

## **Hampshire County Councillor and Winchester City Councillor report November 2022**

**1. Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II** We are all devastated to hear the terrible news about the Queen. Her life has been dedicated to public service and she has led the country and the commonwealth with unstinting dedication throughout her reign. She has been the one constant for the entire life of almost everyone in the nation, a beacon of calm, fortitude and continuity in an ever changing and often challenging world. She will be greatly missed. Hampshire County Council and Winchester City Council have both been involved in various events to celebrate the life of her late Majesty, including the reading of the proclamation at the Great Hall and the Guildhall in Winchester.

**2. Roads** The Average Speed Cameras have now been installed on the A32 and the A272 around the West Meon Hut. They run from East Tisted to West Meon and from Bramdean to Langrish. Trials are ongoing and the results have been very impressive. The cameras include high quality cameras; these have for example enabled bikes to be filmed at excessive speeds and crossing double white lines. The police have also been carrying out other operations over the summer, including the use of unmarked bikes. These will ensure that enforcement occurs in the wider area. The intent is to make the area unattractive to antisocial bikers and drivers whilst still welcoming the majority who ride or drive responsibly. The county council has also been conducting a consultation on 20mph speed limits. The consultation produced over 9,500 responses with around 50,000 answers to questions in total. This is now being assessed and reviewed. The summer was an opportune time for maintenance works over Hampshire's 5,500 mile road network. Across the county 35,595 square metres of carriageway was resurfaced in July, 14,657 gullies and other drainage was cleared, 2,801 square metres of footway was resurfaced or repaired and 10,520 road defects were addressed, including potholes. Examples locally included the works at Corhampton Down, with the relining intended to improve road safety here after a number of accidents over recent years. Autumn and winter will doubtlessly bring fresh challenges - don't forget the most efficient and effective way to notify the council of problems on a Hampshire road is at [hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance](https://hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance).

**3. Homes for Ukraine update** Hampshire County Council is to pay an extra £200 per month to Hampshire residents hosting Ukrainian guests as part of the Government's Homes for Ukraine Scheme, over the next five months. The extra money is to reflect both the important contribution Hampshire hosts are making to this significant humanitarian effort, as well as the current challenges many may be facing, in terms of cost of living pressures, particularly over the winter months. It is also an acknowledgement of the need to find new hosts, even as a number of guests have returned to Ukraine. The new payments will start in October and be funded via the grant paid to upper tier local authorities to support implementation of the Homes for Ukraine scheme locally. The county of Hampshire has welcomed the third highest number of Ukrainian nationals in England.

**4. Grants** A reminder about the county councillor grant scheme. Councillors receive a small allocation which can be used to support community projects. Locally these have included supporting the playground and village hall in Warnford, works to the Square and scout hut in Droxford and contributions towards the new bus shelter and jubilee events in Meonstoke and

Corhampton. Applications for this financial year can be made until 28th February 2023. The link for applications is <https://www.hants.gov.uk/community/grants/grants-list/> county-councillor

**5. Local plan** The local plan is a local authority document used to guide policy on planning uses in an area, including new housing and commercial uses. Winchester City Council are about to launch a consultation on their proposed new plan. We are in fact governed by the South Downs National Park Authority local plan and so the WCC plan will not directly affect us. However, we are aware that the SDNP are considering an exercise to identify possible houses for new housing and we should be vigilant for any proposals affecting us locally.

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