

## COUNTY COUNCILLOR ROB HUMBY'S REPORT NOVEMBER 2022

### **Street Lighting**

As the clocks have now gone back the darker evenings mean that HCC streetlights will be coming on earlier than is needed during spring and summer.

If you notice a fault, please report using the link:

<https://www.lightsoninhampshire.co.uk/Public/Default.aspx>

### **Hampshire Highways win awards**

As we tackle climate change, we need to be as innovative as possible in doing so. I am delighted to tell you about innovative work of [Hampshire County Council](#) Highways being recognised.

Did you know that some of the material used for road repairs in Hampshire has been recycled from other roadworks, as part of an award-winning Carbon Strategy?

It's among the steps being taken by Hampshire Highways to reduce the carbon footprint of road maintenance operations and to make the 5,500 mile network more resilient to climate change. Their trailblazing work with partners has just earned two top industry awards.

The work to become carbon neutral won the Environmental Sustainability Award and the Judges' Special Merit Award in the national Highways Awards last week. One of the ways Hampshire Highways is working to be carbon neutral is through this purpose-built recycling facility in Micheldever, where material dug up in road repairs is brought back to be processed and used elsewhere on the road network.

They are also continually trialling and adopting new, sustainable products and methods for highways maintenance.

These are an amazing achievement' and especially given the strong UK-wide competition.

It is great to see that with the Environmental Sustainability award, the County Council's trailblazing collaborative work with our partners has come under the national spotlight. It is particularly notable that the quality of work and good reputation of the Hampshire Highways partnership has been publicly recognised by their professional peers with the Highways Industry Special Merit Award.

My congratulations to all involved and thanks for their fantastic hard work and dedication.

## **Redbridge Causeway Works**

I'm very aware that the works on the Redbridge bridges have been causing much inconvenience for those who travel across it and also access Southampton via the Redbridge roundabout.

Work is progressing well to complete the refurbishment of the Redbridge Causeway bridges, which vary in age from 50 to 90 years, to ensure they remain fit and strong for the next 30 years.

The structures carry around 60,000 vehicles in and out of Southampton over Test Lane, the railway and the River Test on a regular day and the harsh marine environment has accelerated deterioration of the concrete bridges which hold the A35.

In the third and final phase of this challenging £25 million engineering scheme, engineers are working to steadily remove and repair defective concrete under the eastbound bridges and to replace the southern parapet on the Redbridge Viaduct.

Much of the work to the parapet is taking place behind the concrete crash barrier and beneath the Redbridge Viaduct away from view.

There is severe deterioration of the bridge structure in places. The work the team is doing not only repairs this but also places a cathodic system in place to extend the life of the repaired structures for decades to come.

## **Meals on Wheels – here to support this winter**

To coincide with national Meals on Wheels Week this autumn, Hampshire County Council is reminding local residents that Meals on Wheels are available to anyone with a long term health condition who may struggle to shop for or prepare food for themselves.

[Meals on Wheels – here to support this winter | Hampshire County Council \(hants.gov.uk\)](https://www.hants.gov.uk/news/2023/10/10/meals-on-wheels-here-to-support-this-winter)

## **County Council to consider recommendations for future bus and community transport support**

Recommendations for Hampshire County Council's passenger transport budget for the next financial year aim to ensure that within a reduced budget, the right support remains in place to keep vital bus and community transport services running

[County Council to consider recommendations for future bus and community transport support | Hampshire County Council \(hants.gov.uk\)](https://www.hants.gov.uk/news/2023/10/10/county-council-to-consider-recommendations-for-future-bus-and-community-transport-support)

## **County Council selects contractor to deliver the Botley Bypass**

Hampshire County Council has appointed Milestone Infrastructure, a part of M Group Services' Transport Division, as their contractor for delivering the planned Botley Bypass

[County Council selects contractor to deliver the Botley Bypass | Hampshire County Council \(hants.gov.uk\)](#)

## **Keeping Hampshire moving in all weathers – highways teams get winter-ready**

To keep Hampshire moving during the wetter and colder months of winter, Hampshire Highways are ready – with crews on standby 24/7, ready to salt the road in snow and icy conditions, as well as deal with the impacts of high winds, heavy rain and flooding, such as those seen on the weekend of 22 and 23 October

[Keeping Hampshire moving in all weathers – highways teams get winter-ready | Hampshire County Council \(hants.gov.uk\)](#)

## **Celebrating Hampshire's inclusive fostering community in Foster Focus Week**

Fostering Hampshire Children is celebrating its inspiring foster carers and calling for more people to open their doors to some of Hampshire's most vulnerable children

[Celebrating Hampshire's inclusive fostering community in Foster Focus Week | Hampshire County Council \(hants.gov.uk\)](#)

## **Hampshire groups invited to apply to Leader's Community Grant Scheme to create warm hubs this winter**

Communities across Hampshire are being invited to apply to Hampshire County Council for support from the Leader's Community Grants Scheme in order to create a network of warm hubs this winter

[Hampshire groups invited to apply to Leader's Community Grant Scheme to create warm hubs this winter | Hampshire County Council \(hants.gov.uk\)](#)

## **Up to £5,000 available for communities to waste less**

Repair cafes, libraries where people can borrow useful things for their home, projects and adventures, as well as reusable nappy libraries are some of the many creative ways communities are pulling together to waste less and help tackle climate change

## **Final decision on future of Firvale Residential Respite Unite**

Hampshire County Council has taken the decision to close social care provision at Firvale Residential Respite Unit in Basingstoke, while committing to further investment in a range of tailored respite services that respond more effectively to families' needs

### **You could be a winner by helping plan Whitehill and Bordon travel schemes**

Residents in Whitehill and Bordon are being asked to help Hampshire County Council plan and design potential future improvements to local roads and footways that will help local people travel in and around the area, more easily and actively, while helping to reduce carbon emissions

[You could be a winner by helping plan Whitehill and Bordon travel schemes | Hampshire County Council \(hants.gov.uk\)](#)

### **County Council pays tribute to vital role of Hampshire's farmers following year of challenges**

Hampshire County Council has paid tribute to the vital role of the region's farmers following a year of intense financial and environmental challenges

[County Council pays tribute to vital role of Hampshire's farmers following year of challenges | Hampshire County Council \(hants.gov.uk\)](#)

### **Securing the best deal for residents: County Council prepares to put Pan-Hampshire County Deal plans to Government**

Negotiations are poised to take place with central Government on plans for a Pan-Hampshire County Deal, with the aim of investing in Hampshire's economy and improving the lives of all residents and communities across the area – by bringing decisions and powers close to people and places in the region

[Securing the best deal for residents: County Council prepares to put Pan-Hampshire County Deal plans to Government | Hampshire County Council \(hants.gov.uk\)](#)

### **Award-winning carers got the extra mile in fostering child into adulthood**

A couple from Hayling Island who decided to move house to better suit the needs of their disabled foster child have been recognised by Hampshire County Council in its 2022 Children and Families Awards

[Award-winning carers go the extra mile in fostering child into adulthood | Hampshire County Council \(hants.gov.uk\)](#)

### **Hampshire Trading Standards sets out safety tips for a trick-free Halloween**

Halloween revellers are being reminded to play it safe and they can still enjoy a spook-tacular celebration – by following Hampshire County Council's Trading Standards' ten top tips

[Hampshire Trading Standards sets out safety tips for a trick-free Halloween | Hampshire County Council \(hants.gov.uk\)](#)

### **Hampshire fostering campaign scoops Pride award**

Fostering Hampshire Children's winter 2021 campaign to find new foster carers has received a gold award in the 'Public Sector Campaign' category at this year's Pride awards for the South of England and Channel Islands

[Hampshire fostering campaign scoops PRide award | Hampshire County Council \(hants.gov.uk\)](https://www.hants.gov.uk/news/hampshire-fostering-campaign-scoops-pride-award)

### **Hampshire Welcomes Investment Zone opportunity to boost employment and local economy**

With the potential to attract significant business investment and create more jobs for Hampshire residents, Hampshire County Council's Leader, Cllr Rob Humby, has set out the Authority's backing for new Investment Zones

[Hampshire welcomes Investment Zone opportunity to boost employment and local economy | Hampshire County Council \(hants.gov.uk\)](https://www.hants.gov.uk/news/hampshire-welcomes-investment-zone-opportunity-to-boost-employment-and-local-economy)

### **Overnight repair for destroyed New Forest road surface**

Hampshire Highways pulled out all the stops to repair and reopen a severely damaged main road through the New Forest – all within 48 hours of a serious vehicle fire

### **Head to the library this winter for a warm space and a warmer welcome**

Hampshire County Council is reminding people to visit their local library to enjoy a warm, welcome, and supportive space to spend time this winter

[Head to the library this winter for a warm space and a warmer welcome | Hampshire County Council \(hants.gov.uk\)](https://www.hants.gov.uk/news/head-to-the-library-this-winter-for-a-warm-space-and-a-warmer-welcome)

### **County Council selects contractor for M27 Junction 10 Upgrade**

Hampshire County Council has appointed Volker Fitzpatrick as their design and build contractor for delivering the planned M27 Junction 10 improvement scheme

[County Council selects contractor for M27 Junction 10 upgrade | Hampshire County Council \(hants.gov.uk\)](https://www.hants.gov.uk/news/county-council-selects-contractor-for-m27-junction-10-upgrade)

### **County Council sets out support package for pupils as cost rises force increase in school meal price**

Hampshire County Council has set out a financial support package to help schools cover school meal costs and contribute towards school uniform for vulnerable families this winter

[County Council sets out support package for pupils as cost rises force increase in school meal price | Hampshire County Council \(hants.gov.uk\)](https://www.hants.gov.uk/news/county-council-sets-out-support-package-for-pupils-as-cost-rises-force-increase-in-school-meal-price)

## **Have your say on walking and cycling improvements around Andover Rail Station**

Hampshire County Council wants to know what residents, commuters and businesses think of proposals to make it easier for people to walk and cycle to and from Andover rail station

[Have Your Say on walking and cycling improvements around Andover Rail Station | Hampshire County Council \(hants.gov.uk\)](#)

## **Work to start soon on road improvements in Farnborough**

Residents, commuters and visitors to Farnborough will benefit from a range of improvements to the local road network that aim to reduce congestion, make walking and cycling easier and more appealing, and enable bus passengers to enjoy faster, more reliable journey times

[Work to start soon on road improvements in Farnborough | Hampshire County Council \(hants.gov.uk\)](#)

## **Proposals for future Firvale respite care to be considered**

Proposals will be considered by Hampshire County Council later this month to permanently close Firvale Residential Respite Unit in Basingstoke, which has been temporarily closed since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic in March 2020

[Proposals for future Firvale respite care to be considered | Hampshire County Council \(hants.gov.uk\)](#)

## **Let's 'Chat About'...wellbeing on World Mental Health Day**

This 'World Mental Health Day', Hampshire County Council is launching a new initiative to support people to have meaningful conversations to alleviate loneliness and improve wellbeing

[Let's 'Chat About'...wellbeing on World Mental Health Day | Hampshire County Council \(hants.gov.uk\)](#)

## **Work to start on Stubbington village centre highway improvements**

Residents will soon be able to walk and cycle more easily and safely in Stubbington village when improvements to two roundabouts are completed

[Work to start on Stubbington village centre highway improvements | Hampshire County Council \(hants.gov.uk\)](#)

## **Speeding up bus journeys in Portchester**

Bus passengers travelling in and around Portchester can look forward to more reliable journey times as Hampshire County Council has started work on a highway scheme to give buses priority at Castle Roundabout on the A27

[Speeding up bus journeys in Portchester | Hampshire County Council \(hants.gov.uk\)](https://www.hants.gov.uk/news/2022/08/16/speeding-up-bus-journeys-in-portchester)

## **Reminder to use or exchange your 'old' stamps**

Do you have a stock of stamps you are unlikely to use before 31 January 2023? Royal Mail are introducing a new style of stamp at the end of January and current stamps will no longer be valid after that date.

There are only 100 days to go until non-barcoded stamps can no longer be used.

You can swap old style stamps via: <https://www.royalmail.com/sending/barcoded-stamps...> where a form can be printed or requested, call 03457 740740 to request a form or go to the Customer Service Point at your local delivery office.

## **Energy efficiency upgrades**



**How could £10,000 in energy-efficiency upgrades transform your home?**

Check if you're eligible for fully-funded energy-efficiency upgrades.

Apply before:  
31st December 2022

**#STAYWARM&SAVE**

Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy

Sustainable Warmth

CityEnergy

Local residents could get support to manage energy-efficiency upgrades.

Government-funded Sustainable Warmth grants are designed to support those households most impacted by rising energy bills; residents can check if they are eligible here: <https://www.hampshire-applications.co.uk/>

## Energy Support



From 1 October, the Government's Energy Support began, although, this time the council has no role in administering it, I still thought it would be helpful to try and explain how it works. I have tried to be as succinct as possible.

My main message though is to please be aware of any scams. I've received various texts in the last week encouraging me to apply for a discount. **YOU DO NOT NEED TO APPLY.**

There are three aspects to the scheme:

1. The Energy Price Guarantee. The government is helping every household by limiting the unit price paid for gas and electricity. Hence, a typical household will now pay around £2,500 a year for the next two years compared with a predicted average of £6,000 without this intervention. Please be aware though that your bill will still depend on how much you use.
2. The Energy Bill Support Scheme. This will provide every household with a £400 discount on bills this winter. With £66 discounts on the October and November bills and £67 off each month from December until March. The most vulnerable households will also continue to receive £1,200 of support provided in instalments over the year.
3. Businesses big and small, charities, schools, care homes etc will receive equivalent support through the Energy Bill Relief Scheme. This means that non-domestic customers will pay wholesale energy costs below half of expected prices this winter.

To reiterate, you do not need to do anything to receive this support. It will automatically be applied to your energy bill.

There is much more detailed information available here, including for those who are on pre-payment meters - <https://bit.ly/3fCwn8g>



## **Warm spaces**

Our library network offers warm space for anyone needing a place to spend some time, connect with others, to work or study. Libraries also provide support with the distribution of Warm Bags and Food Vouchers through the Household Support Fund [www.hants.gov.uk/librariesandarchives/library/libraryfinder](http://www.hants.gov.uk/librariesandarchives/library/libraryfinder)

**Food and essentials** Families struggling with the cost of essentials - such as food and fuel - are encouraged to visit the connect4communities website below. You may be eligible for a Council Tax reduction.

[www.hants.gov.uk/socialcareandhealth/childrenandfamilies/connectforcommunities](http://www.hants.gov.uk/socialcareandhealth/childrenandfamilies/connectforcommunities)

We offer a range of **grants** to community organisations working with residents to support their physical and mental wellbeing including grants up to £5,000 to support communities, for example by setting up a Warm Space. Further information is available here: [www.hants.gov.uk/costofliving/community-support](http://www.hants.gov.uk/costofliving/community-support)

## **Services provided by Hampshire County Council include:**

- [Education and Learning](#) including supporting Hampshire schools. (excluding privately run Academy Schools)
- [Services for children and families](#) including adoption and fostering, safeguarding, and support for young people.
- [Maintenance of Hampshire's roads](#) (except motorways and trunk roads which are the responsibility of National Highways), [licensing](#) for providers who need to work on the highway, and support for operators of [public transport](#).
- [Planning](#) applications for mineral extraction, waste management and public buildings.
- Provision of [social care and health](#) in Hampshire.
- The [Hampshire Library Service](#).
- The [Countryside Service](#), looking after [rights of way](#), and many of the county's [important green spaces](#)
- [Household Waste Recycling Centres](#) where residents can dispose of unwanted items. (District, borough or city councils manage kerbside household waste collections)
- [Trading Standards](#), ensuring fair trading in Hampshire, by supporting the county's businesses and protecting Hampshire consumers.

## **District, borough and city councils**

District, borough and city councils provide services such as:

- Household waste collection
- Domestic planning applications
- Council Tax collection
- Housing

[Find your local district or borough council](#)

### **Parish, community and town councils**

These councils operate at a level below district and borough councils and in some cases, unitary authorities.

They are elected and can help on a number of local issues, like providing:

- allotments
- public clocks
- bus shelters
- community centres
- play areas and play equipment
- grants to help local organisations
- consultation on neighbourhood planning

They also have the power to issue fixed penalty fines for things like:

- litter
- graffiti
- fly posting
- dog offences

### **Other governing bodies**

- [Fire and Rescue Authority](#)
- [Police and Crime Panel](#)
- [The Hampshire Partnership](#)
- [Lord-Lieutenant of Hampshire](#)
- [New Forest National Park Authorities](#)

### **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>