

Report for Bramshott and Liphook Parish Council 23rd November 2020

Since March, there have been 14,837 confirmed Covid-19 cases confirmed in Hampshire and 1,103 COVID-19 associated deaths (as at 13th November). In the seven days to 16th November, there were 2,411 confirmed cases, an increase in 697, with the County's weekly case rate standing at 147 per 100,000 (the national rate at the same point was 264.4). HCC publishes [Hampshire COVID data](#) weekly on our website.

Household Waste Recycling Centres are remaining open during the current lockdown, with the booking service in place. Highways improvement works will continue and Country Parks will remain open. The Hampshire Coronavirus Helpline - 0333 370 4000 – remains open to support vulnerable residents. In addition, the Connect to Support Hampshire website has a [Coronavirus resource page](#) with information.

HCC has been chosen to pilot a [scheme to support family visitors to care homes](#) with Covid-19 testing. Regular testing will be offered to one family member or friend per resident, which – when combined with other infection-control measures such as PPE – will support more meaningful visits. The aim is to enable, where possible, indoor visits without a screen to take place while reducing the risk to care home residents, staff and visitors. The pilot aims to further develop the evidence base for how testing with fast, reliable COVID-19 tests can be delivered at scale.

HCC has [published a new, easy reference guide](#) to help parents and carers decide when it's right to send their child to school, or whether to keep them at home. The checklist clearly describes the coronavirus symptoms and explains what parents and carers should do if a child or family member has them. This guide can be found on the [coronavirus Back To School web page](#) where it is available to download and print.

HCC has successfully bid for a £3 million project to deliver the Apprenticeship and Skills Hub, tendered by the Enterprise M3 Local Enterprise Partnership (EM3 LEP). Over the next three years, this Hub will provide at least 360 small and medium enterprises (SMEs), and other apprenticeship levy-paying employers, with an impartial service to source apprenticeships and develop their workforce to improve productivity and reduce the skills shortage.

In September Cabinet also considered an [Action Plan 2020-2025](#) as part of HCC's overall Climate Change Strategy. The Action Plan details how HCC plans to meet its carbon reduction and resilience targets. Following on from this Hampshire highways have also published its [Hampshire Highways' Carbon Strategy 2020 – 2024](#) which sets out how the Highways service - one of the County Council's most visible and universal services - plans to play its part in achieving the Authority's ambitions in reducing carbon emissions.

A new free service has been launched for Hampshire residents as a partnership between HCC and the Environment Centre. Hampshire residents can access advice on energy bills, information about renewable energy options, switching to a green tariff or saving water, as well as energy efficiency tips. Advice is also available on the Green Homes Grant scheme, launched by the Government in September 2020, which allows homeowners and landlords in England to apply for vouchers to pay for green improvements, such as insulation and draught proofing. The grant covers two-thirds of the cost up to £5,000 per household. For households on low incomes, the

scheme can fully fund energy efficiency measures of up to £10,000. Residents can access advice by calling: 0800 804 8601 or going online: <https://environmentcentre.com>

HCC's [Waste Prevention Community Grant Fund](#) is open now for applications for up to £5,000 for new projects. It's open to schools, neighbourhood groups, charities, small businesses and more. Applications can be submitted up to 4 December 2020.

I have received an update on the plans to improve crossing points in the centre of Liphook. The scheme is progressing and it is hoped that information will be made available to local councillors in the next few weeks. The slow progress recently is partly because officers have had to wait for traffic to return to levels that were closer to pre-pandemic levels so that further data could be gathered to assess the best options for the crossings. Alongside this work, engineers are looking at infrastructure changes to improve the route from Liphook Station to Bohunt School. This would link up to a new path and rear pedestrian gate at the Station end of the school site, which would require planning permission.

Following an approach by a resident, I am looking into whether something can be done to reduce traffic speeds along Longmore Road around the new roundabout under the Community Funded Initiative. It might be possible to change the road lining in the same way that is proposed in Bramshott. New speed limit reminder signs are unfortunately not an option.

The road closure on Headley Road over the weekend of 8th/9th November caused considerable disruption in Bramshott as vehicles tried to avoid the lengthy diversion route. Unfortunately "gatekeepers" who were supposed to be stopping vehicles from using Bramshott as a cut through were not deployed by contractors. Additionally, the St Mary's Remembrance Service was disrupted by the noise of turning aggregate trucks – apparently they were lost. This is being taken up with the contractors. I'd like to pass on the sincere apologies of the Highways Team to residents and councillors for this disruption.

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20th November 2020