

Hampshire County Councillor Update 27 (Abridged)

Hello, I hope you have had a pleasant summer. Not much to report at the end of July, so here's a bumper report covering both August and September.

Highways Information

Romsey Rapids entrance flooding

Given the rain yesterday and earlier this week it was great to see there was no lake at the entrance to Romsey Rapids last night. I've been highlighting the issue there for some time and am grateful to both TVBC and HCC Highways for their work in finding a solution. Well done Test Valley Borough Council for sorting the problem (as the issue is within the Rapids site it is a TVBC issue not HCC Highways). Great to see the situation resolved at least for now.

Fingers crossed the ditch is sufficient to stop the problem re-occurring this autumn and winter.

Drainage works through Timsbury

You can't fail to have noticed the flooding through Timsbury which happens after heavy rain. It disrupts travel and also damages the gardens and homes of some of those who live along the road.

I've been pressing for a solution for a few months and I'm pleased to say work will be carried out to address these issues starting in the middle of this month.

The works started on Monday 14th August 2022 and after three weeks are complete. Let's hope they resolve the problem for both travellers and local residents alike.

Old Salisbury Lane - Flooding update.

One of the local residents now refers to the flood water at the bottom of Old Salisbury Lane and Stanbridge Lane by the railway bridge as the 'Old Salisbury Lane Lido'.

It has become rather like that though recently.

Investigations are being carried out today by HCC Highways to review all the drainage pipes there to ensure the problem with surface water flooding is resolved before the winter.

The water has continued to pool in this spot though despite the hot weather, so clearly there can't be a surface water issue.



It has appeared to me for a couple of weeks that the water is coming from the utility manhole situated by the bridge and that it must be a consequence of a water leak somewhere nearby.

I've now chased the matter down with Southern Water, and thanks to a very helpful SW engineer called Andrew today. He has discovered a leak at the top of Old Salisbury Lane by the Roke Manor entrance. Although no chlorine in the water by the bridge he is fairly sure it's that which is causing the water to pool in that spot – looks like it's running down to the utility manhole through ducts down the lane – so they will fix that leak and then if water still continues to pool when there's no rain they will look again.

New Gritters for Hampshire Highways

Just before I went on holiday I was asked to go help launch one of the newly named Hampshire Highway gritters in Basingstoke.

All our gritters are named by local school children and the two new ones being used around Basingstoke are Elvis Spreadslay (thanks to Daniel from Brighton Hill Community School) and Grit of Thrones (thanks to Paige from the Costello School).

Let's hope they're not needed quite as much this coming winter as they were last.



Hampshire Highways Activity Report

Here's the usual highways activity report for earlier in the summer:

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

Aster Sewerage Charges

I am aware that owners of homes attached to Aster Sewerage Treatment plants have been receiving revised annual invoices in the last couple of weeks claiming hundreds of pounds per month for the rest of the year.

In the case of Cowleas Cottages in Awbridge for example this has increased the monthly amount from £45 to over £400 for example.

This kind of increase is both shocking and very frightening for residents. So hopefully I can help a little with some advice:

First...don't panic. Caroline Nokes and I are on this, we are talking to Aster and have already challenged these charges.

I would respond saying that you dispute the figure based upon the understanding that the costs associated with failing plants would not be passed to you. I'd refer them to the conversations their directors have been having with Caroline Nokes and I.

I have their assurance that they will not pursue people as long as you have told them you are unable to pay and are querying their bills.

Those people already in touch with me will have received an update from me yesterday by email, which I have copied below. If you do not already get these updates by email please let me know by emailing Nick.Adams-King@hants.gov.uk.

Do please share this with your residents if they are in a similar position.

Hampshire Business Awards

The inaugural Hampshire Business Awards are being held this autumn. Do you know of a business, organisation or individual who should be nominated for one of the award categories?

- Hampshire Business of the Year (sponsored by Menzies)
- Tech Startup of the Year (sponsor to be announced)
- Best Place to Work Award (sponsor to be announced)
- New Business of the Year (sponsor to be announced)
- Not-for-Profit of the Year (sponsor to be announced)
- Entrepreneur of the Year (sponsored by Herrington Carmichael)
- Young Business Person of the Year (sponsored by Farnborough Airport)
- Contribution to the Community Award (sponsored by Milestone Infrastructure)
- Commitment to Education, Training & Skills (sponsored by Utilita)
- Sustainable Green Investment Award (sponsored by FatFace)
- Made in Hampshire Award (sponsored by Hampshire County Council)
- Technology Innovation Award (sponsored by Gulfstream)
- Equality, Inclusivity & Diversity Initiative Award
- Chamber Business of the Year (sponsored by Hampshire Chamber of Commerce)

You can find out more and how to submit a nomination here:

https://thebusinessmagazine.co.uk/business_events/hampshire-business-awards/?fbclid=IwAR1mgc8Eqf9FStnm5QqyBdczErcsvhiUrZjKaFb4lO0Hbiorpes6pYYJNZg

Romsey Future and Area Based Planning

It has been brilliant to see so many people (including many of you receiving this email) at the Romsey Future Stakeholder Event and the Rural Place Based workshops over the Summer.

Over recent years there have been many really positive examples across Test Valley of organisations such as parish councils, voluntary and community groups, Test Valley Borough Council and Hampshire County Council working together to deliver on community priorities.

Working collaboratively, in this way, has resulted in a range of successful projects and initiatives that have improved the lives of our communities including unlocking a range of resources such as funding from the Community Infrastructure Levy, Community Asset Fund and Lottery Funds. Not least through the long established Romsey Future.

The Place Based workshops look to continue to build on this successful approach. The first session brought together groups and organisations connected to the local area to start to explore how we can work together to do more to understand, prioritise and deliver our communities priorities in the next few years.

The next round are due to happen in October, so if you couldn't attend over the Summer do look out for an invitation to come along next month. And if you missed out on an invitation but would like to be involved do please let me know and I will ensure you are asked along.

New Investment for Adult Social Care

The Hampshire Cabinet approved a significant proposal for £173m capital investment in Adult Care. The proposed outline business case for the investment was given the green light and the County Council will commence a formal public consultation exercise on the proposed changes in September for 10 weeks with a formal decision going to the Lead Member for Adults Services once all responses have been considered.

The proposed investment includes two confirmed new build sites for care homes at an estimated cost of £65m. In addition, a further new build care home site and extensive modifications, and expansion work at three existing homes are included at an estimated cost of £108m. This record investment proposal would ensure our buildings and facilities are fit for the future and safeguards the long-term viability of the care estate, to ensure our residents can live and receive care in modern, well-equipped facilities and ensure the increasing complex needs of residents can be successfully met in Hampshire.

The changes would see HCC Care providing 1,000 beds, an increase of 100 beds across the County, through a streamlined estate of 13 sites. Enabling the service to deliver against the three key service areas that the updated service strategy is based upon: short term, nursing, and complex residential dementia.

Hampshire's County Farms

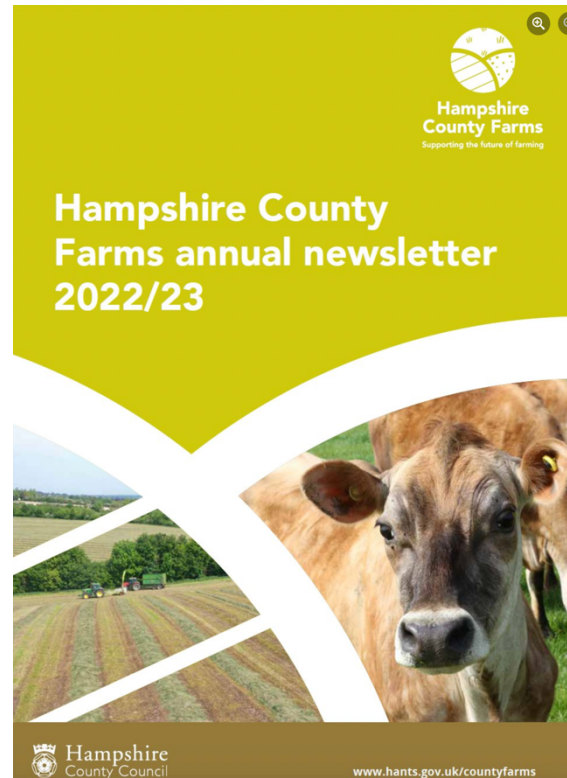
Hampshire is unusual in retaining an estate of County Council owned farms.

Our 30 County Farms are playing a crucial role in maintaining and improving Hampshire's landscape and environment.

They also give young farmers an important first step on the farming ladder. This year we have made excellent progress in increasing the diversity of our tenant farmers which is great to see.

If you watch Countryfile regularly you will know that our Hampshire tenant farmers have featured in several episodes over the last 12 months. That positive coverage is set to continue as our new tenant of Tynefield Farm (Fareham), Flavian Obiero, has secured a monthly slot on Countryfile as a young farmer starting out in agriculture.

Farmers have had a challenging period due to price increases of feed, fuel and fertiliser. We can all support Hampshire's farmers by buying local produce and shopping at farmers markets and farm shops where we can.



The County Council produces an annual report into the County Farms and their activity. You can read more about the scheme here:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvi.../county-farms>

Recycling Disposable Vapes

Disposable vapes are dreadful things...discuss.

I come down firmly on the side of 'yes they are', not only do I spend much of my time trying to encourage my elder child that they are not 'cool' and he should go nowhere near them. More importantly, they are a real problem in terms of how you can dispose of them. HCC think they should be banned. As do I.

From this week you can take them to the HWRCs where they will be disposed of safely and, more importantly, we can recycle the batteries within them.

The batteries are the problem. Disposable vapes are pretty poorly made, so when they are disposed of in waste bins or even worse recycling bins they have a habit of breaking which can then cause a fire.

HCC estimate one fire a week is caused in either a bin lorry or at a recycling or waste centre by an incorrectly discarded lithium battery.

To help tackle the environmental impact of vapes, all our Household Waste Recycling Centres can now accept reusable, refillable and disposable vapes for recycling. Most large supermarkets and some shops also have special bins where batteries, including single use vapes, can be disposed of safely.

Anything containing batteries, including vapes, should never be placed in your waste or recycling bin at home, as they are inflammable and can spontaneously combust. Rogue batteries are the single biggest cause of fire in refuse trucks and waste sites, which poses an avoidable risk to staff and unnecessary cost burden on taxpayer-funded services. It can also mean a truckload of valuable recyclable material that were carefully sorted by residents going up in smoke.

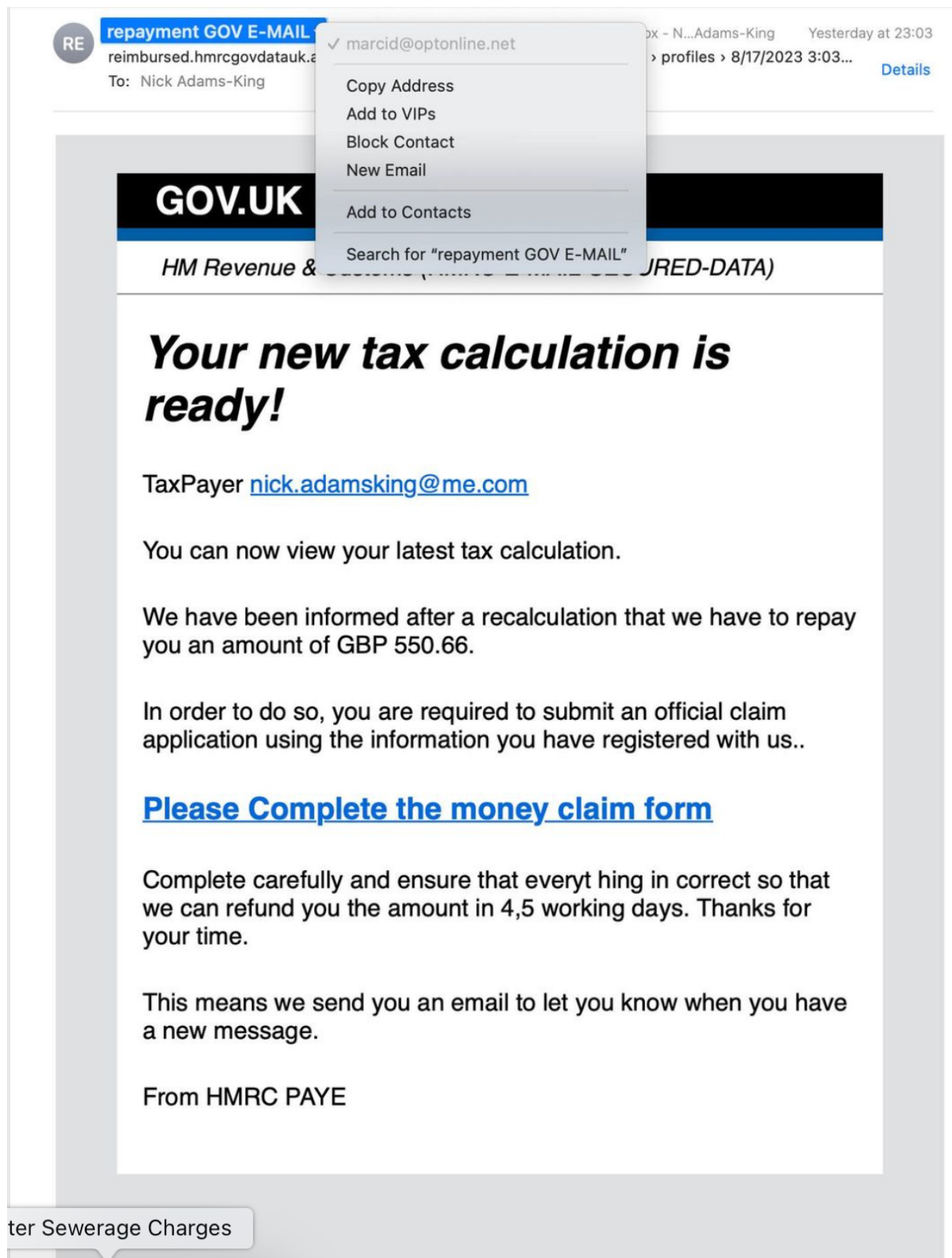
Household Waste Recycling Centres can accept all types of vapes and the guidance is not to dismantle the items in any way before disposal for safety reasons, unless the batteries can be safely removed for separate recycling.

HMRC Scam Emails

A new scam email - which unlike many others looks convincing. But it's not. Be aware of these type of messages.

A tip - if you hold your cursor over the 'from' line you can see the address from which the email came. In this case marcid@optonline.net. That tells you whether it is from a genuine address or not.

Clearly, HMRC never email you asking you for your bank details or to fill in a form to claim money.



ROMDAG Family Dementia Information Day.

[Romdag](#) do amazing work supporting those with dementia, their carers and loved ones around Romsey.

They are holding a Family Dementia Information Day next month, at the Crosfield Hall on September 17th.

If you or anyone you know is affected by this terrible illness and you have not explored the support Romdag can provide I can thoroughly recommend the event.



ROMDAG
Romsey Dementia Action Group

Family Dementia Information Day

Crosfield Hall • Broadwater Road, Romsey
Sunday 17th September 2023 • 10am - 3pm

Stands providing information about living well with dementia
including activities, social support and much more!

Tea and cake available - CASH ONLY

County Councillor Grants

More grants paid out this month, to Romsey Show and agreed for St Margaret's Church in Wellow.

Getting About


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

August was also the month for getting out and about to see highway issues around the county, Emsworth, Farnborough, Aldershot, Farnham, Havant, Gosport, Winchester, Basingstoke and Fleet all on the list.

Finally, it was great to talk to Romsey Abbey Probus Club about all things Romsey Future and HCC.

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

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Caring for Romsey Rural

