

Update from your Hampshire County Councillor – Mar 2023

Greetings to the Executive Officers, Staff and Members of Bramshott and Liphook, Headley, and Grayshott Parish Councils. I hope this report finds you well and not snowed in!

Local Activities

Bramshott & Liphook

Residents continue to bring road works related issues with Swish Fibre's contractor, MMB, to my attention. I am pleased to report that I, along with Parish Councillors and officers from HCC Highways, attended a virtual meeting with managers from Swish Fibre and MMB responsible for works in Liphook. They took our feedback and comments very seriously and have agreed to a fortnightly review meeting.

Yet again some prankster has turned around the 30mph/National speed limit sign on Longmoor Road. This is extremely dangerous and could lead to a serious accident on the bend or roundabout at Lowsley Farm Drive.

Further to requests, I'm following up with Highways to find out when damage to railings and coping on Longmoor Road will be repaired following an RTA in January. Temporary barriers have been erected.



I continue to work with Parish Council Chairman, Cllr Jeanette Kirby and HCC Highways to look at options to improve the cobbled area by the footpath on Longmoor Road at the Headley Road end. As this area is within the The Square Conservation Area, we are grateful for the support and input of Liphook Heritage Society.

While there is still a way to go before rollout is complete, **Passfield** has its first full-fibre connection up and running!! Well done to Julian Small for his perseverance.

Grayshott

I was very pleased to share with a resident from Kingswood Firs that Highways will routinely cleanse the gully pots of debris and clear out, as is reasonably practicable, the soakaways adjacent to their property.

Works to improve drainage on a section of Whitmore Vale will be undertaken in March which I hope will improve run off water issues for a resident.

My thanks to the manager of the Fox and Pelican who suggested they held a fundraiser to collect money to help fix the potholes. I put this idea to Cllr Nick Adams-King, HCC Lead Cabinet Member for Universal Services but the potholes had been, or were in process of being, fixed.

Headley

Thanks to a vigilant resident, Epipactis phyllanthes (Green-flowered Helleborine) were saved when without warning Swish Fibre's contractor started to dig a trench in Hollywater Road. They were not aware of the presence of these rare orchids nor of the SINC.

I am pleased to learn that Headley has an active Community Speedwatch. Hopefully I may have found a new volunteer.

Councillor CORONATION Grants

A new grant window for Hampshire County Councillors will open from 1st to 21st April. Called 'Member's Grants for the Coronation' will offer grants up to £1k to support local events.

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/community/grants/grants-list/county-councillor>

Interested in learning about solar panels and batteries?

PeCAN are holding a solar panels webinar on Wednesday, March 29th at 7.30pm in a bid to share more with the community about getting solar panels installed. Here is the link:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/would-your-home-benefit-from-solar-panels-and-batteries-tickets-576219667537>

Grants to fight rural crime.

The Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, Donna Jones, has announced a fund to award grants to help tackle rural crime, supporting initiatives to reduce rural crime or support victims. The application window closes at 2pm on Friday 21 April 2023 and successful applications will be announced in mid to late May 2023. Applications can be made at <https://www.hampshire-pcc.gov.uk/safer-together/funding/apply-for-funding>

News from Hampshire County Council (HCC)

HCC Budget for 2023/24

Hampshire County Council's expenditure for 2023/24 includes a £2.6bn annual revenue budget and covers all the services delivered by the council for 1.4 million residents, including supporting its most vulnerable children and adults.

Capital budget projects totalling £645.3m over the next three years include:

- £175m investment in new and extended school buildings to provide school places for children in Hampshire, giving a total of 18,874 new school places by September 2025.
- £142m for structural maintenance and improvement of roads and bridges.
- £103m of Integrated Transport Plan schemes including £58m of schemes focused on walking and cycling improvements.
- £0.3m funding towards the County Council's Flood Risk and Coastal Defence Programme as part of our response to the challenge of climate change.

Hampshire County Council's council tax precept for the financial year beginning 1 April 2023, will increase by a total of 4.99%, of which 2% will go specifically towards adults' social care, in line with Government policy. This equates to an annual charge of £1,460.25 for a Band D property – an increase of £69.45 per year or approximately £1.34 a week.

Supporting our Elderly Residents



Our Public Health team hosted the Chief Medical Officer for England, Professor Chris Whitty. The visit provided a fantastic opportunity to showcase some of the great work being led by HCC, alongside the NHS, to support a healthier older age for local people. Preventing falls, being travel confident, better mental health and connecting through libraries will be part of the Live Longer better programme launching soon. www.hantsiowhealthandcare.org.uk

Hampshire offers 97% of pupils one of their preferred school choices

More than 97% of parents in Hampshire have been offered a place for their child at one of their three preferences for a secondary school in September 2023.

Of those who applied for a Year 7 place (for September 2023) by the application deadline, 90% have been offered a place at their first preference school. In contrast, only 69% of London parents have been given their first preference. The County Council received 15,400 on-time applications this year – an increase of 418 applications compared to the number received for places in September 2022 (14,982).

Nationally, there have been greater pressures this year than there have been for some time due to a spike in the birth rate 11 years ago. This is reflected in the local picture for Hampshire, where again we have had to manage exceptional levels of demand for school places over and above those, we already typically see each year. Despite this, our Admissions Team has still been able to deliver another fantastic result, with most parents being offered one of their preferences. For those parents and carers who have not secured a place at one of their preferred secondary schools this year, I would urge them to please visit our website for advice and guidance on their options.

Pupils who did not secure a place at one of their preferred schools have been allocated a place at their catchment school or the next nearest available school. Parents have the right to appeal in these situations and their child's name will be added to the waiting list for their preferred schools. Places can become available via the waiting list for various reasons including parents changing their mind, or families moving home.

Post-16 Transport Policy Consultation

Hampshire County Council are consulting on transport arrangements for those travelling to access education in school, college or other education settings. As part of this year's consultation, we're proposing to increase the parental contribution, in line with the increased costs of running this discretionary service. This is the only proposed change to the policy.

The consultation is open until 11:59pm on Sunday 2 April 2023.

We want to hear from as many people as possible, so please do get involved and have your say before the closing date.

Further information can be found in this news item <https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/20230220post-16transport> .

This is the link to the consultation and details of how to submit your feedback.

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/aboutthecouncil/haveyoursay/consultations/Post-16-Transport-Policy-for-2023-24>

Comments can also be submitted in writing to: School Transport Team, Elizabeth II Court North, The Castle, Winchester SO23 8UG.

Update on HCC Waste and Recycling plans

HCC is responsible for processing and disposing of waste. EHDC is responsible for the collection of waste. So, it's to HCC sites that your waste is taken once it's collected from your bin. Recyclables are processed through Material Recycling Facilities, the main ones being near Alton and Portsmouth. There the recycling is sorted, processed and transferred for re-use elsewhere. Many items have to be removed because they cannot be recycled.



Hampshire, as everyone knows, is behind the curve in terms of recycling. I completely understand how frustrating it is to see other areas of the country where much more can be recycled and to see those items go into your black bin here. The reason is the infrastructure in place to process the waste. Hampshire was an early adopter of recycling and our facilities in place in the late 1990s which were cutting edge at the time. However, now they have been surpassed by more sophisticated systems able to process a much wider range of material.

For that reason, we are building a new Materials Recycling Facility in Eastleigh which will enable the recycling of very many more items, including tetra paks and plastics. The site will be fully operational in 2025, although Test Valley will begin the introduction of those collections in 2024.

Waste that cannot be recycled currently is not sent to landfill. Instead, it is sent to be burnt for energy at facilities in Basingstoke and Marchwood. I visited the Chineham facility in Basingstoke too. Again, the visit was fascinating, learning how the right mix is achieved to maximise energy production, minimise residue and how the output is cleaned to ensure its emissions are safe and do not damage the environment.

Even the ash from the incinerator is processed to reclaim any useful material and recycle it for other uses (like surface material for car parks for example). This results in less than 5% of waste in Hampshire ending up in landfill.

Tree planting gathers pace

Following the planting of the mini-forest in Sheet in January, in the last month the Hampshire Forest Partnership has continued to make great strides towards our target of planting one million trees by 2050.

We have just planted 350 trees at Portchester's Castle Shore Park. And in partnership with Liss Parish Council and the Tree Council we planted 30 trees at the Mill Lane Community Garden in Liss.

Tree-planting is a great community activity and brings a host of benefits in terms of natural beauty, flood alleviation, carbon storage and biodiversity. Please get in touch with the HCC Team if you would like to recommend a patch of land for some tree planting by emailing treeplanting@hants.gov.uk

News from Highways

Highways Maintenance Newsletter

February 2023



In January, a decision was secured to utilise external funding to ensure that the County Council's parish lengthsman service can be maintained for the coming financial year (2023/24).

The term 'lengthsman' dates back to the 1800s, referring to workers who were responsible for keeping a particular length of road neat and tidy. The modern role of Parish Lengthsman was reintroduced in Hampshire in 2010, in order to give communities more

say in how their local area is maintained.

First trialled in 2010, with just 10 parish councils, the scheme funds a local 'lengthsman' to carry out straightforward and low risk maintenance activities on footways, highways, and rights of way. The work mainly involves jobs that can have a big impact, such as ditch clearing, hedge cutting and sign cleaning. The scheme has since been successful in giving 186 local parish and town councils an opportunity

to prioritise and deliver their own small scale highway maintenance works that will be of high value locally.

As always, we would be very grateful if Members could continue to take any opportunity they may have to remind their town and parish councils, as well as local residents and businesses, to report all road issues using our online reporting tools wherever possible: hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/flooding.

Countywide Statistics for January 2023

1,301

Emergencies attended



2

Operation Resilience schemes completed

15,595

Gullies and other drainage cleared

6,320

Carriageway defects repaired (including potholes)

173

Arboriculture jobs completed

1,174

Square metres of footway repaired/resurfaced

7,038

Heavy Patching Programme

1,246

Other jobs completed (outside of all works shown)

A lot of work is currently underway at HCC to expand the Community Funded Highways Initiative (CFHI) scheme in order to give Parish and Town Councils more opportunity to introduce traffic-calming features. We hope that this will include a route to 20mph speed limits where appropriate.

Potholes

The number of pothole repairs now outnumber the potholes reported, on a weekly basis, for the first time since the beginning of December. Hopefully the corner has been turned and we can concentrate not only on fixing those needing more permanent repair but also on the 'business as usual' work that has been delayed because of the bad weather.

A reminder that Hampshire Highways can't fix them unless we know about them, so PLEASE, if you see a pothole in your road or when you are out and about, take a few moments to report it online. The link to do so is here: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/.../roadma.../roadproblems/potholes>

Reporting it here is the best way to ensure it is fixed as quickly as possible. We prioritise the busiest routes first when fixing issues, so if it's a minor road it may take a longer to get to it, but we will fix it.

Reporting Highway Problems

Links to report road issues:

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

Tree/hedge problems: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/treehedge>

Flooding/drainage issues:

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

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

Problems with rights of way:

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

If you would like me to follow this up for you then please forward that message to me and I will chase for you.

Please go to [one. network](#) to find out who is digging up your road, why and for how long.

Traffic Management

From 1st April 2023 the county council will take back traffic management and on-street parking functions from EHDC. The services affected are:

- (i) Traffic Management Agency – Mainly related to new and amended on-street parking controls
- (ii) Civil Parking Enforcement Agency – Mainly related to on-street parking enforcement and the management of Residential Parking Zones (including the issuing of permits)

I look forward to attending Parish Council meetings this month and taking any questions.

Kind regards – Debbie
11th March 2023

Cllr. Debbie Curnow-Ford
Hampshire County Councillor for the Liphook, Headley, and Grayshott Division
Tel: 07738 289890
Email: Debbie.Curnow-Ford@hants.gov.uk
www.hants.gov.uk