

Hampshire County Councillor Update 14

Summer is well and truly upon us, and the return to 'normality' this year means we're taking our first holiday in three years. I'm away in Spain from the 9th to the 24th July, do please though still drop me a line if you need me, but forgive me if responses are not as speedy as usual.

Enjoy the nice weather, which I am assured is almost upon us.

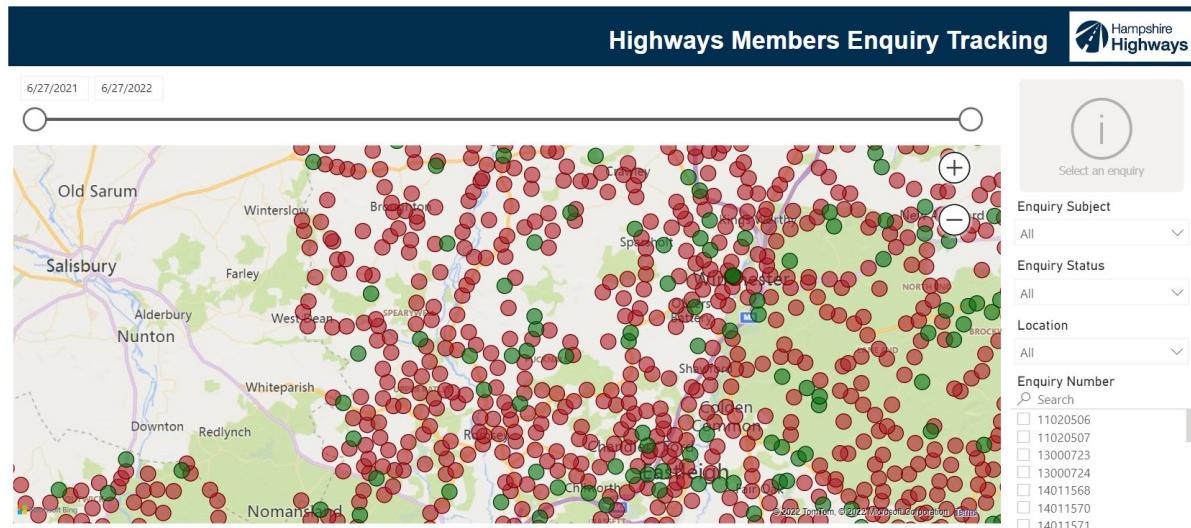
Highways Information

New Hampshire Highway Enquiry Tracking System

HCC Highways have introduced a new tracking system which allows County Councillors to track the progress of highway reports and repairs in their own area.

Allowing us to see updates in real time will be a huge help when dealing with the very many queries we get about traffic problems. It allows me to not only see whether something has already been reported, but also see what progress is being made in resolving a problem.

In time we hope to create a public facing version of the system.



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.

Hampshire Highways supports Fostering Hampshire Children

You'll be unsurprised to know that I think foster carers are fantastic. Their positive impact on children for whom they care, at times when those children most need support, is incredible. And of course, I have seen that first hand.

The fact is that there are more vulnerable children and young people than foster carers available to care for them.



That's why it was great to launch a new initiative this week, designed to attract more people to fostering with my colleague [Cllr Roz Chadd](#) who is [Hampshire County Council](#)'s Cabinet member for Children's Services and Simon Watson from our highways maintenance contractor [Milestone Infrastructure](#). Hampshire Highways now carry the details of [Fostering Hampshire Children](#).

Dropped kerb, Whitenap Lane

I've been out this month looking at the pavements along Whitenap Lane in Romsey with my neighbouring County Councillor, [Councillor Mark Cooper](#).

Currently, there is no safe or accessible dropped kerb crossing in the road, effectively creating a barrier for the residents of Five Elms Drive and its neighbouring roads from the rest of the Whitenap estate. One side of the road is in my division, Romsey Rural while the other is in Mark's, Romsey Town.

Mark has been assiduous in pressing for a crossing here for some considerable time, funding has now been agreed but we need to work together on ensuring the best option is chosen.

Politics is so/too often about opposing one another. Collectively, we in Test Valley and Romsey are lucky that the two main parties generally get along and work harmoniously to achieve things for our residents.

Mark is the epitome of that. His commitment to our area is unsurpassed, as is his length of service to our community. Mark has encouraged constructive working across the political spectrum to the benefit of the town, most particularly through Romsey Future.

I've been incredibly grateful to Mark for his kindness and support of me as his 'newby' County Council neighbour and, while we have slightly differing political views, look forward to working with him for many years to come.



HCC Trading Standards prosecution for unlawfully transporting puppies

Well done to [Hampshire County Council Trading Standards Service](#) who have assisted in the prosecution of two people who unlawfully transported and sold 43 puppies.

Hampshire Trading Standards recently assisted Southampton City Council with an investigation of this nature, whereby puppies were fraudulently being entered into the UK using the PETS scheme when in fact they were for onward sale.

Despite previous advice 43 puppies were found to have been brought in during the period October 2020 – August 2021. The sellers were neither an authorised transporter, nor licenced to sell dogs in the UK. Puppies were sold using more than one online sales platform and account, and money laundering offence were committed.



This case was heard at Southampton Crown Court and sentenced on 21st April 2022. The two defendants pleaded guilty sentenced to 18 months custodial reduced to 12 months for early plea, suspended for 2yrs, and 12 months custodial reduced to 9 months for early plea, suspended for 2yrs. This demonstrates how seriously the courts take such action.

It can often be tempting even if you know something isn't quite right to give that puppy a new home, to rescue it as such, however by doing so you are feeding the system as that is exactly what some illegal sellers pray upon. It is best to walk away and report your suspicions for the health of the puppy, their mother and potential future litters. Find out what you should look out for when purchasing a pet here:

<https://getyourpetsafely.campaign.gov.uk>

You should report suspect unlicenced breeders to your local District/Borough or Unitary Council Animal Licencing Team. If you believe an animal has been falsely advertised or illegally imported, you should report this to your County or Unitary Council Trading Standards Team.

You can read more about [Hampshire County Council's advice here](#):
<https://www.hants.gov.uk/.../news/unscrupulous-breeders>

Consultation on 'Catchment Management Plans'

[Hampshire County Council](#) have begun a consultation on their 'catchment management plans' for the rivers in the County area.

They are quite detailed and will not be of interest to many people, but if your home is one of those in a flood zone or you have a business at potential risk of flooding these will be of interest to you.

The catchment management plans show how the County Council plans to manage our rivers and prioritise and respond to flooding events, both caused by rivers and from surface or ground water flooding.

The two that cover the Romsey Rural area are the Lower Test and Middle Test areas.

There's a specific web page devoted to the consultation which runs until 21st July 2022. You can find it here: https://documents.hants.gov.uk/flood-water-management/5-HCC-CMP-TestLower.pdf? gl=1*1lhrdk6* ga*MTM3OTcyODcxMy4xNjM3NjEyNDI0* ga 8ZVSPZWL5T *MTY1NDg1OTI0Mi4xLjAuMTY1NDg1OTI0Mi4w

TVBC's new waste and recycling system

I thought you might like to see the posters we are preparing to explain what you will put in which bin post the change to our waste collection system in 2024.

Thanks to everyone who has highlighted their concerns. A quick round up of some of the main points and what we are doing to address them:



Space for additional bins

We absolutely recognise this is going to be one of the biggest concerns. We're looking at solutions for those who don't have space and most importantly the roads and estates where this will have the most significant impact. Those solutions might be physical (different ways of collecting waste besides bins) and practical (visiting people to provide advice and help find solutions).



Nappies and adult continence waste

We are also looking at solutions for this. TVBC already operates a separate 'clinical waste' collection service. We think this could offer a solution, particularly for those with multiple children in nappies and caring for adults with continence issues.

Swapping bin size

I've been asked by some people whether they can, at the time of the delivery of the new bins in 2024, swap their larger bins for smaller ones. I'm afraid the answer to this is no. We will be delivering news bins of the size you currently have (so if you already have smaller bins, you will get a new smaller bin). The logistics of both delivering 175,000 new bins and food caddies (within a two week period) while at the same time swapping sizes for the addresses who request them is going to be far too complex and open to error. There will be a mechanism that will enable you to swap your bin size after the new system is up and running.

(Under additional collections, 'small weee' stands for small waste electrical and electronic equipment).



Whitenap Planning Application

I've attended the Joint Planning Committee for Romsey Town and Extra Parish Councils. We were talking about the outline planning application for the Whitenap development.

Well done to everyone who spoke, particularly Richard Buss, Kate Greatrix, Chris Thompson and Cllr Mark Cooper for their contributions.



Delighted to say the committee voted to object to the application as it stands
I have to say I made my speech up on the hoof.
This is an approximation of what I said:

"Hello my name is Nick Adams-King and I am the County Councillor for the Whitenap site and also the Chair of Romsey Future. In my role as County Councillor I've been successful in explaining the constraints of access through Saint Barbs Close and Whitenap Lane to

Hampshire County Council Highways and I am delighted that they have withdrawn their support for vehicular access through either entrance.

All the speakers have been correct in identifying the vital inclusion of the railway bridge in any plans for this site. Indeed you will be aware that there are plans to relocate the Crosfield Hall from its current location to a site at Romsey Rapids, ensuring that there is easy access from the new development to the Rapids will therefore be essential to its integration as part of the town.

In 2019 Test Valley were almost unique in attracting funding for a citizens assembly which, while focused on the south of town centre project, looked at the wider picture too. The members of the citizens assembly were chosen to reflect the demography of the wider area. We therefore know the type of town to which our local population aspire.

They made it clear to us that they wanted an environmentally friendly, bio diverse, market town. They wanted us to be a leader in nature conservation and in biodiversity gain and environmental enhancement. We have that evidence and we owe it to our residents to deliver upon their hopes.

My fear with this application is that there is no aspiration of this kind for the site. This is going to be the largest development in Romsey for not just our generation, but for those that come after us.

We owe it to our children and grandchildren to get this right. To ensure that this development matches the wonderful town in which we live and the priorities we know our fellow Romsonians have.

I ask you to be aspirational for Romsey. To object to the current application for the site. To require something better for us all."

Thanks to [Romsey Town Council](#) staff for a really well organised meeting.

County Councillor Grant Scheme

The 2022/3 County Councillor Grant scheme starts this month.

This month I've agreed funding for Baby Necessities, a charity supporting new families who are struggling with the cost of providing equipment for their babies based at the Abbey Industrial Estate, to the Romsey Show and to Hampshire Youth Orchestra to support their members who live in Romsey Rural.

If you have a scheme deserving of funding do please let me know.

Getting About

I was tremendously honoured to be asked to open the new offices of [Jigsaw Early Years Consultancy](#) in Awbridge this month

I've never been asked to open anything before. It was very exciting!

Vanessa and her team have created a fantastic business, helping those who offer early years settings through the minefield of safeguarding and Ofsted inspections.



Having run a business myself I realise how tough this can be, to not only survive but thrive through the last couple of years (to the point where larger offices are needed), is a testament to Vanessa's tenacity, resilience and great customer service.

I wish them all the very best. I know only too well how important early years settings are for children. Get it wrong and, well, you might end up with children like my two!

Well done Vanessa and the Jigsaw Team. Welcome to the neighbourhood and I wish you every success in your new offices!

<https://www.jigsawearlyyearsconsultancy.com>

Additionally, I've been along to Parish Council meetings in Chilworth, Nursling and Rownhams, Michelmersh and Timsbury, Wellow, West Tytherley 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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CLLR NICK ADAMS-KING

Caring for Romsey Rural

