

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL UPDATES

January 2026

Andover West



Please find below an outline of current programmes of work and public information from Hampshire County Council. I hope that this is useful.

If you have any further questions, then please don't hesitate to contact me at clrc.donnelly@hants.gov.uk

Kind regards

Chris

Road Maintenance Update



Nothing says happy new year like my list of demands to the Director of Highways - here is the latest for our division's road repairs:

Foxcotte Road, Charlton

A firm rescheduled date for complete resurfacing will be sent to me at the beginning of March, with a view to it being done by the summer. In the meantime, large scale patching has been done by the mini-roundabout as an interim measure to tackle the worst of it.

Upper Drove, Andover

Works are provisionally scheduled to start on 18th February. More details to follow.

Shakespeare Avenue/Chaucer Avenue, Andover

I have been successful in having this road included in the provisional list for total resurfacing in the coming year, given its condition and that it is a bus route. At the very least, it will be resurfaced between The Drove and Milton Avenue outside the Zenith.

King Arthur's Way, Andover

Originally patching work was scheduled, but following my intervention it has been reassessed and Highways have now accepted it as a candidate for complete resurfacing, given it is a bus route and outside a school. I'll know more concrete details (no pun intended) in March.

A342 Weyhill

I am still in discussion with road safety about supporting the parish council's request to move the traffic island and secure CIL funding to do this. I'll post more updates soon

Picket Twenty Way, Picket Twenty

I met with the Leader and CEO of Test Valley Borough Council before Christmas to make the point that the surface and drainage needs resolved once and for all. They have agreed to facilitate a round table

meeting with Persimmon and Hampshire County Council to agree an action plan and better communications between agencies and residents.

Walworth Road, Picket Piece

Work is about to start for 25 weeks on the junction of North Way and Walworth Road to provide a signalled junction. This is part of the agreement for houses in Augusta Park and is being jointly funded by Taylor Wimpey Homes and TVBC.

That's about it for now but I'll keep you updated when I hear more.

Local Government Reorganisation

Thank you to everyone who took part in the consultation on Local Government Reorganisation. The consultation is now closed and we are expecting a final government indication in March of what they want the boundaries to look like.

Out the blue, the Government has cancelled the Mayoral elections due in May 2026. We were not consulted on this and it was a complete surprise, especially to the candidates. Then we were asked if we wanted to postpone the Local Government elections due in May. Why the government would ask us to ask them, when they did not consult on the mayoral elections at all, is a mystery. However we met on Monday 12th to instruct the cabinet to write back to the Minister and say that Hampshire County Council wanted elections to happen. Yes it will create difficulties in local government reorganisation, but if so, the Government need to change their timeline and be more realistic as to how long this will take, rather than putting democracy on hold year after year. It's particularly galling as the whole point of postponing elections last year was to allow the Mayoral elections to take place in May, which have now been shunted to 2028. This is their idea and their process, and my view is that they need to own it and get a handle on the whole project.

I released a short video for residents after the Full Council meeting explaining the situation which you can see here: <https://www.facebook.com/reel/764443446672127>

Police ridealong

I spent Sunday in the back of a police car around Andover. This was not the consequences of Saturday night, these days are long gone, but a chance to see our front line policing teams in action.

It is clear that they do a heroic job with too few resources. We desperately need more officers to make the workload manageable, and more community policing to weed out the problems before they become even bigger. Key also is working with our Youth services and organisations to adopt a pincer movement of carrot and stick to try to address the causes of offending.

I have once again given funding to Yellow Brick Road for youth activities and interventions over the summer, and will check back in with the police to try to encourage those who are causing issues around the town to engage.

Winter Fuel Payment Scam Warning

As Winter Fuel Payments of £100–£300 are being sent out across Hampshire and the UK, criminals are trying to take advantage. Please be on your guard:

- Payments are automatic – if you're eligible, the money goes straight into your bank account.
- No need to apply – you'll get a letter in October/November confirming the amount.

- The Government will never ask for your bank details by text, email or phone.
- Don't click links or reply to suspicious messages.
- Report scam texts by forwarding them to 7726 (free of charge).

If you receive a message asking you to "confirm" or "update" your details, it's a scam. Delete it and tell friends and family so they don't get caught out.

Let's keep Hampshire safe this winter — please share this warning widely.

Securing a Greener, Healthier Hampshire

Last week we launched Hampshire's Local Nature Recovery Strategy — a shared blueprint for restoring and protecting the natural environment that makes our county such a special place to live.

Like the rest of the UK, Hampshire has seen a significant decline in biodiversity over the past 50 years. This strategy brings together the expertise of partners across the region and sets out practical steps to reverse that decline and ensure that at least 30% of our land and sea is secured for nature by 2030.

We are incredibly grateful to all the organisations, landowners, community groups and residents who helped shape this plan. It reflects the views and ambitions of people right across Hampshire.

As part of our Hampshire Pledge, we're committed to looking after and enhancing our rich natural environment — and making sure our countryside remains open and accessible for everyone to enjoy. But this is something we can only achieve together.

-  Making nature-friendly choices at home
-  Getting involved in local conservation
-  Simply spending time outdoors and valuing the landscapes around us

Every action, big or small, helps build a greener Hampshire.

This strategy will guide land-use decisions, support planning, and encourage investment in nature-based solutions to challenges like climate change and flooding. Most importantly, it gives us a clear, shared path to restoring habitats, reversing wildlife decline, and protecting Hampshire's natural heritage for future generations.

If you'd like to read the full strategy, you can find it here: [!\[\]\(4fe57c3593bf1b21d272ae7ac8dfaf77_img.jpg\)](https://www.hants.gov.uk/.../nature.../hampshire-strategy)

Together, we can make Hampshire a place where nature thrives and people thrive with it.

Reporting Highway Problems

Links to report road issues are here:

Missing or damaged signs:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/brokensigns>

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/rights-of-way/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.