

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL UPDATES

November 2025

Andover West

CLlr Chris Donnelly



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 cllrc.donnelly@hants.gov.uk

Kind regards

Chris

Parish Council Bus Shelter Grant Scheme

Hampshire County Council has launched a new grant scheme to help Parish Councils replace or refurbish bus shelters – making them more attractive, visible, and welcoming for passengers.

Funded through the Department for Transport's Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) 2025/26 Bus Grant, this scheme is all about improving local infrastructure and encouraging more people to use public transport.

Who can apply? Parish Councils that own and maintain existing bus shelters.

How much is available? Up to £15,000 per shelter site – for either refurbishment or installation of a new shelter at an existing site.

When to apply? Applications are open now and must be submitted by 28 February 2026. Awards will be made on a rolling basis from early 2026.

Parish Councils will need to provide quotes from commercial suppliers as part of their application.

For more details, including the application form and guidance, visit Hampshire County Council's website or contact the Passenger Transport Team at: passenger.transport.enquiries@hants.gov.uk

This is a great opportunity to improve local facilities and make bus travel more appealing for residents.

A342 Transport Corridor

I recently gave an interview to local YouTuber Paul Whitewick about the work which we are doing to look at the future of the Andover to Ludgershall railway line. It is still very early days, but we are bringing a specific group of experts together who will be able to prepare a report for the A342 focus group to inform their discussions and where it fits in to their view of how we manage this corridor in the future should development proceed in either Hampshire or Wiltshire. So far it has over 120,000 views.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aVJER9GQR4&t=426s>

2026 County Council Elections

The Times has reported that leaders of the Devolution Priority Programme areas are calling for a further postponement of County Council elections, currently scheduled for May next year.

You can read the article here: <https://www.thetimes.com/.../0a601557-49fe-4c0a-b9de...>

To be absolutely clear: we have not requested any delay to elections, nor have we had conversations with Government about one.

When the Leader spoke to a Times journalist, he made it clear that Hampshire is not part of any discussion about postponement. It is therefore disappointing that the article suggests that I have asked for further postponement.

Our position is straightforward: we have not, and will not, ask for an election postponement.

Ultimately, this is a decision for the Government. Last year's delay was to enable devolution, which is now substantially complete. It was the Government that subsequently imposed Local Government Reorganisation.

This is their project, their timeline, and their decision as to whether they can deliver what they want with or without elections.

County Councillor Grants

The County Councillor Grant scheme is operating once more, with a lesser amount of £5,000 and new criteria as follows:

Hampshire County Councillor Grants – Updated Criteria (September 2025)

Following a comprehensive review, Hampshire County Council has revised its County Councillor Grants Scheme to reflect budget constraints and improve effectiveness. Key changes include:

Reduced Allocation: Each County Councillor now has an annual grant budget of **£5,000**, down from £8,000.

Eligibility Restrictions:

- Grants are only available to **organisations**, not individuals.
- Organisations **cannot apply for the same project** in consecutive years.
- Applications must demonstrate **community benefit**, especially if from religious or statutory bodies.

Funding Limits:

- A **maximum of £1,000 per project** is now in place.
- Grants for **seasonal or time-specific events** must be awarded **before the event date**.

Transparency and Branding:

- All funded projects must **acknowledge County Council support** in promotional materials.

Application Assessment:

- Previous grant awards (from the last two years) will be considered during evaluation.
- Preference may be given to organisations without access to other funding sources.

These changes aim to ensure the scheme remains fair, transparent, and aligned with the Council's strategic priorities while managing financial pressures.

Thruxton Walkaround

Thank you to Thruxton Parish Council for organising a most helpful and well attended walkaround and mini-conference to look at joined up working between various agencies in relation to flooding and highways. It was also attended by the Leader and CEO of TVBC and the learnings will be used to improve the efficiency and response when working alongside parishes ahead of any new unitary.

Roads

Following the resurfacing of Hundred Acre Roudabout, some more resurfacing projects are scheduled in the division ahead of the pothole season in January and February. These are:

- Foxcotte Road and roundabout, Charlton (until 30th Nov)
- Weyhill Road, Andover (to complete job before railway bridge) (27th Nov)
- Upper Drove (until 26th Nov)

Useful links for power cuts and flooding

As we head into the winter I thought this may be helpful in case of power cuts or flooding.

Any loss of supply or damage to the electricity network can report by dialling 105. You can also obtain details of power cuts and restoration times on SSEN's Power Track Website. Their website also contains advice and information on how to deal with a power cut and there is also a webchat service.

You can read advice online about how to prepare for flooding and check The Environment Agency web pages for updates relating to flood alerts for the area.

For assistance in the event of flooding call 0345 988 1188 or text 0345 602 6340.

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/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.