refurbishment of the Carnival Queen's float for Liphook Carnival; • £836 to TCL Hospices Services at Home to train volunteer carers for Liphook and Grayshott

Cllr. Floss Mitchell

Hampshire County Councillor for the Headley Division

20 March 2017