

Hampshire County Councillor Update 17

Who could have guessed that when I sent my last update to you such a momentous month was ahead of us.

Despite knowing that an event must inevitably occur, the shock, when it comes, is no less overwhelming.

I'm sure that's how very many of us felt upon hearing of the death of the queen.



For the vast majority of us Queen Elizabeth II was the constant in our lives. A source of inspiration, an example to us all through her commitment to service. Providing comfort in times of strife. Signifying unity in times of division. Offering hope when we might otherwise have despaired.

Queen Elizabeth truly felt for our sadness and shared in our gladness.

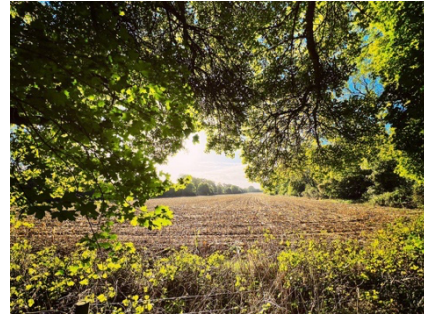
As the Prime Minister said, the Queen was the rock upon which modern Britain was built.

Here in Test Valley we feel Her Majesty's loss all the more keenly. Romsey was always close to her heart. The place where she spent her honeymoon and where she visited often.

And while we remember so many long years of service and commitment we should also turn our eyes to the future. My thoughts and prayers are with the King as he assumes the heavy burden his mother bore for so long.

God Save the King.

Autumn is definitely here. As evidenced by my dog walk past harvested fields this morning.
Our area is beautiful no matter the time of year.



Here's October's County Councillor update.

Highways Information

Kimbridge Pot Hole

Do not ask me about the detail of this. But the Kimbridge pothole by the drain on the corner was repaired this week. At last.

We are still waiting for permission from Network Rail to fix it. Which explains why the poor road surface on the other side of the level crossing has not been fixed.



Eastleigh Travel Hub Survey

If you travel through Eastleigh (most likely either using the station, Parkway station or as a bus transit point), a new survey about travel hub services planned for the town might be of interest.

Eastleigh has been identified as the first location in the Hampshire County Council area for residents to benefit from the advantages of having access to travel hub services

A travel hub is a recognisable place which offers different and connected transport modes supplemented with enhanced facilities and information features that appeal to and benefit the traveller. This could include facilities such as cycle hire and e-car club vehicles and other services such as WiFi and parcel collection points.

Initial research was undertaken in July 2021 to find out what types of travel hub services would be most useful for Eastleigh residents, and the County Council has now secured funding from the Department for Transport (via the Transforming Cities Fund) to invest in two new facilities – a main hub in Eastleigh town centre and a smaller one at Southampton Airport Parkway.

HCC would now like to hear from residents again, to help develop services that will be used by businesses and residents.

The link to the survey is here:

<https://hampshirecc.welcomesyourfeedback.net/s/eastleightravelhubs>

Please share your views before the end of Sunday 23 October 2022.

N.B. Both of the proposed hubs are anticipated to be in place by April 2023. For more information about these, or to view the results of the previous research, please visit the scheme web pages: [Eastleigh travel hub\(opens in new window\)](#); [Southampton Parkway travel hub\(opens in new window\)](#)

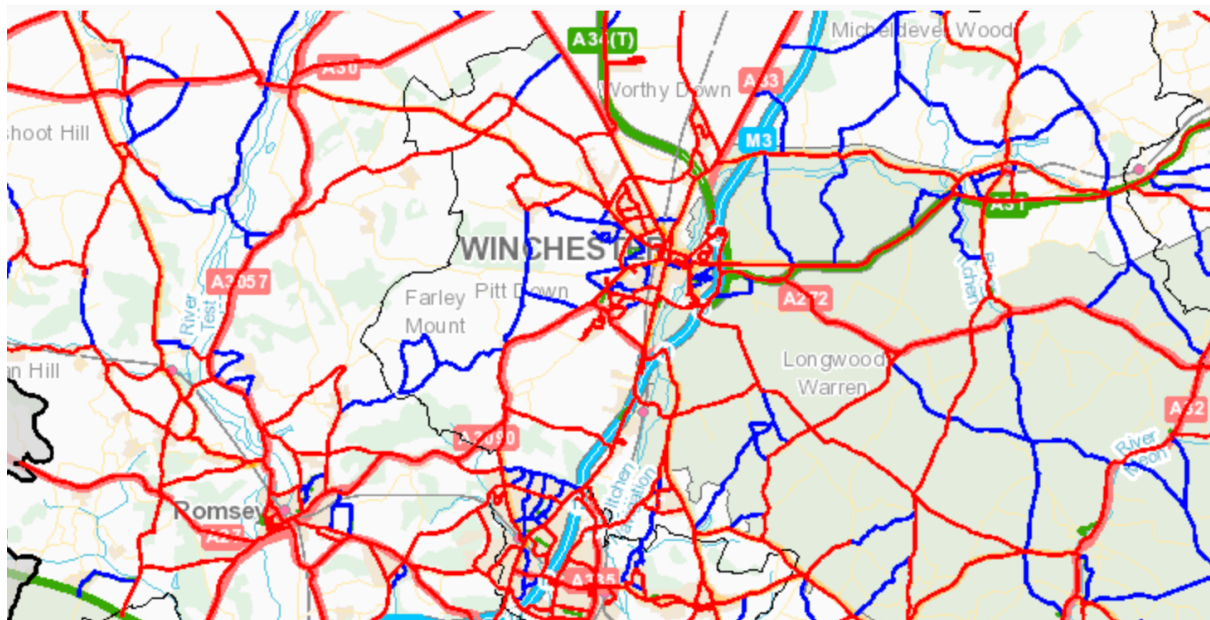
Getting ready for winter

It's not winter yet, but don't be surprised to see Hampshire County Council gritters out and about over the next few weeks.

Gritting vehicles will be out on a trial runs on priority one salt routes to ensure we are ready for the start of the winter season.

Should you see the gritters on your travels, although not salting, please give them plenty of space.

For more information on our salt routes please follow the below link:<https://maps.hants.gov.uk/highwaysaltroutes/>



Driver Skills Scheme for older drivers.

With the colder season just around the corner and low sun, poor weather conditions and mechanical strain on vehicles, drivers are often advised by motoring organisations to get their vehicle checked. But, what about the driver? HCC's Road Safety team's experienced assessors are on hand to provide some useful tips for winter driving.

Mature drivers generally have fewer accidents than young drivers. However, as we grow older, gradual changes take place which mean our ability to deal safely with some situations diminishes. The 'Driver Skills Scheme' is a confidential skills appraisal for drivers aged over 60.

Find out how it could help you or someone close to you
<https://www.hants.gov.uk/.../drivertraining/driverskills>

Hampshire Highways figures for August

Here's the Hampshire Highways update for August, over 4,000 potholes and other defects fixed across Test Valley in the month and almost 2,500 gullies cleared in preparation for the winter.

Highways Maintenance Newsletter

August 2022



Summer is the most opportune time for implementing much of our planned highway maintenance programme since, generally speaking, the county usually enjoys sustained periods of dry weather and longer hours of daylight. Through Operation Resilience, our programme of planned structural maintenance, our aim is to ensure that the highway network can more effectively withstand the adverse impacts of extremes in weather and increasing volumes of traffic. With 5,500 of highways to maintain, this is an ongoing challenge but having a longer

term programme in place, with an additional £10 million invested each year by the County Council over and above the grant funding we receive from the Department for Transport, means that we are in a better position than many authorities to effectively manage our local network. Without doubt, the heatwave has been a challenging test of our roads' resilience in extreme temperatures. Road temperatures can be considerably hotter than the air temperatures and once surface temperatures exceed 50 degrees Celsius the risk of softening increases, particularly

on older surfaces. However, modern bitumens are much more resilient to high temperatures so, as expected, most of our network was able to cope without any issues, with just a few localised incidents (fewer than 10) of 'softening' road surfaces by sending out our winter gritters to deposit a fine dusting of sand where needed.

Do remember that the most efficient and effective route for notifying us of problems on a Hampshire road, is online at hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance

Countywide Statistics for July 2022

366

Emergencies attended

35,595

Square metres of carriageway resurfacing

10

Operation Resilience schemes completed

14,657

Gullies and other drainage cleared

270,530

Square metres of surface dressing and micro asphalt

139

Arboriculture jobs completed

2,801

Square metres of footway repaired/resurfaced

10,520

Carriageway defects repaired (including potholes)

573

Other Jobs completed (outside of all works shown)



Test Valley Statistics

for July 2022



Please note that the figures quoted accurately reflect the highway maintenance activity carried out in each district area during the previous month. The scale of activity is generally based on a combination of cyclical work (routine), local demand/need (reactive), and the utilisation of asset management principles (planned), rather than a simple distribution across the 11 district areas. This means that the level of activity will vary from district to district each month so the monthly figures should not be compared on a like-for-like basis. Over the course of a typical financial year, maintenance activity will be relatively proportionate across the Hampshire local authority area, recognising that the size of each district area varies.

30



Emergencies attended



2,498



Gullies and other drainage cleared

41,226



Square metres of surface dressing and micro asphalt

11



Arboriculture jobs completed

53



Square metres of footway repaired/resurfaced

4,376



Carriageway defects repaired (including potholes)

68



Other Jobs completed (outside of all works shown)



Reporting Highway Problems

Links to report road issues are here:

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>

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 chase for you

Aster Sewerage Charges

I am attempting to resolve the issue of very high sewerage charges being billed by Aster to those people linked to their sewerage plants.

I understand that fresh bills have been sent to many people in the last couple of days changing substantially the amount they pay.

If you know of residents who pay Aster for their sewerage disposal, could you possibly pass on my details to them please? I'm asking residents to update me on what Aster are asking them to pay please and if they have sent any correspondence to justify them?

The sites of which I am aware currently include:

Butlers Close/Oval Road, Lockerley,
Manor Road, East Tytherley
East Dean Road, Lockerley
Cowleas Cottages, Awbridge
Aylwards Way, Nether Wallop

Glebe Meadows, East Dean,
The Close, Hatherden
Rectory Hill, West Dean
Verlynch Cottages, Longstock
Stevens Drove, Houghton

New electric buses for Hampshire

Great news that electric buses are coming to Hampshire. Firstly in the south east of the county. Hopefully there Southampton fleet will follow.

On their way to Gosport, Fareham and Portsmouth – a fleet of 34 new electrically powered buses for cleaner, greener travel 🚌⚡

First Bus has placed one of the UK's largest Electric Vehicle bus orders, following a successful bid for Government funding support, made in partnership with the County Council and Portsmouth City Council.

Find out about this exciting development:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/2022-09-06PtnsBidElectricBuses>

Prison Sentence for fly-tipper

During the period of official mourning, TVBC obtained another successful prosecution for fly-tipping.

A Wellow man has been handed a suspended prison sentence and ordered to pay full costs after pleading guilty to fly-tipping waste including industrial kitchen appliances. Test Valley Borough Council took Mark Hilden of Scallows Lane, West Wellow, to court after they received a report of a fly-tip near Roman Road, Broughton on 21 October 2021.

The waste was blocking access to the Southern Water Services Ltd site and also a footpath, which leads to the Clarendon Way.

The waste included industrial-sized fridges, an oven and an ironing board, together with a large amount of blue plastic vegetable crates. The appliances displayed the PAT testing labels which allowed them to be traced back to The Concorde Club in Eastleigh. The club confirmed that they had paid £300 cash for the waste to be removed and the removal had been captured on CCTV.

A DVLA enquiry confirmed that the vehicle in the CCTV footage was registered to the defendant. The stills from the CCTV were also sent to Hampshire Constabulary who identified Mr Hilden in the images.



At Southampton Magistrates' Court on 7 September 2022, Mr Hilden was disqualified from driving for three months and sentenced to 12 weeks in custody, reduced to eight weeks for an early guilty plea, suspended for two years

He was also ordered to undertake 120 hours of unpaid work, reduced to 80 hours for early guilty plea.

He will pay Test Valley Borough Council £133 in compensation to cover clean-up costs, plus full costs of £1,041.

I'd like to say a massive thank you to all those involved in bringing Mr Hilden to justice. Thanks to the breadcrumb trail that started with the PAT testing labels, through to the CCTV that placed the defendant at the scene in his vehicle, we were able to track down the person responsible.

Fly-tipping is a terrible crime with terrible consequences, and I hope this sends a message to those criminals who think they can get away with it, that they absolutely won't in our beautiful borough.

Discount for reusable nappies

In Zero Waste Week, at the beginning of September, HCC arranged for a 15% discount for reusable nappies.

As well as saving money, parents could be helping to save the planet. Did you know that it's estimated that each child will go through as many as 4,000 nappies by age two and a half? That's 920 kilograms per child – as heavy as two grand pianos!

Visit www.hants.gov.uk/reusable-nappies to validate your address and reveal your 15% discount code!



HCC Grants for organisations supporting vulnerable families

Do you know of an organisation that could help families in need this Christmas?

HCC are inviting bids for funding that will help provide vital support to vulnerable families through work with Hampshire's Holiday Activities and Food programme.

We want to ensure there is wider support available via the programme so that families can get advice on a range of issues such as finance, health and wellbeing, employment and housing.

£25,000 is available for our Signposting Grants to private, public and voluntary sector organisations. These could include Citizens Advice, healthcare providers, family support services, housing support services, Jobcentre Plus and more.

Find out more and apply here

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/220922HAFsignpostinggrant>

County Councillor Grants

The grant system is back up and running and I've made my first grants for this financial year. To the Romsey Show (hope to see any of you there on September 10th), to Hampshire Youth Orchestra towards the costs of local members and to Baby Necessities, a charity based on the Abbey industrial estate which supports families with equipment for new-borns who are facing financial challenges

Getting About

The period of mourning after Her Majesty the Queen's death caused delay to many events, County, Borough and parish. I was honoured to attend the proclamation ceremonies for the accession of His Majesty the King in both Winchester and Romsey and also the Borough Service of Commemoration at Romsey Abbey.



I was delighted to be asked to judge the stands at The Romsey Show, which went ahead on September 10th, it was fantastic to see the show back after three year and for it to be so well supported.

I've been travelling around the County to view highway works, in Tadley, Aldershot, Basingstoke and Bishops Waltham.

I've also chaired two Liaison Panel meetings, for the Raymond Brown site at Roke Manor and for the Collards recycling site on Lee Lane, Nursling.

Additionally, I've been along to Parish Council meetings in Chilworth, Nursling and Rownhams and Michelmersh and Timsbury

Contact

Do please get in touch if I can ever be of any help. For those of you using social media, I post very regular updates on many local issues including roadworks and planning applications on my Facebook page here: facebook.com/nickadamsking



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Caring for Romsey Rural