

## Hampshire County Councillor Update 29

Hello, I hope this update finds you all well.

This year appears to be flying by, November already. Here, as usual, is my monthly update covering October 2023.

### Highways Information

#### Thermal Patching Trials

If you were in Fairview Avenue, Romsey recently you might reasonably have wondered how many highways people it took to do a bit of resurfacing of your road.

I was there with a couple of highways colleagues to see a trial of a new machine which through heating up the road surface enables the road to be resurfaced using largely the material that has broken down and is already in place.



Much more environmentally friendly, lower carbon emissions, quicker and less disruptive to residents. It's not suitable for everywhere but offers a useful alternative to the traditional way by which patches of road that are breaking down are repaired and replaced.

As I have said before, our roads need to become the quarries of the future for road surface material. These machines enable us to almost instantly recycle what is there already.

#### School Crossing Patrols

The [Hampshire Chronicle](#) and [Romsey Advertiser](#) rightly highlighted the role of school crossing patrols and their inclusion in the list of services HCC are looking at as part of our savings proposals for 2025/6.

I hope it's helpful to share the comment I have provided in response to the newspapers' enquiry about patrols locally.

"Hampshire County Council is looking at our non statutory services due to the pressure on our budget caused by the legal obligation we have to carry out certain functions. We cannot say 'no' if someone asks for support (for example with social care costs for older people and vulnerable children and support for those with disabilities) It's entirely right we provide these services free of charge for those who need them, the consequence though is a cost that is only limited by the number of people requiring support.

HCC do not have a legal duty to provide school crossing patrols. We do have a legal duty to ensure children can travel to school safely. Before considering any reduction in the services we will therefore be carrying out a thorough review of every crossing patrol location. This may mean we investigate whether putting a permanent safe crossings in place is possible or preferable, or whether the continuation of the school crossing in that location is the most efficient way of continuing to undertake our duty to the county's school pupils.

As you have identified there are many locations where it has proven very difficult to recruit to vacant crossing patrol positions, they will also form part of our review. If anyone is interested in helping fill those vacancies then we would love to hear from you. Just search 'school crossing patrol jobs' on the HCC website."

### **Connecting the Waterside**

Slightly out of area, however Hampshire County Council have started work on schemes to make it easier for people to walk, cycle or take the bus between the Waterside area and Southampton – building transport infrastructure that will support greener travel that will be sustainable for the local community in the immediate future and for generations to come.



New bus priority improvements on Marchwood Bypass and Rushington Roundabout will mean bus journey times will be more reliable and waiting passengers will benefit from new bus shelters, while walking and cycling routes will be upgraded and there will be safety improvements to Rushington Roundabout including a better crossing point.

Improvements to the Eling to Holbury walking and cycling route have also begun, which will improve connections between Holbury, Hythe, Marchwood, Totton and Southampton, linking to [Southampton City Council](#) Cycle Network "SCN" route 1. The completed scheme will include new Zebra crossings, a Toucan signal-controlled crossing and new signage. More information can be found on our website:



Marchwood bypass improvements

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/.../tcfmarchwoodbypassimprovements>



Rushington roundabout improvements

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/.../tcfpushingtonroundaboutimpro...>



Eling to Holbury improvements

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/.../tcfelingtoholburyimprovements>

## TVBC's Annual Leaf Clearance

The council's programmed annual leaf clearance will start on Monday 30 October and will take around eight weeks to complete.

We are targeting areas that regularly accumulate a lot of leaves, and responding to ad-hoc requests to clear debris. We will also clear any large accumulations reported before the end of the period.

If you are aware of any particular problem areas drop me a line and I can report them across to the team for you.

## 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 Perspectives

Now, I know very many of you like telling me what you think about all sorts of issues....so why not sign up to Hampshire Perspectives and tell the County Council what you think too? Hampshire Perspectives is the County Council's online residents' forum which helps the Council to stay in touch with your views.

If you live in Hampshire, you can sign up to have your say on a range of topics – from climate change to provision of local services – helping us to shape services and make decisions that are right for residents.

Surveys are usually sent out monthly and are all optional, so you can pick the topics you feel most passionate about or complete them all – they only take five minutes!

## **Car Meets - Abbey Industrial Estate**

I've been contacted by many people about the car meets occurring on the Abbey Industrial Estate over the last couple of weeks and the disturbance they are causing.

I met with Donna Jones - Police Commissioner Hampshire & IOW and talked her through the issue. She was, as always, incredibly helpful and has given me the route to report it into the police's operation which has been stopping these kind of gatherings and the anti-social behaviour they cause. Donna was also helpful in identifying the most appropriate officers with whom to speak and confirming that she will keep it on her radar for action too.

I've subsequently also spoken to the TVBC community safety team this afternoon and also the Council's Chief Executive. They have spoken to the district commander this week to request action be taken.

## **Quarry proposals - The Triangle and Dunwood Fruit Farm**

Some excellent news that the proposed quarries at The Triangle and Dunwood Fruit Farm are not going ahead.

Earlier this year Hampshire County Council ran a consultation on proposed new quarry sites across the County. Two new sites were recommended locally, one at The Triangle at the top of Pouncefoot Hill, the other at Dunwood Fruit Farm on the A27 at Sherfield English. Today the outcome of the initial stage of consultation has been published and I am delighted to tell you that neither site is being taken forward into the next stage of the plan.

Huge thanks to [Stop the Romsey Quarry](#) for all their hard work in ensuring that there was wide public opposition to the plans.

The update gives the following reasons for the sites not proceeding further:

**Dunwood Fruit Farm:** This site has been removed as a proposed allocation as the need for soft sand can be met from alternative sites. The site is small with a number of issues in relation to (but not limited to) ecology, public access, heritage and amenity which would require mitigation such as buffers. There is also uncertainty over the viability of the site due to the need to include exclusions required and the presence of suitable material for extraction.

**The Triangle:** This site has been removed as a proposed allocation as the need for sand and gravel can be met from alternative sites. The site has a number of issues regarding (but not limited to) ecology, hydrology, heritage and amenity. Provision of suitable and safe site access is likely to result in significant adverse ecological and landscape impacts.

## Lee Drove fly-tip prosecution

Lee Lane is a regular spot for fly-tipping and I'm delighted to tell you about a further successful prosecution of three men caught dumping rubbish by one of Test Valley Borough Council's covert cameras.

The three men pleaded guilty after being caught dumping household waste on Lee Drove, near Romsey.



A covert trail camera caught David Hill, 69 of Southampton, Stuart Haines, 43 of Winchester, and Gordon Freeman, 38 of Winchester, removing rubbish, which included a fridge, from the back of a vehicle and throwing it into a hedge on 19 June 2022. The vehicle was registered to Hill's business, DH Autos.

Hill and Haines attended an interview under caution, where they admitted to dumping the waste.

The pair appeared at Southampton Magistrates Court where they were each given a 12-month community order, a fine of £120 and ordered to pay a victim surcharge of £114 and costs of £303.

Freeman will be sentenced on 15 December 2023.

Illegally dumping waste in Test Valley will never be acceptable and I'm glad to see another result like this.

We have a brilliant record of catching people fly-tipping. If you dump rubbish in our beautiful borough then you should expect us to do everything we can to bring you to justice.

## Abbotswood Nature Reserve

Test Valley Borough Council are proposing to make Abbotswood Nature Reserve a local nature reserve. You might reasonably think it is already from the name. A local nature reserve is a statutory designation though which affords additional protection to the site.

This statutory designation is crucial to protecting the community's special natural interest and cultural value.

Please fill out the survey and let us know your thoughts -  
<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/tvbcabbotswoodreserve>

## **Temporary Closure of Nursling and Rownhams Footpaths**

Two footpaths linking Nursling and Rownhams with Totton have been closed by [Hampshire Countryside Service](#).

Footpath 18 which links Nursling Mill with Testwood Lakes has been closed as a result of the bridge over the Test being in unsafe condition. HCC are in discussions with the landowner at the moment over costs – at present it is a vehicle bridge but they are looking to replace with a footbridge.

At an estimate over timescales, HCC are probably looking at spring next year for works due to the expected delay with gaining Environment Agency consents and time of year when we can work in the river.

Footpath 16 which runs from Test Lane to Testwood has also been closed pending repairs to the footpath, which hopefully should be completed within three weeks.

The notices for both closures are below.

I've offered to help chase Broadlands if needed, I know the estate manager there quite well through their involvement in Romsey's community partnership.

I've also asked to be kept up to date, I understand entirely your sentiment about 'what's different' about the state of the bridge now vs the condition in which it has been in recent years, so have asked what, if any, temporary measures might be undertaken to keep the route open.

## **Unity Travelling Pantry**

Well done to [Unity Online](#) in obtaining funding from [Hampshire County Council](#) to expand their community pantry service in Test Valley and particularly to the villages north of Romsey.

More residents Test Valley will soon be able to join the thousands of Hampshire people who use community pantries to stretch their grocery budget each week, with the announcement of a county-wide package of support totalling more than £424,000.

Test Valley charity Unity along with a community group in Eastleigh have received start-up funding from Hampshire County Council's Household Support Fund (HSF) to open community pantries in their areas. Unity will provide a travelling pantry serving the Stockbridge, West Wellow and King's Somborne areas.

Such pantries are at the heart of many communities all over Hampshire, listening to their members to deliver services and activities that meet local needs.

As well as providing affordable weekly food shopping for their members, pantries are a friendly and safe space, creating an environment that encourages a feeling of inclusion and belonging.

The latest grants will provide a six-month start-up fund for the new pantries in the Hampshire Community Pantry Network and 12 months' continued support for established pantries (£378,880 of the total).

The discretionary grants (totalling £45,500) can be used by pantry managers to help members take steps to maintain a healthy standard of living at home.

### Southern Water Planning Application - Whinwhistle Road, East Wellow

Some planning applications are dealt with by Hampshire County Council rather than Test Valley Borough Council.

The county applications usually deal with critical infrastructure, and in this case it is the waste water treatment works which is situated alongside the River Blackwater off Whinwhistle Road in East Wellow.

The application is for an expansion of the site and additional construction to help the plant deal with periods of heavy rainfall to help avoid any spillage from the tanks.

You can see further details here:

<https://planning.hants.gov.uk/Planning/Display/HCC/2023/0622> and comment by contacting [planning@hants.gov.uk](mailto:planning@hants.gov.uk)



### County Councillor Grants

New grants this month agreed for Wellow Men's Shed for new equipment and to Wellow Lunch Club toward their Christmas Afternoon Tea. Still about £1,000 of this year's pot left if you know of a good cause.

## Getting About

It was lovely to be invited to a small celebration at [West Tytherley Village Shop](#) this evening to mark the official opening of their refurbished interior and new layout, including brand new freezers.

The village shop is a fantastic community enterprise. All profits are re-invested either in the shop or in the community.

They sell everything from gin to bleach (don't mix the two), fresh vegetables to wine. Watch out for the fantastic fresh bread on a Friday and the excellent meat from [The Brazen Butchers](#).

If you are out West Tytherley way do please drop in on them. The team behind the shop work tirelessly for their community and deserve all the support we can give them.



Additionally this month I've been along to Parish Council meetings in Wellow, Chilworth, Sherfield English, Nursling and Rownhams, Awbridge, West Tytherley and Michelmersh & Timsbury.

## 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](https://facebook.com/nickadamsking)



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