

UPPER CLATFORD PARISH COUNCIL  
 MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
 HELD ON WEDNESDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2023  
 AT 7.30 PM IN  
 THE KING EDWARD VII MEMORIAL HALL (COMMITTEE ROOM)

Councillors	Clerk	TVBC + County Councillors	Others
Cllrs P Heslop (Chairman) R Hydes R Hawkins C Williams C Eyre R Bennett N Freemantle P Littlehales	E Attwood	M Flood D Drew	

1.	<b>Apologies for Absence:</b> Borough Councillor S Hasselmann
2.	<b>To receive and accept declarations of interest:</b> None.
3.	<b>Public Participation:</b> - None
4.	<p>Borough Councillors Report – Councillor Flood reported on the following: See appendix A</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 18.3 million levelling up fund set aside for regenerating Andover with a new theatre and cultural hub..</li> <li>• TVBC planning dept have offered to attend a PC meeting to explain why the Parish Council's concerns cannot always be implemented to when granting planning permission.</li> <li>• Councillor Heslop thanked Borough Councillor Flood for her support when he attended a recent Northern Planning Committee meeting. He was allocated three minutes to speak and was cut off mid flow and was not allowed to complete his comments. Councillor Flood finished his outstanding points in her allocated time.</li> <li>• Leaf clearance name of contact will be provided by Cllr Flood.</li> </ul>
5.	<p><b>County Councillors Report- See Appendix B</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bury Ring layby needs resurfacing. Cllr Bennett will send a photo to Cllr Drew who will investigate with Highways.</li> <li>• Cllr Eyre stated that the school bus and Stage Coach are having difficulty passing through Village Street due to inconsiderate parking of cars in the Church View and Crook and Shears area. Concern was raised about the deterioration of the road surface on the new bus route along Red Rice Road. The school bus now has two alternative routes via A303 and Westover Farm and back around to Anna Valley avoiding this route.</li> </ul>
6.	<p><b>To approve the minutes from the Parish Council Meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2023</b>          Minutes were circulated prior to the meeting.</p> <p><b>Resolved: That the minutes of the Council meeting of the Parish Council held on the 8<sup>th</sup> of November be confirmed and signed as a true record.</b></p>
7.	<b>To receive the Clerk's progress report since the last meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2023</b>

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	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Clerks report</u></p> <p>The Sports club would like some amendments made to the service agreement; they have changed the locks on the door to the Pavilion as a security measure. Three keys will be supplied to Clerk.</p> <p>A Smart meter has now been fitted to the electric meter at Pavilion.</p> <p>Plinth – only one received quote to date.</p> <p><u>Chalk Pit</u></p> <p>Burdock Players have cleared belongings from the storage area at the Chalk Pit.</p> <p>Water &amp; Electric is now switched off at Chalk Pit</p> <p>All the keys stored by the Clerk except one appear to be obsolete.</p> <p>Stratford’s have a site meeting with tenant ANT on the 14<sup>th</sup> of December to discuss dilapidations.</p> <p><u>Section 106 contributions.</u></p> <p>The Clerk met with the TVBC officer to discuss how section 106 contributions can be utilised. All applications have to go through a process of approval to ensure money is being legally used. There are several people who have to approve applications, and this is not a quick process.</p> <p>Highways have some money they can direct to projects.</p> <p>Most of the money is designated for sports formal areas and has to be utilised to provide new activities not improving existing.</p> <p>Maintenance free benches may fit the criteria.</p>
8	<p><b>Co-option of Parish Councillor.</b></p> <p><b>Resolved:</b> Patrick Littlehales was co-opted onto the Parish Council and the Declaration of Office and Declaration of Pecuniary Interests forms were completed.</p>
9.	<p><b>Planning - Review of decisions, applications, and responses</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 23/03153/FULLN Balksbury Hill dog walking area Change of use. Cllrs discussed this application at the meeting.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Update on previous decisions.</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 21/03028/FULLN. Land North of Bury Hill Farm - Conservation and Ecological Enhancement Scheme. <b>Considered by Northern Area Committee on 23 Nov 23</b></li> </ul>

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	<p><b>and permission granted.</b> Chair UCPC and Cllr Flood sought planning caveats subject to Natural England approval of Nitrates credits and also for long term maintenance of the site.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 23/02318/FULLN Curry Cottages Stockbridge Road. Objection raised 18 Oct.</li> <li>• 23/02700/FULLN. Green Meadows – GC. Deer fencing . No objection recommended. <b>Permission granted 27 Nov 23</b></li> <li>• HCC/2023/0211 Orchard Hill Farm TVBC No objection subject to National Highways and Lead local flood Authority, both of whom have sought additional information. No objection submitted with comments on 5 Sep 23. <b>No decision</b></li> <li>• 23/02660/FULLN. 4 Bury Hill Farm. Recommend No Objection. TVBC Conservation – No Objection. <b>Permission granted 11 Dec 23.</b></li> <li>• 23/02571/FULLN. Rest Harrow- Recommend objection. TVBC Conservation objection. TVBC Ecology require ecological assessment due to being within 50 m of priority woodland habitat. <b>Application withdrawn 5 Dec 23.</b></li> <li>• 23/02827/FULLN. 1 Mount Villas Sunnyside. Single width Victorian Semi - Two story side extension. No objection recommended. <b>Permission granted 4 Dec 23</b></li> <li>• 23. Delegated to local Ward Councillors on 3 Dec 23. Permission recommended subject to conditions and notes. Tree protection, water supply protection, demolition, arboricultural method statement, refuse collection, etc <b>12 Dec permission granted.</b></li> <li>• 23/02510/VARN Floodlights Farleigh School. 2 Oct 23. Application to extend lighting to 2100 weekdays and 2000 weekends from 1900 on weekdays and 1600 on weekends (since 2016). TVBC Environmental Protection no objection. No objection submitted 13 Oct 23. <b>Permission granted 27 Nov 23.</b></li> <li>• 23/02543/FULLN 4 The Green. Revised smaller scale extension from 22/01465/FULLN which was granted permission. No objection sent 13 Oct 23. Revised elevation drawing submitted 2 Nov – <b>Permission granted 13 Nov 23.</b></li> <li>• HCC/2023/0211 Orchard Hill Farm TVBC No objection subject to National Highways and Lead local flood Authority, both of whom have sought additional information. No objection submitted with comments on 5 Sep 23. <b>No decision</b></li> <li>• 23/02556/TREEN. The Cottage Upper Clatford. Reduce Yew Tree canopy by 1.5m. No objection 13 Oct – <b>No objection from TVBC 28 Nov 23</b></li> <li>• 23/02620/TREEN 5 Clatford Manor – UCPC no objection 24 Oct 23. <b>Decision awaited.</b></li> <li>• 23/02634/TPON 23 Brook Way. Oak. Crown raise by up to 6 m and reduce/shape by 2.5m . UCPC no objection 24 Oct 23. <b>Decision awaited.</b></li> <li>• 23/02798/TREEN. Trees on The Green. Live 1 Nov 23. UCPC no objection. <b>Decision awaited.</b></li> <li>• 23/02961/TPON. Oak at 26 Brook Way. Reduce branches from side of house and remove epicormic growth. No objection from UCPC. <b>Decision awaited.</b></li> </ul>
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10	<p><b>10.1 Finance - To receive and approve the Financial Statement 1<sup>st</sup> November 2023 – 30<sup>th</sup> November 2023.</b> The Clerk had circulated financial statements prior to the meeting.</p> <p><b>Bank Reconciliation</b> Business Account £40618.00 Fixed Term Deposit £35,000.00 Treasurers Account £1591.64</p> <p><b>Resolved: That the financial statements between 1<sup>st</sup> November – 30<sup>th</sup> November were approved and signed by the Chairman.</b></p> <p><b>10.2 Payments for approval November</b></p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="width: 10%;">PV62</td><td style="width: 70%;">E Attwood Clerks Salary</td><td style="width: 20%; text-align: right;">£619.93</td></tr> <tr><td>PV63</td><td>HMRC - Clerks Tax</td><td style="text-align: right;">£8.40</td></tr> <tr><td>PV64</td><td>P Heslop Fuel refund Langford Lakes</td><td style="text-align: right;">£22.50</td></tr> <tr><td>PV65</td><td>P Heslop Frame Freedom Scroll</td><td style="text-align: right;">£25.00</td></tr> <tr><td>PV66</td><td>King Edward V11 - Hiring Hall</td><td style="text-align: right;">£30.00</td></tr> <tr><td>PV67</td><td>HCC - Street Lighting</td><td style="text-align: right;">£1050.99</td></tr> <tr><td>PV68</td><td>Bin Installation Sports field</td><td style="text-align: right;">£643.57</td></tr> <tr><td>PV69</td><td>R Bennett Refund/crow bar/screws</td><td style="text-align: right;">£49.74</td></tr> <tr><td>PV70</td><td>TVBC Maintenance</td><td style="text-align: right;">1827.50</td></tr> <tr><td>PV71</td><td>J King - Tree maintenance</td><td style="text-align: right;">£240.00</td></tr> <tr><td>PV72</td><td>McAfee</td><td style="text-align: right;">£59.99</td></tr> <tr><td>PV73</td><td>Greenvue - Stakes for Bury Ring</td><td style="text-align: right;">£30.72</td></tr> <tr><td>PV74</td><td>Microsoft</td><td style="text-align: right;">£59.99</td></tr> <tr><td>PV75</td><td>SSE</td><td style="text-align: right;">£14.34</td></tr> </table> <p><b>December</b></p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="width: 10%;">PV76</td><td style="width: 70%;">E Attwood's Salary</td><td style="width: 20%; text-align: right;">£619.93</td></tr> <tr><td>PV77</td><td>HMRC – Clerks Tax</td><td style="text-align: right;">£8.40</td></tr> <tr><td>PV 78</td><td>Refund Land Registry search</td><td style="text-align: right;">£34.95</td></tr> <tr><td colspan="2">Payment for the tree maintenance at Bury Hill/Chalk Pit area (some work to be completed when Chalk Pit trees are more accessible).</td><td style="text-align: right;">£1900.00 plus VAT</td></tr> <tr><td colspan="2">Payment tree maintenance Red Rice Road</td><td style="text-align: right;">£5100.00 plus VAT</td></tr> </table> <p><b>Resolved: Payments for November &amp; December 2023 were approved.</b></p> <p><b>10.3 &amp; 10.4 Approval of Budget &amp; Precept</b> Cllrs discussed the proposed budget &amp; precept but needed further time to consider the extra costs from losing the Chalk Pit tenant.</p>	PV62	E Attwood Clerks Salary	£619.93	PV63	HMRC - Clerks Tax	£8.40	PV64	P Heslop Fuel refund Langford Lakes	£22.50	PV65	P Heslop Frame Freedom Scroll	£25.00	PV66	King Edward V11 - Hiring Hall	£30.00	PV67	HCC - Street Lighting	£1050.99	PV68	Bin Installation Sports field	£643.57	PV69	R Bennett Refund/crow bar/screws	£49.74	PV70	TVBC Maintenance	1827.50	PV71	J King - Tree maintenance	£240.00	PV72	McAfee	£59.99	PV73	Greenvue - Stakes for Bury Ring	£30.72	PV74	Microsoft	£59.99	PV75	SSE	£14.34	PV76	E Attwood's Salary	£619.93	PV77	HMRC – Clerks Tax	£8.40	PV 78	Refund Land Registry search	£34.95	Payment for the tree maintenance at Bury Hill/Chalk Pit area (some work to be completed when Chalk Pit trees are more accessible).		£1900.00 plus VAT	Payment tree maintenance Red Rice Road		£5100.00 plus VAT
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11	<p><b>Playing Fields - To report the Monthly Monitoring of the Play Park Equipment</b></p> <p><b>11.1 Coronation Field (Anna Valley Playing Field)</b> <i>Post Meeting: Cllr Williams reported that she had inspected the equipment and there was nothing to report.</i></p> <p><b>11.2 Balksbury Bridge Playing Field</b> <i>Post Meeting: Cllr Williams inspected the equipment, and there was a build-up of a weather-related algae which she will attempt to remove.</i></p>																																																									

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12	<p><b>Chalk Pit – The following was discussed:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Resolved:</b> Stratford's were approved to execute the end of tenancy.</li> <li>• A list of dilapidations had been prepared by Stratford's and circulated to Cllrs.</li> <li>• Stratford's were holding a meeting with the tenant Ant on the 14<sup>th</sup> of December.</li> <li>• The Clerk advised that the insurance was of the utmost importance.</li> <li>• The Clerk will seek confirmation from Stratford's that the Insurance policy remains in place and will not be cancelled and ask them to investigate the policy being transferred into the Parish Council's name for the remainder of the term.</li> <li>• The Clerk will ask Stratford's for a recommended cash settlement figure or agreement to fix the dilapidations.</li> <li>• Parish Council feel until that until all repairs are complete the site remains occupied, and the tenant is still responsible.</li> <li>• The Clerk will ask Stratford's to find out who the Utility bill providers are.</li> <li>• Cllr Hyde had obtained a verbal estimate to clear the site of rubbish of approx. £4000.00. A written quote was awaited.</li> <li>• HALC will be asked for free legal advice whether the site could be potentially sold so Cllrs can consider all options. Potential uses still to be discussed.</li> <li>• A copy of the insurance and land registry document will be circulated to all Cllrs.</li> <li>• Cllr Heslop will carry out an inspection of the palisade fencing which surrounds the perimeter of the top of the Chalk Pit.</li> <li>• Cllr Bennett will review the risk assessment for the Chalk Pit.</li> </ul> <p><b>Resolved:</b> It has been agreed due to the timing and nature of needing to act swiftly that decisions regarding the settlement &amp; clearing the Chalk Pit site can be made by Cllrs and delegated to the Clerk to action without formal approval at a meeting.</p>
13	<p><b>Trees and Open Space.</b></p> <p><b>13.1 Chalk Pit Trees</b> – Cllr Bennett reported One Two Tree were in the process of clearing the trees, but access is difficult for some of the work so this may be complete once a shed is demolished. The invoice will be adjusted to reflect this.</p> <p><b>13.2 Trees Village Green Red Rice Road Resolved:</b> This work is scheduled for 21<sup>st</sup> &amp; 22<sup>nd</sup> December.</p>
14	<p><b>Footpaths Highways Pillhill Brook &amp; Bins</b></p> <p><b>14.1 Taskers Plinth</b> – Only one quote had been returned before the meeting.  <b>Resolved: Cllrs approved repairs to be carried out by Matt Pritchett at a cost of £1750.</b></p> <p><b>14.2 HCC Plan Watery Lane</b> – Cllrs Hydes reported that the HCC Highways engineer has now got an assistant who will advise when the work is complete.</p> <p><b>14.3 Peter Symonds bus</b> – Cllr Hydes reported that the temporary bus stops are now established. HCC have still not cut back the overhanging trees along Foundry Road.</p>
15	<p><b>Pavilion &amp; Sports Field</b></p> <p><b>15.1 Service Agreement</b> – UCYFC had sent back the service agreement with some suggested amendments.  <b>Resolved: It was agreed to amend the agreement as suggested with two exceptions.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To review the limit of costs which the club is expected to pay to be deleted and replaced with a review with the UCYFC committee in May 2024 after completion of the first year.</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All other users of the club will be directed to UCYFC via the clerk (this will not change)</li> </ul>
16	<p><b>Correspondence received for discussion:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parishioner expressed concern that residents were parking in the turning circle at The Green</li> </ul> <p><b>Resolved:</b> The clerk will remind residents to be considerate and not to park in the turning circle.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>E mail from a resident asking to speak to the Cllr who deals with planning.</li> </ul>
17	<p><b>External Committees and Events –</b> Cllr Heslop reported on the disruption caused by the tankers at the Salisbury Road end of Anna Valley. This was caused by a broken foul sewer near St Vincent's. Cllr Heslop had made it clear to Southern Water that they could not pump sewage into Pillhill brook.</p>
18	<p><b>Parish Projects – The following was reported.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>24 people have volunteered to be trained for water monitoring of the river.</li> <li>30 trees will be planted along Hillfort field; the landowners have granted permission</li> </ul>
22	<p><b>The next Parish Council meeting is to be held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at 7.30pm.</b></p>

Appendix A Borough Councillor Hasselmann and Floods Reports

**Free Business Support Service** On Monday 4 December, Test Valley Borough Council launched a free impartial advice service for businesses within the Test Valley. The service is provided by The IncuHive Group and will offer a comprehensive package of personalised support. This will include a bespoke interactive business 'health check,' to highlight the current strengths of a business or plan and identify the areas which will need to be addressed if the business is going to achieve maximum success in the future. On-going 1:1 support will then be provided to put the findings and recommendations into action and to maximise the chances of long-term success. To accompany the business support service, the free online 'Start Your Own Business in Test Valley' guide is being updated and relaunched soon. As well as covering important business topics, it will contain details of relevant local contacts and links to a large range of useful free resources. Test Valley Rural Net Zero Business Service.

**The Test Valley Rural Net Zero Business Service** is now live. Funded through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) this is a £140,000 programme. IncuHive IncuHive | Business Incubation, Investment & CoWorking will be delivering the Service together with Accelar Consulting Accelar Limited The support covers three areas:

- Net Zero Business Advice Service: Tailored support targeting a minimum of 40 businesses, offering diverse assistance such as one-on-one guidance, peer-to-peer knowledge sharing, and the implementation of a Low Carbon Accelerator. This comprehensive service aims to assist businesses at various stages of their Net Zero journey.

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- Small Grants Programme: Allocation of £90,000 to support a minimum of 24 businesses through a dedicated grants programme, fostering the adoption of sustainable practices and technologies.
- Land Management and Regenerative Farming Pilot Program: A specialized initiative focused on promoting sustainable land management and regenerative farming practices, driving environmental stewardship among rural enterprises.

**£18.3 million of Levelling Up Funding** awarded to Test Valley Borough Council Test Valley Borough Council were awarded £18.3 million from the Government's Levelling Up Fund (LUF), to build a multi-purpose theatre in the heart of Andover. The funding allocated to Andover means we can accelerate the masterplan to transform the town centre – bringing more businesses, shops, and homes into the town.

**Appendix B Cllr Drew**

**Funding boost for childcare providers in Hampshire**

Childcare providers in Hampshire are to receive a cash injection of more than £6 million from Hampshire County Council between now and March 2024. The funding comes from the Government's new Early Years Supplementary Grant which is designed to increase the amount that early year's providers receive for delivering free childcare to eligible children aged between two and four-years-old.

In total, the Government has awarded £204 million from its Early Years Supplementary Grant to Local Authorities, to be paid to early years providers in the 2023/24 financial year. The scheme has already seen more than one thousand Hampshire providers benefit from additional funding this autumn.

The new Early Years Supplementary Grant will increase the funding that settings receive to provide the following free childcare entitlements:

- 15 hours entitlement for disadvantaged two-year-olds.
- 15 hours universal entitlement for three and four-year-olds
- 15 hours additional entitlement for three and four-year-old children of working parents.
- Early Years Pupil Premium, to support disadvantaged children aged three and four-years-old.
- Disability Access Fund, to support three and four-year-olds with special educational needs and disabilities.

The plans will see local hourly rates for funded three and four-year-old places increase by 5.1 per cent, from £5.69 to £5.98. Hourly rates for funded two-year-olds and children under two will also rise to £8.32 and £11.30 respectively.

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/20231201childcareboost>

**Hampshire County Council's highways service ready for cold snap**

With a chance of overnight frosts and even some snow in the coming days, the County Council's highway teams remain ready, day and night, to keep Hampshire's main routes gritted, and to respond to surface water flooding and fallen debris on the roads.

Residents are also being reminded to take advantage of the network of community salt bins that are on hand when the temperatures do drop.

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The County Council's fleet of winter vehicles are all fitted with the latest technology to ensure salting is deposited on the highway accurately and efficiently, and this includes full satellite navigation guidance, automatic salt delivery and dedicated snow plough fitments. All drivers receive specialist training and our gritters travel at no more than 30 mph when undertaking salting operations.

Hampshire's main roads are always treated first. Our 44 'priority one' routes carry most of the Hampshire's traffic - covering A roads, some B roads, roads to hospitals and other key emergency hubs, large schools and colleges and major bus routes. Each salt run takes approximately three to four hours to complete.

During periods of prolonged severe weather, our 'priority two' routes, which include remaining B roads and single access roads to villages, may also be treated.

Further information for the public is available as follows:

- Salting routes and community salt bin locations  
<https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/severeweather>
- Advice on clearing snow and ice from pavements <https://www.gov.uk/clear-snow-road-path-cycleway>

Follow @hantshighways on X (formerly Twitter) to find out when and where the salting lorries are going out, throughout winter.

- Report surface water flooding on the highway [www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems](http://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems)
- Report an issue with flooding from a main river to the Environment Agency [www.gov.uk/government/organisations/environment-agency](http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/environment-agency) or phone 0800 80 70 60.

Last winter, Hampshire's gritter fleet used 17,700 tonnes of salt, enough to fill 20 Olympic size swimming pools; and treated more than 140,660 miles of road, equal to driving seven times around the Earth, or more than halfway to the Moon.

Throughout the year, the County Council routinely maintains Hampshire's 212,000 gullies and 15,000 catchpits (an empty chamber that is installed into a drainage system to prevent silt and debris from building up and causing blockages).

The County Council is responsible for more than 5,000 miles of local roads.

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/29112023HantsHwayscoldsnapPR>

### **Hampshire County Council's Waste Prevention Community Grant Fund is now open for applications!**

Funding of up to £5,000 is available to deliver projects which help to reduce household waste in Hampshire, encourage community cohesion and support the local economy.

Find out more and how to apply:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/wasteandrecycling/smartliving/wastepreventiongrantfund>

**Our Hants Mobile App-** [Hampshire County Council](#) has a brand-new mobile app, 'OurHants,' is officially available for both Apple and Android devices! 🎉

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 We aim to bring a plethora of online services right to your fingertips through this user-friendly app. Our commitment to reliability and high standards is at the core of this digital venture, and we're taking it one step at a time.

 Initially you will be able to access the complete range of County Council web pages on the app, making it easy for residents to access all services. Plus, booking appointments for Household Waste and Recycling Centres (HWRCs)!

 When you book an appointment through the OurHants app, you can save key details like your vehicle registration and permits, ensuring quicker bookings in the future. Manage all your bookings seamlessly in one place and receive important updates right at your fingertips.

 We're eager to hear your thoughts and will be closely monitoring how the app benefits both you and our HWRC service. Your feedback will guide us as we plan to expand the app's capabilities into other areas of online service.

 Ready to experience the convenience? Download OurHants now for FREE from the Apple App Store or Google Play! Share the news with your network, and don't forget to give it a go next time you visit an HWRC.

 OurHants - Get it on Google Play - <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details...>

 OurHants - Download on the Apple App Store - <https://apps.apple.com/us/app/ourhants/id6470827148>

This is a significant leap forward, and we're optimistic that it's just the beginning of even more positive changes and additions to our online offerings.

### **Partners formally commit to reduce flood risk together.**

In recognition of the joint responsibility to minimise the risk of flooding for Hampshire's residents, Hampshire County Council, the Environment Agency, Coastal Partners, the Southern Regional Flood and Coastal Committee and Southern Water have signed a 'Joint Leadership Statement' - detailing the intent to work together to reduce flood risk and increase community resilience across Hampshire.

The statement, agreed at the recent Flood and Water Management Conference signals the partners' collective commitment to work together to take further action to reduce the risk of flooding for the 400,000 households whose properties are at the highest risk, as well as businesses and infrastructure.

Since the widespread groundwater flooding that took place 10 years ago, the County Council has undertaken extensive work to mitigate against flood risk. For example, five significant flood alleviation schemes have been completed in Bucksdon, Farringdon, Hambledon, Romsey and Winchester and the Flood and Water Management team has reviewed over 4,000 planning applications to assess whether the surface water management plans are sufficiently robust.

Furthermore, the team has also considered more than 500 ordinary watercourse consents - required by home or land owners if they wish to make changes to ditches or watercourses (areas of water that are not part of a main river), to ensure Hampshire residents are not inadvertently increasing flood risk in their area by blocking ditches or reducing pipe sizes and in doing so, reducing land drainage networks.

In view of the 400,000 properties in areas of Hampshire at risk of flooding, under the Strategy, the County Council has also developed 18 'Catchment Management Plans' to identify and prioritise the areas within each river catchment that are at the highest risk of flooding. Within each plan are

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policies to address flooding issues and frameworks for the development of detailed Action Plans to combat flooding.

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/20231124FloodMgmtIntentStatement>

### **County Council welcomes £132m additional money from Government for long-term road improvements**

Hampshire County Council has welcomed a funding package to fix potholes and maintain roads. The [Government announced on Friday 17 November a further £132 million for Hampshire](#) over the next ten years to tackle the issue of potholes and invest in longer term, proactive road maintenance.

This is welcome news for Hampshire and follows significant lobbying by the County Council to make the case for additional money, nationally, to help reverse the deterioration of our roads after years of underfunding. Having a ten-year settlement confirmed enables us to plan ahead carefully with more certainty, and to allocate and prioritise resources more effectively. The money will help to tackle the challenges of unprecedented demand, soaring inflation, and the impacts of heavy rain, flooding and sub-zero temperatures. The County Council has already allocated £22.5 million of its own money over the next three years to repair potholes and other defects and this is already helping to make our roads stronger ahead of another potentially difficult winter period. Working with our highway's contractor, Milestone, extra frontline resources have been drafted in to repair more road defects following a dramatic and sustained increase in reported issues.

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/20232011HighwaysFundingResponse>

### **Holiday Activities and Food in Hampshire – Christmas cheer for low-income families**

While most families anticipate a Christmas filled with socialising, treats, and presents, for some on low incomes, the winter season and school holidays can put a strain on already tight household budgets.

Providing hot meals and keeping these children warm, safe, and engaged while school is out, the Holiday Activities and Food programme (HAF), is funded by the Department for Education and is administered by local authorities.

As part of the County Council's [connect4communities programme](#), this Christmas, 134 sites across Hampshire will be running HAF schemes, offering free enriching activities and wholesome food each day for those receiving free school meals during term time and other vulnerable school-age children. As well as enjoying hot nutritious meals, children are encouraged to be active by participating in sports and spending time outdoors, and to try their hand at a range of activities such as arts and crafts, cooking, games, and free play.

Among those delivering schemes as part of Holiday Activities and Food programme are schools, childcare providers, community groups and sports activity providers. Parents and carers wishing to find out what is on offer in their area should search the [Family Information and Services Hub](#) and contact their local providers directly to sign up to schemes.

The upcoming Christmas itinerary follows a successful summer programme, which saw almost £2 million awarded to HAF providers and 9,777 individual children accessing schemes across the county.

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/20231120hafxmas>

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**Pick your top three school preferences when applying for school places in year R and 3**

Hampshire parents and carers with children due to start school in Reception Year or move to Year 3 at a junior school next year, can now apply for their child's school place for September 2024. School applications are open until 15 January 2024. Parents are being reminded to name three schools on their applications, to give them the best chance of being offered a place at one of their preferred schools.

Parents can now [go online](#) to submit their applications. They can log back into the system to amend their applications at any time before the closing date on 15 January 2024. Applications must be resubmitted after making any changes.

Those who require support with their applications are encouraged to attend one of the following library drop-in sessions where they will be guided through the process:

- Wednesday 10 January, 9.30am-3.30pm – Andover Library, Chantry Centre, 53 Chantry Street, Andover, SP10 1LT
- Wednesday 10 January, 9.30am-3.30pm – Andover Library, Chantry Centre, 53 Chantry Street, Andover, SP10 1LT

Parents who apply on time will be notified of the outcome of their application on 16 April 2024.

Application advice:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/20231110primaryschoolapplications>

**Don't face money worries alone - support is at hand.**

Hampshire County Council is encouraging residents who are concerned about their financial situation to reach out and get the help they need.

Whether it's managing expenses, accessing benefits, handling debt, or finding support for mental health, there are services available to residents struggling with the cost of living.

In addition to the help available from people's own banks and utility companies, Hampshire residents concerned about their finances are encouraged to visit the 'cost of living and money worries' advice page on the [Connect to Support Hampshire website](#) - which signposts to a wide range of trusted, free local and national support and advice services.

Further information is available from the County Council's [Cost of Living web pages](#). As well as debt and finance support, these pages bring together a variety of information to help people keep well over winter, such as advice for keeping homes warm, details about meals on wheels and school meals, as well as advice for maintaining physical and [mental wellbeing](#) during challenging times. Practical support with food and heating costs from the government's Household Support Fund is also available to eligible residents and details can be found on the [connect4communities website](#).

Talk Money Week is held each year to encourage the public to have more open conversations about their money – from pocket money to pensions – and continue these conversations all year-round.

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/031123talkmoneyweek>

**Utility works on the highway.**

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In my conversations with many of you I've identified that utility companies undertaking work on the highway is often a significant frustration. The notice they give, the disruption they cause and the seeming inability to influence the length, scope and extent of works are, I know, of great concern to many people.

The HCC Highways Streetworks team has provided a briefing to explain how utility works are planned, what influence we have over them and what to do if they are causing significant disruption in your parish. This is in the form of an FAQ section copied below.

I hope you find this useful, do please share it with anyone you think may find it of interest.

Streetworks Team FAQ

Q: What is the Hampshire Highways Streetworks Team's role ?

A: The Streetworks team is responsible for the coordination of all works and events on the public highway in order to minimise traffic disruption. The Streetworks team also monitors utility Co's activities on the public highway and checks active work sites and reinstatements for compliance with National specifications. The legal basis for these responsibilities comes from the New Roads and Street Works Act 1991 (NRSWA) and the Traffic Management Act 2004 (TMA). The StreetWorks team is not responsible for works off the public highway and enquiries about County Council works, S278 or S38 works should be directed to your county councillor.

Q: Can utility companies legally work on the public highway ?

A: Yes, they have legal duties and rights to install and maintain apparatus in the public highway from NRSWA. However, they have to comply with National Specifications and obtain a permit from the County Council for planned works. NRSWA and other legislation gives them legal rights to install cabinets and masts (up to 15m high) on the public highway without planning permission.

Q: Can HCC stop a utility company working on the public highway ?

A: No, except under very specific circumstances, for example were a utility company wants to install new apparatus on a highly important and strategic road that has been specifically designated, by law, as a protected street.

Q: What conditions can be placed on works on the public highway ?

A: The County Council can place conditions on any permit application. Conditions are used to try to minimise traffic disruption. The conditions available as part of the permit scheme are not 'free form' and are restricted to controls over works timing, works area, traffic management type and stakeholder engagement. Conditions have to be reasonable and be able to be met by the works promoter.

Q: Who decides what type of traffic management (TM) to use ?

A: The works promoter is entirely responsible for selecting the most appropriate type of TM. They are the experts in the works they are undertaking and what the risks are. In selecting the TM type they must consider the risks to the workforce, passing traffic (including pedestrians) and relevant legislation and Codes or Practice.

Q: Who decides what diversion routes to use when road closures are needed ?

A: The works promoter is entirely responsible for selecting an appropriate diversion route. Best practice is to ensure that the diversion route uses similar roads to those closed. Unfortunately, the existing networks doesn't always permit this. Diversion routes are not enforceable.

Q: Who is responsible for the information provided on the permit ?

A: The works promoter is ALWAYS responsible for the information they supply. The County Council must assume that it is correct when assessing the permit and determining what conditions to apply.

Q: Does granting a permit mean that the County Council approves of the works / installation ?

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A: No, the permit relates ONLY to the works and its impact on traffic. Approval for installing apparatus is given either by a utility Co's legal rights, or via the local Planning Authority.

Q: I've seen a utility leave a blacktop reinstatement in a flagstone surface. Is this allowed ?

A: Yes, NRSWA allows utility Co's to use a temporary reinstatement in order to re-open a road quickly or to give them time to source specialist materials. Normally temporary reinstatements are allowed for up to 6 months, but this duration can be extended if needed for engineering purposes.

Q: How long is a utility company responsible for its reinstatement?

A: Legislation states that a utility company is liable for any 'reasonable' repairs for two years.

Q: How much notice does the County get for works ?

A: NRSWA requires all works promoters to submit permit applications between 3 working days and 3 months ahead of works starting. As follows.

- Minor works (works lasting up to 3 days) = 3 working days advance notice
- Standard works (works lasting between 4 and 10 days) = 10 working days advance notice
- Major works (works lasting over 10 days OR requiring a road closure) = 3 months
- Immediate works (relating to safety or loss of service) = No advance warning. Works are started and the County Council is alerted within 2 working hours.

Reduced advance warning periods can be agreed on a site-by-site basis.

Q: What penalties are applied for non-compliances ?

A: The penalties are prescribed by legislation and can broadly fit into one of the following categories:

- Failing to comply with permit conditions = Fixed Penalty Notice
- Failing to comply with works specifications = Correct the non-compliance
- Overrunning agreed works durations without a valid reason = Significant daily charge
- Damaging the public highway = County Council effects repairs and recharges utility co.

Ultimately a works promoter can be taken to court for any non-compliance. But such measures are reserved for extremely serious situations.

Q: How well do utility companies comply with specifications and permit conditions ?

A: Very well. In 2022 Over 95% of sites signage and 96% of reinstatements complied with the National specifications. 97% of utility sites comply with permit conditions. 99% of utility sites were completed on time, or early.

Q: How can I see what works are planned in the County ?

A: The County Council handles all permits via a National IT system. This system automatically publishes all permits on the <https://one.network> website

Q: How can I contact the Streetworks team about problems with utility works ?

A: The best way to report site specific problems is via the 'report a road problem' page on the County Council's website. For more complex issues we would recommend asking your county councillor to raise the concern with the Streetworks Team.

Q: How many utility works are undertaken on the County's network ?

A: in the 2021/2022 financial year we processed 52,000 permit applications / changes from utility co's which resulted in 36,000 works being undertaken.

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