

COUNTY COUNCILLOR ROB HUMBY'S REPORT APRIL 2022

The countywide clear-up, following the severe storms in late February continued into March. Storm Eunice generated the largest number of highway enquiries for a single event for many years - for this event alone, the Highways team dealt with more than 5,000 reports! Many of the reports received resulted in the need to deal with multiple incidents – in one case up to 30 different sites were reported in a single call from the Police. We attended to almost 2000 fallen, damaged or dangerous trees, many of which needed emergency or urgent works. Our specialist teams continued to inspect and prioritise tree related issues throughout the month. This unplanned activity significantly impacted our business-as-usual highway maintenance service and also the Operation Resilience work programme but every effort has been made to get things back on track as quickly as possible. Spring is on its way but for Highways it is still our winter season (up to the end of April), so we need to continue to monitor the daily weather forecasts for snow, frost and ice – it is not unusual for winter gritting to be required in late April! Online reporting continues to be the preferred way of letting us know about routine highway issues: [hants.gov.uk/ transport/roadmaintenance](https://hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance)

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Local groups encouraged to apply to Leader's Community Grants Scheme for support with community projects

Communities across Hampshire are being invited to apply to Hampshire County Council for support from the Leader's Community Grants Scheme – which can help fund projects designed to help communities thrive.

[Local groups encouraged to apply to Leader's Community Grants Scheme for support with community projects | Hampshire County Council \(hants.gov.uk\)](#)

Queen's Green Canopy first tree planting at River Hamble Country Park

At the River Hamble Country Park, the Leader of Hampshire County Council, Cllr Keith Mans planted the first tree in the Queen's Copse, created as part of The Queen's Green Canopy initiative to mark Her Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee 2022

[Queen's Green Canopy first tree planting at River Hamble Country Park | Hampshire County Council \(hants.gov.uk\)](https://hants.gov.uk/news/queen-s-green-canopy-first-tree-planting-at-river-hamble-country-park)

Covid-19: changes to testing

Hampshire County Council is reminding residents that free Covid-19 testing is coming to an end next week – this includes PCR tests for those with symptoms and LFDs for those without

[COVID-19: CHANGES TO TESTING | Hampshire County Council \(hants.gov.uk\)](https://hants.gov.uk/news/covid-19-changes-to-testing)

Moving along – next stop for better bus services in Hampshire

Hampshire County Council has reached the next important milestone in working with bus operators to bring about improved bus services and increases in bus use across the county, in response to the Government's Bus Back Better Strategy

[Moving along - next stop for better bus services in Hampshire | Hampshire County Council \(hants.gov.uk\)](https://hants.gov.uk/news/moving-along-next-stop-for-better-bus-services-in-hampshire)

Green light for Hampshire's new natural environment 'road map'

Hampshire County Council is embracing the extra steps needed to further protect and enhance the county's natural environment and tackle climate change now required under new laws

[Green light for Hampshire's new natural environment 'road map' | Hampshire County Council \(hants.gov.uk\)](https://hants.gov.uk/news/green-light-for-hampshire-s-new-natural-environment-road-map)

County Council agrees new strategy for highways maintenance management

Hampshire County Council has developed a Highway Network Recovery Strategy for the continued effective management of highway maintenance services while overcoming the challenges of the impacts of Climate Change, the Covid-19 pandemic and long-term under-investment in local roads maintenance by successive Governments

[County Council agrees new strategy for highways maintenance management | Hampshire County Council \(hants.gov.uk\)](https://hants.gov.uk/news/county-council-agrees-new-strategy-for-highways-maintenance-management)