

Hampshire County Councillor report

November 2022

1. Five Oaks Quarry

Planning permission for the proposed quarry at Five Oaks Farm, between Waltham Chase and Shedfield, has been unanimously refused by Hampshire County Council's regulatory committee (its planning committee). If consent had been granted, it would have had a major impact on our road network across the area as well as other adverse consequences. It now remains to be seen whether the developer will seek to appeal the rejection.

2. County Deal update

Negotiations are poised to take place with central Government on plans for a Pan-Hampshire County Deal, with the aim of investing in Hampshire's economy and improving the lives of all residents and communities across the area - by bringing decisions and powers closer to people and places in the region.

Devolution proposals are now ready for formal negotiations with central Government, to secure the best possible deal for residents, businesses and communities across the whole Pan-Hampshire area, (covering Hampshire County Council, Southampton and Portsmouth City Councils, the 11 district and borough councils within the County Council administrative area, Isle of Wight Council and Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council). The combined prospectus can be viewed at <https://democracy.hants.gov.uk/documents/s100275/Pan-Hampshire%20Deal%20Prospectus%202022.pdf>

3. Support for warm winter hubs

Communities across Hampshire are being invited to apply to Hampshire County Council for support from the Leader's Community Grants Scheme in order to create a network of warm hubs this winter.

Voluntary and community organisations, including parish and town councils, can apply for a grant of up to £5,000 to develop and host warm hubs where people can gather together. This might be in the form of a regular coffee morning or the provision of a shared activity; creative ideas and concepts that will deliver support especially to our most vulnerable residents are particularly welcome. Information can be found at <https://www.hants.gov.uk/community/grants/grants-list/leaders-community-grants>.

Additional funding is also available to community groups from the Adult Services' Local Solutions Grant fund to support local people maintain their independence. This includes assistance to organisations offering finance and money management support to those unable to easily access existing services, as well as for groups undertaking projects to help vulnerable people by reducing social isolation and loneliness. Details can be found at <https://www.hants.gov.uk/community/grants/grants-list/local-solutions-grants/local-solutions-grant>

4. National Census

Data about the population in your local area can now be viewed readily on census maps published by the Office for National Statistics, search for details at <https://www.ons.gov.uk/census/maps>.

5. Roads

Hampshire Highways' commitment to reduce carbon emissions and mitigate against the impact of climate change achieved national industry recognition last month. Its Carbon Strategy, which aligns with the County Council's ambition to be carbon neutral by 2050, won the Environmental Sustainability Award as well as the Special Merit Award in this year's Highways Industry Awards. The Special Merit Award is a particular achievement in that it is selected by its peers in the industry.

Last month 7,456 square metres of carriageway were resurfaced across the county, with 20,737 gullies and other drainage cleared, 6,535 potholes and other defects repaired and 5,489 square metres of footway repaired or resurfaced.

It is now prepared for the wetter and colder months ahead, with crews on standby 24/7, ready to salt the roads in snow and icy conditions, as well as deal with the impacts of high winds, heavy rain and flooding, such as those recently seen.

6. Police & Crime Commissioner

Donna Jones, Hampshire's Police and Crime Commissioner has launched her annual precept consultation on council tax contributions to policing. The survey is online and will run from 31 Oct to 4 Dec. This survey is to gather views on whether she should increase the level of council tax in support of policing, continuing investment in Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary. The survey can be found at <https://www.hampshire-pcc.gov.uk/get-involved/consultations/precept-consultation>

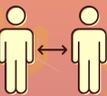
The Commissioner has also published her annual report for 2021/22, providing an overview of the Commissioner's activities and key successes from when she took post in May 2021. It covers the recruitment of nearly 600 new police officers, extra funding for the region to tackle anti-social behaviour (ASB), domestic abuse and bespoke support for victims of sexual violence. It can be seen at <https://www.hampshire-pcc.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Annual-Report-2022.pdf>

Councillor Hugh Lumby, Meon Valley Division

Keep well this autumn
Add another layer of protection

 Wash hands

 Let fresh air in

 Avoid others if unwell

 Get vaccinated when invited

Hampshire County Council