

Update from your Hampshire County Councillor – June 2022

Greetings to the Executive Officers, Staff and Members of Bramshott and Liphook, Grayshott, and Headley Parish Councils. Apologies for the late deliver of this report. However whilst I was away in Greece at the end of May, my HCC colleagues appointed me to 2 additional outside bodies – Hants and Isle of Wight Fire Rescue Service Authority and South Down National Park Authority. These are in addition to SIFCA (Southern Inshore Fisheries Conservation Authority); BET (Bramshott Educational Trust); River Wey Trust and Deadwater Valley Trust. If you don't see much of me, you'll know why! 😊

Local Activities

Bramshott & Liphook

We had another “perfect storm” trying to drive through The Square on Monday 30th May when SE Water had traffic light controls outside the Living Room Cinema on Midhurst Road and HCC Highways were finishing off surface patching works on Longmoor Road. Southbound traffic on Headley Road was tailed back to Tower Road junction. Many thanks to Parish Councillor Richard Rowson for bringing this to my attention.

I've had a number of conversations with Kevin Wyeth, Chair of Liphook NDP Steering Committee re: the impact of traffic planning on the Plan. I escalated this to HCC new Leader, Cllr Rob Humby and Deputy Leader, Roz Chadd and within a matter of days Kevin and I have a meeting scheduled with HCC Strategic Transport Planning in Liphook.

Cllr Roz Chadd, HCC Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Children's Services and I have been invited to visit Bohunt Academy and look forward to this meeting in July.

I am pleased to report that potholes on Woolmer Lane have been filled in (again). I requested that the road surface be replaced but unfortunately, I am advised that the latest survey carried out by HCC Highways Asset Management team suggested that the carriageway surface requires small reactive repairs. Due to its (Woolmer Lane) relatively low hierarchy it would be difficult to justify resurfacing works here.

Bramshott Educational Trust met to review and award grants, to young people who live in the Parish, for a variety of educational purposes or activities such as school trips, music and ballet lessons, the purchase of books, specialist tools and other equipment.

Headley

Further to a meeting with a local resident and the Highways Safer Roads Officer on 10th May to review the road conditions and possible traffic calming measures, the Officer will come back with proposals. However these are likely to require a CFI (Community Funded Initiative) to progress. This will be presented to the Parish Council for consideration and local consultation.

I am so sorry to read that some mean minded people have stolen Monty, the Erie Wood full size bronze bear statue from Headley Down Nature Reserve. This was clearly an organised, professionally led crime. I hope the criminals get caught but fear for the return of Monty.

Grayshott

I am delighted that my 1st Councillor grant for 2022/23 went to Party In Grayshott who organised the amazing PIG Day Platinum Jubilee party on Sat 4th June. Many congratulations to Rachel Phillips Frankie Spice, and all the PIG team for a great event.



Following concern from a resident about access to Lloyds Pharmacy, I escalated this issue to HCC Director of Public Health who engaged with NHS colleagues to help address this situation.

HCC Highways engaged at the request of a resident concerned about broken bollards on the pavement at the corner of The Avenue due to parked vehicles. A broken bollard stump trip hazard was removed. However Highways then discovered the land doesn't belong to HCC. I have asked our Principal Engineer – Highways North to contact EHDC to discuss if other parking restrictions could apply.

I am in dialogue with the Strategic Manager - Waste and Resources following an email from a resident disappointed with the level of recycling of certain household items such as Tetrapak cartons, yoghurt, ice cream and margarine tubs, meat and other trays in Hampshire compared to Surrey. The reality is that our Materials Recovery Facilities (MRFs) that sort recyclables were built in the early 2000s and designed to only segregate a limited range of materials and the fact that Hampshire has focused on sustainable UK markets.

The County Council has been working with the Project Integra partners over the last few years in response to the stagnated recycling rate and reduced range of materials that are accepted at the kerbside compared with other local authority areas. This work has resulted in the agreement of a new Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy (<https://democracy.hants.gov.uk/ielssueDetails.aspx?Iid=39463&PlanId=0&Opt=3#AI41930>) that will see the introduction of a new twin stream recycling system (paper and card in a 'fibre' stream and all cans, tins, glass bottles and jars, plastic bottles, pots, tubs, trays, cartons and flexible plastics in a 'container' stream), alongside separate food waste, across Hampshire in line with the requirements of the Environment Act 2021.

HCC have now submitted a planning application for a new MRF facility (<https://democracy.hants.gov.uk/documents/s82003/Report.pdf>) which, if approved, we expect would be operational by mid 2024 to enable the above range of materials to be separated and then sent to recycling markets. It is worth noting that at present there are no guarantees that all items collected (particularly flexible plastics) will have fully established UK markets so there is the potential that disposal routes may be required until these markets have become established.

HCC are awaiting the Government's response to the recent round of consultations on Consistency in recycling and Deposit Return Scheme as well as details about how funding for local authorities will work, this is key to help manage the transition to the new system and enable investment to proceed.

Councillor Grants

My grant pot for 22/23 is available to accept new grant applications. Please encourage local organisations with a project that will benefit members of our community.

[County Councillor grants | Hampshire County Council \(hants.gov.uk\)](https://www.hants.gov.uk/councillor-grants)

News from Hampshire County Council (HCC):

New leadership team at Hampshire County Council

Following the retirement of Keith Mans, Councillor Rob Humby has been elected as the new leader of Hampshire County Council with Councillor Rob Chad as his deputy. Rob has been the Hampshire County Councillor for Bishops Waltham since 2013 and the County Council's Deputy Leader since May 2019.

This has led to a reshuffle of the HCC cabinet, which is now as follows:

<u>Policy, Resources & Economic Development</u>	<u>Rob Humby</u>
<u>Children's Services</u>	<u>Roz Chadd</u>
<u>Highways Operations</u>	<u>Nick Adams-King</u>
<u>Climate Change & Sustainability</u>	<u>Jan Warwick</u>
<u>Transport & Environment (waste/recycling)</u>	<u>Edward Heron</u>
<u>Commercial Strategy, Estates & Property</u>	<u>Steve Forster</u>
<u>Performance, HR, Inclusion & Diversity</u>	<u>Kirsty North</u>
<u>Recreation, Heritage & Rural Affairs</u>	<u>Russell Oppenheimer</u>
<u>Adult Services & Public Health</u>	<u>Liz Fairhurst</u>

The new leader says that he is passionate about doing the best for the people, businesses and places that make Hampshire a great county. Following his election, he said:

"My vision for Hampshire is to maintain our county as a successful, prosperous, and attractive place to live, work, study, play and visit - balancing economic success with care for the environment for the benefit of generations to come. I believe that a strong economy is essential to support excellent public services, provide high quality and inclusive employment and business opportunities, and to bringing prosperity to all of Hampshire's communities."

Highways

Planned HCC Highways works can be seen here:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/plannedmaintenance>

However, if you've received a letter advising you of forthcoming roadworks in your area, I urge you to go to [one.network](#) to check on diversion routes, timescales and who to contact as in many cases the work is being done on behalf of a utility company.

If you need to report a problem related to our roads e.g.: safety concerns, potholes, road surface defects, pavements, trees and hedges, flooding and drainage issues then please log the issue in the first instance here:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems>

and details of diversions related to roadworks can be found here: <https://one.network/>

Please do follow the diversion signs to avoid hold ups and frustration.

If the problems relates to footpaths and rights of way:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/rightsofway/reportaproblem>

When reporting an issue, you'll be sent an email confirming a reference number for the report. If you would like me to follow this up for you then do please forward that message to me and I will add a comment as County Councillor, which should hopefully bump it up the priority list.

I pleased to report that the Highways Councillor Portal will be available by the end of June which I hope will allow me to investigate the status of open incidents for residents without distracting our very busy Officers.

Homes for Ukraine – Update

The County Council continues to work with key local partners to enable the provision of immediate support and assistance to Ukrainians arriving in Hampshire under the Government's Homes for Ukraine scheme.

The latest available figures for visas issued are that as of 30 May 2022, 60,977 visas have been issued for England. 2,314 have been issued for Hampshire (from the 2,492 applications received) and 1,431 guests have arrived.

One recent initiative is that free bus pass travel within the wider Hampshire area will be available for Ukrainian refugees arriving in the county. Arrangements are being finalised with the county's three major bus operators - Stagecoach, First Bus and Bluestar – with the scheme due to launch shortly.

A reminder that communities can apply for grants of up to £5,000 to help Ukrainian families arriving - details are at <https://www.hants.gov.uk/community/grants/grants-list/leaders-community-grants>

Useful information for anyone welcoming Ukrainian guests can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/homes-for-ukraine-scheme-frequently-asked-questions>.

Hampshire County Council has a helpful webpage at www.hants.gov.uk/ukraine which is being regularly updated. This includes a new Welcome Guide webpage

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/ukraine/guests/welcome-guide>

HCC Platinum Jubilee celebrations

Celebrations have occurred across the county in honour of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, from communities to care homes and including the lighting of beacons at the start of the four day holiday.


In related news, Hampshire's Record Office in Winchester is one of six landmark sites across the UK that have been awarded listed status by the Department of Digital, Culture, Media and Sport to commemorate Her Majesty's 70-year reign. The award-winning building, designed by the County Council, was opened by Queen Elizabeth II in 1993

Help from HCC for those struggling with cost of living pressures


If you are struggling with the cost of food and utility bills – help is available. Our Children's Services team have provided a list of useful sources of support for families in Hampshire who are experiencing financial difficulties:





Immediately available support:


 For food Support: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/.../communitypantries> Pantries also have a supply of food vouchers for eligible families. Please also visit the Family Information and Services Hub <https://fish.hants.gov.uk> for other food support.

 Utility bill Support: Please contact your local Citizens Advice for help with fuel costs - <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/.../contact-us/contact-us/>

 Please also check out our previous grant funded community schemes - <https://www.hants.gov.uk/.../communitygrants> - to see which local organisations are offering immediate support.

 Exceptional Housing Support: Contact your local District or Borough Council for support with housing costs.

 Many local organisations, charities and community groups are also offering support. Details about what is on offer, including foodbanks, can be found on our directory: <https://fish.hants.gov.uk/kb5/hampshire/directory/home.page>

 More support is coming soon:

- Food vouchers from district and borough councils will be available in the next month.
- More community food and utility bills support projects – details will be published on the connect4communities website: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/.../communitygrants>
- Holiday Activity and Food Schemes are running across the summer holidays – details will also be published on the connect4communities website: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/.../holiday-activities-hants>
- Discretionary grants for schools, colleges and early years settings will be available from 27 June.

For more information about the connect4communities programme see: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/.../connectforcommunities>

£0.25 million investment fund for community energy projects

An investment fund, to support community run renewable energy projects in Hampshire, is to be established by Hampshire County Council. The 'Revolving Community Energy Fund' will invest up to £25,000 for any individual community project being launched in Hampshire as part of the Community Energy Pathways project.

The aim of the fund is to stimulate significant community investment in renewable energy across Hampshire. Investment in a share offer will enable a community to operate a renewable energy scheme and earn income. Once a scheme is operational, it should then attract additional shareholders and/or secure borrowing against the assets of the existing scheme, enabling it to be extended to a wider community base. For more information, email climatechange@hants.gov.uk

Consultation on Hampshire's new Local Transport Plan

The County Council is asking for views on a draft Local Transport Plan (LTP4) that aims to support the county's economic prosperity, decarbonise the transport system, and help people in Hampshire live healthy lives.

The LTP4 will define the future of travel and transport in Hampshire to 2050. If adopted, it would guide the County Council's transport and travel infrastructure planning and design in favour of improving travel choices for people by transforming and widening the appeal of walking, cycling and use of public transport.

The plan proposes transformational changes which:

- shift away from planning for vehicles, towards planning for people and places
- reduce reliance on private car travel
- support economic development and regeneration
- meet national priorities to decarbonise the transport system
- promote active lifestyles

The consultation runs until 26 June 2022 at: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/localtransportplan>

PLEASE TAKE PART !! I personally feel that we need joined up public transport for this to work.

Subject to the results of the consultation the new Local Transport Plan is expected to be adopted by early 2023.

Kind regards – Debbie
Cllr. Debbie Curnow-Ford
Hampshire County Councillor for the Liphook, Headley, and Grayshott Division

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