

County Councillor Annual Report to the Parish 2015

Once again the last 12 months have been very full ones.

As a reminder I am on SACRE, Regulatory, and the Economy, Transport & Environment committees. I am the opposition spokesman for Econ Trans & Env.

Plus I was reappointed to Hampshire Fire & Rescue Authority where I am on the Corporate Management Team and the Finance & General purposes committee.

HFRA will shortly be sharing their HQ with Hampshire Police giving revenue to the Fire Authority and saving the Police money as well as using up space that was becoming available after various austerity measures had been put in place.

This year they will be defending their World Champion status for rescuing people with regional heats due to start this month.

The A30/A327 I mentioned last year is now almost completed. You may recall I fought against a three arm roundabout and insisted a fourth arm onto Blackbushes Road should be built. I have a meeting tomorrow when I believe it will be confirmed the Government has given an extra £400,000 toward building the fourth arm. Perhaps common sense will break out in Government but do not hold your breath.

During last summer I became increasingly concerned at the number of roadworks, we know they always happen in summer but I am informed of them in advance so none should take me by surprise. I started digging and came up with some surprising numbers regarding the utility companies. I asked the full council in September to approve a Motion calling upon the worst offenders to explain why the majority of their work was emergency.

The Council agreed and it went to the January Econ, Tran & Env committee. They unanimously backed the stance I was taking and approved a meeting. This happened last week with two of the Utility companies. They agreed what was happening was wrong and that they will be trying to change it. They had some excuses, one was even reasonable in that an emergency order is issued everytime they lift a manhole cover even if they are only 60m apart or a few round the corner.

However in their case I could point out one where they had stated a sewer problem last year and they shut the road overnight a month ago. I will not let this drop and keep on chasing them.

For ref some of the figures are, and this is where we need to be careful with percentages and actual numbers:

I receive over 21,000 emails a year now and in the last few months not all have been answered as fast as I would like. My mother died after a year long illness in February and I am still sorting out the last of her estate. So sorry if I have not replied to an email you sent yet but I will get around to it and all urgent ones I answered immediately I saw them.

My involvement with the possible new settlement at Winchfield has only been on the periphery as Hart decide on this but I made my view that it is the wrong site for a settlement know and that if anywhere Lodge Farm was preferable as it joins directly on the A287 Farnham M3 road and will cause less disruption to country lanes.

Unfortunately Hart failed to get an adopted local plan and as a result we are all suffering as developers from all over try their hand on getting through schemes that should never even be considered. Their reasoning is simple. If refused they will go to an Appeal and tell the

Planning Inspector that Hart does not have enough land allocated for the number of houses the government requires them to build on. Therefore all land is up for grabs. They may not couch it in those terms but that is what they mean.

Locally I have been involved in the extensions to Oakwood Infant school and Greenfield Junior. The money has now been approved and the plans submitted. It is not yet clear if they will be dealt with under delegated powers or if they will go to Regulatory, so I have to tell you that whilst I have a predisposition to approve them I may change my mind in the light of new information at the committee.

Potholes I mentioned last year that the HCC website is an excellent resource and I am pleased that so many are now using it but as a reminder: All potholes can be reported online via the County website and if possible a photo should be uploaded as well. This helps determine if it is urgent.

Lengthsmen scheme. I am on the Task and Finish Group that will look at how the scheme is working throughout Hampshire and recommend any improvements. I have already told them, last week at the committee setting up the group, that the admin is a shambles.....according to HALC

You have probably heard enough from me so if you have any questions please ask now.