

Hampshire County Councillor report

October 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 has been involved in various events to celebrate the life of her late



Majesty, including the reading of the proclamation at the Great Hall in Winchester.

2. Support for Solar Panels

With the cost of utilities continuing to be very high for the foreseeable future, it is worth thinking about other forms of energy provision. Solar power is now much more affordable and there are various initiatives that bring the cost down further.

A current example is Hampshire County Council's Solar Together campaign. This is a bulk buying initiative where residents can register an interest in solar panels, a battery or an EV charging point. A reverse auction is then held to produce the most competitive prices - you can then choose to accept this or not. Details can be found at https://www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/environment/climatechange/whatarewe-doing/projects/solarbuyingscheme_coursing

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.

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. Surveys on autism

Five short surveys have been created as part of the ongoing work for the development of the Hampshire Autism Strategy by the Hampshire Autism Partnership Board. These surveys hope to gain insights plus your experiences to better support autistic people in Hampshire and the tools educators, employers, and all organisations need to implement this support confidently.

The surveys can be found at the following links:

Employers - <https://forms.office.com/r/4eXsJjNC8B>

Education sector – <https://forms.office.com/r/cP70q0p7Zj>

Students (Year 10 & above) – <https://forms.office.com/r/cP70q0p7Zj>

Autistic employees/seeking employment – <https://forms.office.com/r/3KUfe8JSmG>

Education sector employees - <https://forms.office.com/r/NNnGhQVG46>

To learn more about the board click on this link: [Hampshire Autism Partnership Board](#).

5. Roads

The consultation on 20mph speed limits in residential areas has now closed. Around 9,000 responses were received, which are now being reviewed.

Testing on the new average speed cameras on the A32 and the A272 is now underway and the results so far are very positive.

The summer was an opportune time for maintenance works over the 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.

The high temperatures at the time provided a challenging test of the roads' resilience in extreme temperatures. Road temperatures can be considerably hotter than air temperatures and the resultant melting issues at Luton Airport will be remembered. Fortunately, our network coped well with fewer than ten incidents of softening road surfaces.

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.

Councillor Hugh Lumby, Meon Valley Division