

District councillors' report to Bramshott and Liphook Parish Council. Monday 21st December 2020. Angela Glass, Bill Moulard, Rebecca Standish.

On the shortest, darkest day of the year it would be nice to bring some festive cheer but, as you know, it is in short supply. But Merry Christmas anyway!

CORONAVIRUS.

The latest figures show that infection rates are rising in East Hampshire although it still hangs onto its Tier 2 status, buffered by Tier 2 Waverley to the north but perilously close to Havant which is in Tier 4 to the south.

Statistics for East Hampshire up to December 16 show that our rate of infection is 162 per 100,000 population; while Waverley's is 213 and Havant's 340. Of other neighbouring authorities the figure for Winchester is 143 and Chichester 106. The graphs for all districts are rising almost vertically.

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR.

Although the EHDC offices will be closed from the afternoon of December 24 to Monday January 4, council leader Richard Millard says: 'I'd like to reassure you that customers will continue to be able to contact us in an emergency and our out-of-hours rota will be providing support 24 hours a day. '

The contact details for this support are: 07850 358156 or 01730 266551 visit <https://www.easthants.gov.uk/out-hours-services>

PARTNERS MAGAZINE. Details of these out-of-hours number can be found in Partners magazine which will be distributed to all homes in early December. We will also ensure that this is updated on the website so it is clear to customers how they can contact us in an emergency.

BINS.

Revised collection dates are as follows. They can also be found on the EHDC website. <https://www.easthants.gov.uk/bin-collections>

Normal collection date	Revised collection date
Friday 25 December	Monday 28 December
-	-
Monday 28 December	Tuesday 29 December
Tuesday 29 December	Wednesday 30 December
Wednesday 30 December	Thursday 31 December
Thursday 31 December	Saturday 2 January
Friday 1 January	Monday 4 January
-	-

Monday 4 January

Tuesday 5 January

Tuesday 5 January

Wednesday 6 January

Wednesday 6 January

Thursday 7 January

Thursday 7 January

Friday 8 January

Friday 8 January

Saturday 9 January

The [garden waste](#) and [bulky waste](#) collection services will be suspended between Monday 28 December and Friday 8 January 2021.

Normal scheduled collections will resume from Monday 11 January 2021.

From Thursday 24 Dec to Monday 11 January, NorseSE, (NSE), will suspend the 4pm next day deadline for missed bins and will return for bins that normally get rejected for a return collection.

The 48-hour timescale for NSE to return will be suspended, with residents being advised to leave their bins out until collected.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE SETTLEMENT.

EHDC will be responding to this government consultation in the New Year. The good news appears to be that councils may be able to increase core spending power by up to 4.5 per cent. The less good news is that 85 per cent of the increase will be dependent on councils raising council tax by five per cent.

BUSINESS SUPPORT.

Residents signed up to our mailing list have been sent a bulletin outlining the restrictions and are being signposted to our [business support](#) and [support for residents](#) information on our website.

We've launched a couple of new grants for businesses .

- Businesses that have been required by law to close during Tier 2 coronavirus restrictions can now apply for a [Local Restrictions Support Grant](#).
- Wet-led pubs, which make less than 50% of their income from food can apply for a [Christmas Support Payment](#).
- We are also setting up a grant for businesses in hospitality, hotel, bed and breakfast or leisure that have not had to close but are financially severely impacted by the Tier 2 restrictions, which will be live soon.

Businesses in need of support should visit the [business support page](#).

LOCAL PLAN.

Cllr Glass is chairing a meeting of the planning policy panel this evening. You may have read in the Press last week that the Government has now dropped its controversial proposed development algorithm which would have seen EHDC expected to take more housing. Cllr Glass will give an update in due course.

STOP PRESS from Damian Hinds.

MP welcomes re-think on house building numbers

The government has published its response to a consultation on proposed changes to the method for calculating Local Housing Need. The proposals would have meant an almost 50% increase in the number of homes required to be built annually in East Hampshire, from 624 to 933 a year.

Damian Hinds argued that the proposed new method was flawed. In a debate shortly before the final decision^[1], he said:

“we need more houses. I think everybody these days accepts that we need to get supply and demand in better kilter. [But] there is also an important question of mix and ensuring that as we increase those numbers that means an increase in houses that are genuinely affordable.”

In an earlier debate in October^[2], Damian had said that the formula needed to be thought about differently:

“If the outcome of [the formula] is to entrench historical patterns of population growth and contraction, in tension with the Government’s correct emphasis on levelling up [...] we need to look afresh at the formula.”

The government has now determined that the existing method of calculation will stay in place. This is the Local Housing Need approach introduced in the revised National Planning Policy Framework in 2017, and is the first stage for Local Authorities in identifying the needs for housing in a local area.

There is also a separate set of proposals on reform of the way the planning system itself works. There were 44,000 responses to the consultation on those, and the government will respond later.

Damian Hinds said:

“I am pleased that ministers have re-thought the approach. We do still need more homes in East Hampshire, and in particular housing that is affordable for people

growing up here or starting a family. It is important to get the methodology right for working out the need, and it must be sustainable.

“I have also been making the point that the system needs to consider specifically issues around National Parks and I will continue to make these points”

It has also been announced that the Local Housing Need number will be increased in more urban areas. The government has a manifesto commitment to plan for 300,000 homes a year by the mid-2020s.

ONCE AGAIN...MERRY CHRISTMAS...