

Hampshire County Councillor Update 32

Thank goodness January is finally over. Longer days and more spring like weather lie ahead (I hope I am not tempting fate there). Here is the latest update covering January 2024.

Some big issues in this update, so my apologies for its length. The approval of the new 20mph speed limit policy for Hampshire, the consultation on future services as HCC attempts to balance its budget for 2025/6 and details of the developments proposed by the new Test Valley Local Plan.

Highways Information

20mph policy introduced by HCC

Last month the Universal Services Select Committee scrutinised both the departmental budgets for next year and the proposals for a 20mph policy.

Their comments about the latter were helpful and I was happy to agree to there being a self assessment process created to help communities decide whether an application to introduce a 20mph limit would be right for their area, and also to ensure that we undertake a full review of the policy and its impact in a year's time.



I therefore agreed to the policy, taking into account the comments from the Select Committee meeting.

The new policy confirms two things; firstly that we will continue to consider 20mph zones in areas where they are deemed appropriate and there is a proven safety need for them - outside of schools for example.

More importantly the decision will introduce a policy which allows communities to request the introduction of 20mph zones in their own area. There will be a number of criteria any community led application will need to meet:

Firstly, and most importantly, there must be clear evidence of community support. Too often we have seen the introduction of 20mph zones elsewhere in the country where there has been little support, resulting in conflict and division in communities. I am determined that should not happen in Hampshire.

Communities will need to fund the introduction of the schemes they request themselves. This should be possible through the use of Community Infrastructure Levy or other forms of developer contributions. You will no doubt have seen the posts elsewhere about the financial challenges facing the County Council. There is therefore no possibility of funding to help bring these schemes forward I'm afraid.

The introduction of 20mph zones would need to be accompanied by measures to reduce speed. The implementation of Speed Indicator Devices for example, those that show the speed a vehicle is going with a happy or angry face. The police have been clear that they do not have resources to enforce any new zones, so communities will need to find ways by which they can encourage compliance themselves.

There has been a vocal campaign by campaigners who want a blanket introduction of 20mph zones across the county, similar to that introduced recently in Wales. While I have sympathy with their argument, which highlights not only the safety benefits of lower speed limits, but also the impact on the environment and health budgets, for me there remain two issues impeding that consideration.

The first is finance, such a move would cost £20 million, that funding would need to come from highway repair budgets, reducing them by almost 50% for a year. The second being public support, it is clear from Wales, from other parts of England and from my inbox that there is far from universal support for 20mph zones, consequently best that communities decide for themselves whether a zone is right for them.

Romsey Road, Nursling - junction improvements

A heads up that the works to install traffic lights at the Bakers Drove/Romsey Road/Redbridge Lane junction and to improve the traffic lights at the Horns Drove/Romsey Road/Nursling Street junction in Nursling will be starting next week.

The work will see new lights installed at both junctions. The lights at Nursling St and Horns Drove will be moved closer to Romsey Road and both sets of lights will be intelligently linked to decrease the delays and queuing at both junctions.

The work will also include the introduction of a 30mph limit along the whole length of Redbridge Lane.


There are more details about the scheme on the [Hampshire County Council](#) webpage set up for the works. Updates on progress will also be placed here:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/.../transportschemes/redbridgelane>

A326 Waterside improvement scheme announced

Last month marked a significant step forward for transportation in the New Forest area. HCC have announced the development of plans to upgrade the northern section of the A326, stretching from Totton to Applemore. This initiative promises to enhance the lives of residents and businesses in the Waterside area by offering:


- ◆ Better transport connections
- ◆ Reduced pressure on local roads
- ◆ Enhanced safety measures


 **Driving Sustainable Growth:** This project is a key part of the Waterside Vision, aimed at fostering sustainable growth in the Waterside area. We're building on a £50 million investment in transportation improvements, including:


South section upgrades of the A326

Eling to Holbury Cycle Route (Transforming Cities-funded)

Bus priority improvements at Rushington Roundabout and Marchwood Bypass

 **Balancing Economy & Environment:** With the Waterside home to vital national infrastructure like the Fawley Oil Refinery and key environmental areas, this scheme is crucial for boosting the national economy while fostering sustainable growth.


 **Detailed Design & Funding:** Work on a detailed design for the A326 North improvement scheme is underway. This is a stepping stone towards seeking planning approval and outlining a business case for Department for Transport funding this Autumn.

 **More Than Just Capacity:** Our vision goes beyond handling traffic volumes. We aim to:

Redirect traffic from local roads, including those in the New Forest National Park


Promote active travel with safer, easier road crossing


Support economic opportunities like the Solent Freeport

 **Environmentally Conscious:** A comprehensive landscape plan will accompany the highway design, focusing on:

Enhancing biodiversity with species-rich grasslands, trees, and shrubs

Redesigning the Bartley Water drainage tunnel for wildlife movement

 **Public-Private Collaboration:** The Waterside Vision, backed by Hampshire County Council, New Forest District Council, New Forest National Park Authority, and major landowners, aims to create 6,700 new jobs and attract over £3 billion in private investments, all while enriching the environment.

 **Part of a Larger Picture:** The A326 North improvement is a key component of the Government's national Large Local Majors program, under the Major Road Network funding stream, designed to support significant local road network projects.

You can read more about the proposals here: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/.../a326-north-waterside...>

Closure of Winchester Road, Romsey - Feb 12-23

To make several new connections to a development site at 109A Winchester Road, Romsey (the site of the old cycle shop), the developer and utility companies will close the road between Botley Road and the Sun Inn between 12-23 February 2024. The road will be closed all day, every day for the duration.

You can see details of the closure here: <https://one.network/?GB136744815>

[Councillor Mark Cooper](#) and I have been in correspondence with HCC Highways Permitting about this for some time. The initial request was for a longer period, with individual works and the work being carried out at the utility company's convenience rather than having any thought to the disruption it will cause.

I'm very grateful to the Highways Permitting team who rejected those requests out of hand and insisted that the work be carried out at the least inconvenient time possible and that all utilities were coordinated for the work to be done at the same time in the shortest possible window.

Therefore the closure will occur during half term and the following week next month. There is no simple solution to the complexities and challenges that the closure will bring. Letters are already being sent to residents and I attach a copy below. I've also attached copies of the initial proposals for diversion signs (there are a couple of errors which I've highlighted).

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

TVBC Motion on Aster Sewerage Charges

Huge thanks go to all my councillor colleagues, the members of [Test Valley Borough Council](#) who voted unanimously last month in support of my motion highlighting the issue of sewerage charges being charged by [AsterGroup](#) to homeowners attached to their treatment plants.

The approved motion read:

"This Council calls upon Aster to:


- Recognise its responsibility to both tenants and homeowners and also to the wider community by addressing their failing sewerage treatment plants as a matter of urgency.
- Re-tender its sewerage treatment service contract for Test Valley, appointing a contractor whose costs are comparable to those charged by local suppliers.
- Review the charges made to homeowners since 2015, identifying where costs have been higher than might reasonably be expected had the recommendations of the 2015 Ridge reports been implemented.
- Create a plan to bring all sewerage treatment plants into fully working, environmentally compliant, order. The cost of which should recognise their failure to maintain the plants or plan for their replacement, and not place undue financial burdens on homeowners and tenants alike.


Furthermore Council requests the Chief Executive write to Mr B Howard, CEO of Aster Group:


- Requesting detail of the maintenance and management of the Sewerage Treatment Plants at all 19 Test Valley locations between 2000 and 2023.
- Reminding him of their 2016 statement that Aster will be investing to improve and maintain assets.
- Expressing this Council's dismay that, after almost ten years, the solution has not been identified and passing on the outcomes noted by this motion and reserving this Council's position in relation to any future action."

Help Shape the Future of Accessible Housing in England


Are you, or do you know, a disabled person who is in or is attempting to identify adaptable or accessible housing? The Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (LUHC) Committee has launched a crucial online survey and needs YOUR input. This is your opportunity to share your experiences and views on accessible and adaptable housing for disabled people in England.

 Inquiry Focus: Disabled People in the Housing Sector

 Hosted by: Levelling Up, Housing and Communities Committee

 They Want to Hear About:

Your journey in finding or adapting suitable housing
Challenges and solutions for accessible housing access
Your experience with the Disabled Facilities Grant

 Deadline: Don't miss out! The last day to submit your response is Thursday, 15 February.

 A Message from Clive Betts MP, Committee Chair:


"We've gathered a lot of written evidence, but now we want to directly hear from disabled individuals. Your feedback is crucial in helping us understand how the government, local councils, and developers can better support the provision of suitable housing. Share your story and help us make a difference!"

 Inquiry Goals:

Evaluate the government's role alongside local councils and developers in providing suitable housing

Investigate the effectiveness of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) in complying with the Equality Act 2010

Explore improvements to support systems like the Disabled Facilities Grant

 Be Part of the Change:

This inquiry will also examine the findings from the Government's consultation on raising accessibility standards and how far planning and support systems have come since then.

 Evidence Sessions Starting Soon:

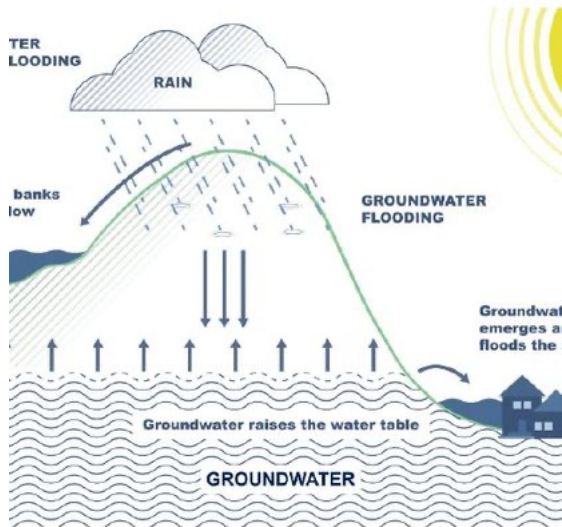
The committee will soon begin public evidence sessions, delving into written submissions and discussing next steps with witnesses and ministers.

 Take the Survey Now: <https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx...>

Your experiences can drive change and improve housing accessibility for disabled people across England.

Groundwater Flooding

[Hampshire County Council](#) have provided a helpful update on ground water flooding across the County.



Flooding from groundwater is currently one of the highest risks across Hampshire. A wetter than usual summer and autumn has raised groundwater to significantly higher levels than the seasonal average in many areas.

Groundwater flooding occurs when the natural water level under the ground (the water table) rises to the surface. Flooding can be devastating and can cause damage to homes and other property, as well as roads and frequently overwhelms drainage and sewer networks. Underground rooms, such as cellars and basements, are particularly at risk. This type of flooding is more likely where there is chalk

under the ground - it can also happen in places with sand and gravel, such as river valleys.

There are currently 10 Flood Warnings and 30 Flood Alerts in place across Hampshire covering both groundwater and river flood risks (correct as at 15.01.24).

This information is regularly updated at:

<https://check-for-flooding.service.gov.uk/alerts-and...>

Finding the latest information:

You and your communities can sign up to receive Flood Alerts here:

Sign up for flood warnings - <https://www.gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings>

Alternatively, sign up by calling Floodline; Telephone: 0345 988 1188 Textphone: 0345 602 6340 This is a 24-hour service with alerts sent by email, text or phone.

Reporting a flood

The Environment Agency is responsible for managing the risk of flooding from main rivers and the sea. Incidents can be reported to their hotline on 0800 80 70 90.

The County Council is responsible for managing the risk from surface water, groundwater and ordinary watercourses. Further information and how to report this type of flooding is available here:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/.../flooding/reportingflooding>

It is always advisable for residents to take photos of any flood water affecting them in order to evidence the impacts for insurance and investigation purposes.

It is also important for flooding to be reported to the relevant body as swiftly as possible so that this information can be used to identify properties at risk, initiate investigations and also for evidence to identify and claim potential funding for future flood resilience or

alleviation schemes. If we are not aware of the scale or impact of flooding then it significantly reduces any likelihood of actions being taken.

Sandbags

The County Council does not provide sandbags to properties impacted by flooding, unless the water is coming directly from the public highway.

Further information on the availability of sandbags, can be found here:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/.../environment/flooding/sandbags>

Protecting property from flooding

It is the responsibility of homeowners to protect their property. While it is not always possible to completely protect a home or business against flooding, positive action can be taken to reduce the damage and the amount of water that gets in, and also the cost and time of cleaning up. Further information is available at:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/.../env.../flooding/floodprevention>

Also refer to the further guidance below:

- Protecting your property – <https://nationalfloodforum.org.uk/.../protecting-your.../>
- Protecting property from flooding - <https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/.../protecting-your-property...>
- Prepare for flooding: <https://www.gov.uk/prepare-for.../protect-your-property>
- Adapting your home or business to the risk of flooding - <https://www.gov.uk/.../adapting-your-home-or-business-to...>

County Council Budget consultation

You will no doubt have seen the publicity about Councils 'going bust' in the last few months. The latest was Nottingham City Council, closer to home Southampton City Council is close to declaring it cannot deliver a balanced budget and Somerset Council is asking the Government to allow them to increase Council Tax by 10% this year to avoid the same situation.

Hampshire County Council is NOT in that position, yet. Unusually for many councils we project our finances ahead by a number of years, we can therefore see when, and why, we anticipate there will be challenges in balancing the budget and continuing to deliver the services we are, by law, required to provide.

The County Council has a legal responsibility to carry out certain functions. We cannot say 'no' if someone asks for support and in many cases we cannot means test or ask for a contribution toward the cost of providing a service. Examples of this are social care costs for older people, support for those with disabilities, the care of vulnerable children and young people and school transport for those who meet the necessary criteria. It's entirely right that we provide these services free of charge for those who need them. The consequence though is a cost that is only limited by the number of people requiring support.

Our projections show that while we will be able to balance our budget for the next two years, by 2026 there will be an anticipated shortfall of £132 million.

HCC therefore has to consider ways by which we can balance our budget before then. We very much hope that comes in the way assistance from the Government, either by way of additional funding or more usefully allowing us to charge economic rates for some services and means test others. But it may not, so consequently we must now begin to consult on how we might change our discretionary services to meet that budget shortfall.

The feedback from last year's consultation told us that Hampshire's residents were supportive of service change, but notably opposed to service reduction. We have taken that on board and have prioritised those changes as part of our proposals upon which the County Council will now consult. This will include further internal reorganisation, increased charging for services and the sale of assets.

When a Council can no longer meet its costs, the Government send in Commissioners to run the Council and oversee its return to financial stability. This is what has happened to Nottingham, Birmingham and many others. The Commissioner will look at every non statutory obligation and want to understand why the Council might still be operating in that way. Their view will be that the Council should only do that which it is legally obliged, and any other services should be cut.

The area of the Council for which I am responsible has already seen reductions in our budget of £117 million in the last 10 years, this being before any reduction in purchasing power for inflation is taken into account. So, when we look at ways by which we can reduce our services, we are left looking at those remaining non statutory services. These include areas which many consider to be vital, and so I am clear that no stone will be left unturned in our review to find ways by which we can keep service reductions to a minimum.

These include:

School Crossing Patrols - HCC do not have a legal duty to provide school crossing patrols. We do have a legal duty to ensure children can travel to school safely.

Winter Gritting Routes - These have not been reviewed in many years, so we will be testing whether the current network is needed.

Community Transport - There is no legal duty for the County Council to support community transport. However, we realise that where it exists community transport plays a vital role in combatting social isolation and enabling access to vital services.

HWRCs – Hampshire is the best served county in terms of its waste and recycling centres, we have more per square mile, per head of population and open them longer than any other area. Are there better ways of delivering this service?

No one stands for election to oversee these kind of changes. We will continue to lobby the Government for greater support, we will relentlessly seek out efficiencies that do not affect our services and we will look for every opportunity to raise money so that service reductions can be avoided.

You can read more about the consultation here:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/aboutthecouncil/haveyoursay/consultations/future-services-consultation>

County Council Budget consultation - HWRCs

One of the areas we need to consider for change and potential reduction is our network of Household Waste and Recycling Centres (HWRCs). Hampshire is the best served county in terms of its waste and recycling centres, we have more per square mile, per head of population and open them longer than any other area. Are there better ways of delivering this service?

As a Waste Disposal Authority, we're obligated to arrange for the deposit of household and garden waste at no charge under the Environmental Protection Act 1990.

In 2022/23, you made 2.1 million bookings, depositing nearly 120,000 tonnes of waste across our 24 HWRCs, costing over £10 million a year to operate.

However, due to ongoing budget pressures, we are looking to reduce spending by a minimum of £1.2 million annually.

Proposed Changes Include:

1. ****Charging for Discretionary Services****

- Premium booking slots
- Additional services by site staff
- Chargeable items like gloves and sacks

2. ****Alternative Delivery Models****

- Handing over management to charities or community organizations
- Districts and boroughs managing some sites

3. ****Changes to Types of Waste Accepted****

- Evaluating efficiency by restricting certain waste types at specific sites

4. ****Reducing Opening Days/Hours****

- Potential reductions to opening hours and days to achieve savings

5. ****Reducing Number of Existing Sites****

- We have split the sites into 4 tiers, based upon their size, usage and the cost of running them:

Tier 1

Newer, larger sites, fit for purpose.

Andover, Basingstoke, Eastleigh, Gosport, Segensworth, Waterlooville, Winchester

Tier 2

Strategic locations, some investment may be needed.

Alton, Efford, Farnborough, Havant, Netley

Tier 3

Smaller sites, operationally challenging, investment required.

Aldershot, Bordon, Casbrook (Romsey), Hedge End, Marchwood, Petersfield, Somerley

Tier 4

Smallest sites, poorest performing, most expensive to run

Alresford, Bishops Waltham, Fair Oak, Hartley Wintney, Hayling Island

Using the above criteria and tiered system, the options for site closures include:

- No closures
- Closure of Tier 4 sites only
- Closure of Tier 3 and Tier 4 sites

It is NOT the case that each of these proposals will be taken forward. We do though need to consider how we can find the savings we need from the HWRC system to contribute toward the cost of the statutory services we provide for the most vulnerable.

Many people have asked why we can't charge for services at HWRCs. The law prohibits this – we have been lobbying Government for the power to do this since 2015 but to no avail.

However, the movement has been in the opposite direction. The Government's decision to ban charging for DIY waste (the charge for which only covered our processing costs) has resulted in an additional annual cost to the County Council of £2million.

Feedback already received told us that Hampshire's residents were supportive of service change, but notably opposed to service reduction. We have taken that on board and have prioritised those changes as part of our proposals upon which the County Council is now consulting. This will include further internal reorganisation, increased charging for services and the sale of assets.

You can read more about the HWRC consultation here:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/.../household-waste-recycling...>

You can have your say on our proposals for change here:

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

Once you have gone through the first couple of pages, then tick the box marker 'Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) to be taken to the consultation on HWRC proposals.

Test Valley Local Plan

Every 10 - 15 years every area needs to update its Local Plan. It's now time to do so for Test Valley and at next week's Full Council meeting (on Wednesday, 5,30pm at the Crosfield Hall) the Council will be asked to approve the draft plan and move to the most important part of the consultation.

This part of the plan begins to allocate new housing sites to be developed over the next 10-15 years.

You might reasonably say that we have enough housing, so why would we need to provide more? The honest answer is that the Government (every Government for the last 20+ years) has required that Councils designate sites for development to meet housing need.

If we did not designate sites then it would be possible for developers to put forward sites for housing which may well be entirely unsuitable, these would though likely be considered and approved because the Council had not designated its own preferred list of locations. For this reason, it is far better we allocate places in which development is deemed acceptable, rather than risk developers putting forward their preferred locations.

The same principle applies to the provision of land for commercial and business development.

In the South 4,730 homes are required. An existing housing supply of 3,773 homes, with 70 homes required through neighbourhood plans, leaves 887 homes to be developed. In the south of the borough, 4,730 homes are required. An existing housing supply of 3,773 homes, with 70 homes identified through neighbourhood plans, leaves 887 homes to be developed. The sites for consideration would be:

South of Ganger farm, East Romsey (340 homes) - this is where a speculative application was made last year.

South of bypass, South Romsey (110 homes) - what's known as the Fairground site, between Burma Road and Romsey football club.

Velmore Farm, Valley Park (1070 homes) - This is to the south of Templars Way in Valley Park

Land at King Edwards Park, Chandlers Ford (44 extra care units) - on the boundary of Ampfield and Chandlers Ford.

Land at Upton Lane, Nursling (80 homes).

The Local Plan also identifies the amount of land required for employment uses. This is produced in line with national policy that requires an assessment of current and future economic needs. This has been identified as 71.7 hectares overall.

In the South TV, 40.4 hectares are required, some of which is met by existing supply. The plan proposes additional sites at Abbey Park (5.9 ha), south of Botley Road, Romsey (1.2 ha),

Test Valley Business Park (2.2 ha), Kennels Farm, North Baddesley (3.9 ha), by providing an extension to University of Southampton Science Park and at Upton Lane, Nursling (8.5 ha).

You can find all of the details of the new plan here: https://testvalley.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planningpolicy/local-development-framework/draft-local-plan-2040?fbclid=IwAR0k638KIk2_AYkQ3ybwDd6tQf565i_Tg19cAt4n99TQKxJ_lfIXtKoEHZo

Southern Water works around Romsey

[Caroline Nokes](#) and I held a meeting yesterday with [Southern Water](#) to discuss our concerns around their tankering operations at Abbotswood, Toothill and in Sherfield English in the autumn.

I'm grateful to Southern Water for taking the time to listen to our concerns and agree a number of actions which should help should the issues which resulted in the need for tankering reoccur.

Details are:

- Abbotswood

The issue which resulted in tankers being needed to put water into the system in Abbotswood occurred as a result of 'turbidity' (cloudy water) in the Timsbury water extraction site.

When this occurs water for much of Romsey can be diverted from other locations, however there are 180 properties on and around Abbotswood which cannot be reached by this 'rezoning' of supply.

Hopefully this will no longer be necessary as Southern Water are investing over £4million in upgrading the Timsbury works and creating a borehole to take water from a deeper level where it is less affected by storms and heavy rain.

We emphasized the need for better communication to explain why tankering of water was needed when this occurs and they agreed that, should it be needed in the future, they will ensure that happens.

We also emphasised the disturbance to residents caused by the tankers operating at the entrance to the estate. Southern Water have attempted to find alternative points to put water into the system, but all have resulted in insufficient pressure to maintain adequate supply.

Southern Water recognised the issues with disturbance of neighbours and agreed that should the tankers be needed again they will put in place a different management plan for the vehicles which will hold them away from residential properties until they are needed.

- Toothill/Greenhill, Rownhams

The tankering operation at Toothill, while at the same time as that at Abbotswood, was for a different issue. Flooding of the Testwood water pumping station meant that water needed to be pumped from the Toothill reservoir to maintain supply to Rownhams, Lordshill and

most importantly Southampton General Hospital. The tankers were therefore topping up the reservoir to maintain supply.

Southern Water recognised the disturbance to neighbours and damage to the road verges in which the operation resulted. They have agreed to reinstate the verges, and create a revised traffic management plan if the situation ever occurs again which will see all tankers held at Rownhams Services rather than on local roads.

- Branches Lane/Doctors Hill, Sherfield English

Southern Water were not aware of the issues caused by their closure of Branches Lane at the time of these issues in November. They think it was another separate issue to do with waste water, but have promised to look at a different management plan which does not permanently close the road should the situation re-occur.

- Treviglio Close, Cupernham Lane

The damage caused by their recent works in Treviglio Close was raised by Caroline. Southern Water have agreed to reinstate properly all the areas where their works have caused damage to paving and footpaths.

Hampshire Hospitals 'Hampshire Together' (new hospital) consultation.

You may have seen publicity about the proposals being put forward by Hampshire Hospitals (the hospital trust covering Winchester, Basingstoke and Andover hospitals) for a new critical treatment hospital at North Waltham, near Basingstoke.

There have been various plans for the reorganisation of hospital services across north and mid Hampshire for many years.

The proposals would see Winchester hospital's A&E department and maternity services change. The A&E department would no longer deal with acute admissions and the maternity department would be midwife led, meaning that maternity situations where consultant input was required and serious injury emergencies would need to go to North Waltham or Basingstoke.

My personal view is that the construction of a new hospital in this location needs really serious consideration. Adding a third hospital location (fourth if you include Andover) already stretches the HHFT clinical model.

More importantly, little thought seems to be given to the population south of Winchester, who might at this point choose to go there should they need emergency or maternity care, but who are more likely as a result of the re-configuration of services to head towards Southampton.

The views of University Hospitals Southampton are vital in this conversation and do not, to this point, seem to have been sought. (I declare an interest here as the husband of a UHS consultant).

You can read more about the plan and respond to the consultation here:

<https://www.hampshiretogether.nhs.uk>

County Councillor Grants

The grant for this year is now fully used up. Grants were made to:

Sherfield English District Community Association – toward the community magazine

St Deny's Church Chilworth – toward creation of a community space

The Romsey Show – show costs

St Margaret's Church, Wellow – for roof repairs

St Leonard's Church, Sherfield English – toward their car park lease renewal

Romsey Town Council – Romsey Christmas lights

Wellow Lunch Club – toward the Christmas Cream Tea for members

Wellow Mens Shed – toward new equipment for the men's shed

West Tytherley Village Shop – toward repairs to the freezer at the village shop

Youth in Romsey – for youth outreach work

Wellow Youth Club – toward replacement equipment

Lockerley School PTA – toward a storage shed


Rownhams May Fair – toward PA and equipment costs

Getting About

I attended parish council meetings in Chilworth, Lockerley, Sherfield English, East Tytherley, East Dean and Awbridge.

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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