

Hampshire County Councillor Update 53

Dear All

Autumn is fully here and while Guy Fawkes night and Remembrance Sunday still lie ahead thoughts are already turning to Christmas – which seems impossible in some sense, this year is flying by.

Here's the latest update.

Highways Information

Railway Improvement Works – East and West Dean

A heads up that Network Rail will be carrying out essential track repairs and replacements in our area between Sunday 2 November 2025 and Friday 23 January 2026.

What's happening?

Around 1 km of rails, sleepers, and ballast stone will be replaced. Work will be led by Network Rail's contractor, VolkerRail. The most disruptive works will take place over two weekends in November.

Key Dates

Fri 14 – Mon 17 November 2025: Main renewal works (continuous, overnight).

Fri 21 – Mon 24 November 2025: Main renewal works (continuous, overnight).

Mon 17 – Fri 21 November & Mon 24 – Fri 28 November: Follow-up works overnight.

Further overnight follow-up works:

Sat 29 – Sun 30 November 2025

Mon 1 – Fri 5 December 2025

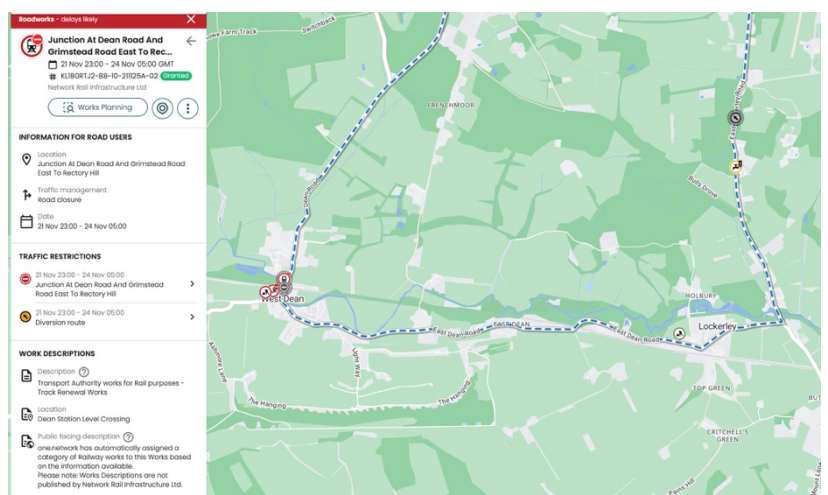
Mon 12 – Fri 16 January 2026

Mon 19 – Fri 23 January 2026

Dean Station Level Crossing Closure

Closed from 23:00 Friday 21 November to 05:00 Monday 24 November 2025.

Diversion routes will be clearly signposted.



Why this matters: These works are essential to keep services safe and reliable. While there will be some disruption, the long-term benefit is a more resilient railway for passengers and freight.

Update on Southern Water works in Ampfield

I've been asked if I can provide more detail about the works Southern Water will shortly be carrying out for essential upgrades to local water mains in Ampfield.

The current cast iron pipes, dating back to the 1930s, are being replaced with modern plastic ones to reduce the risk of bursts, leaks, discolouration and supply interruptions.

Programme update Southern Water has reviewed the project and made some changes to future-proof our water supply:

Hook Road & Hocombe Road: Work will now start in early November 2025 and finish by late March 2026. This is the work that will close Hook Road from next week until December and then again through January and much of February 2026.

Nutburn Road & Flexford Road: Work will begin in mid-January 2026 and finish by early April 2026.

The new pipes will be larger (250mm instead of 180mm) to accommodate expected local developments and avoid further disruption later.

What this means for residents:

Work will be phased over about 6 months.

Access to homes and businesses will be maintained.

Working hours and delivery arrangements remain unchanged.

If you need more information

Email: SouthernWater@unitedinfrastructure.com (Mon–Fri, 9am–5pm)

Phone: 0330 3030 368 (quote Capital Projects, PRN 835158)

Online: southernwater.co.uk/contact-us

Southern Water say this a major investment in our community's future water security, and while there will be some disruption, the long-term benefits will be significant.

Hoe Lane – Upcoming Highway Works

I hope it's helpful to give you some more information about the closure of Hoe Lane for the next 6 weeks. The works are to repair the damage to the lane as a result of the construction of the new housing development and are being arranged and paid for by the developers.

Hampshire Highways have advised me that remedial works linked to the new housing development in Hoe Lane are due have begun and are expected to last for around 6 weeks. The works are to repair the damage to the lane as a result of the construction of the new housing development and are being arranged and paid for by the developers.

The works will include:

- Drainage improvements

- Kerbing
- Strengthening of the overrun verge
- Localised resurfacing

Because Hoe Lane is narrow, a temporary road closure will be required to carry out the works safely. Access for residents (both vehicles and pedestrians) will be maintained during working hours, though there may be short delays while machinery or materials are moved.

A letter has been sent to residents by the contractor, which includes details of the closure extents and diversion route. If you have a query about a specific section of Hoe Lane, please get in touch with me and I can provide the relevant drawings.

I appreciate this will cause some disruption, but these works are important to ensure the road is safe and fit for purpose. Thank you in advance for your patience and cooperation.

MAJOR M27 CLOSURE – PLAN AHEAD THIS CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR

If you're travelling over the festive period, please take note of the dates for the closure of the motorway between Southampton and Portsmouth:

The ****M27 will be fully closed in both directions between Junctions 9 (Whiteley) and 11 (Fareham)**** from ****8pm on 24 December 2025 until 4am on Sunday 4 January 2026****.

This closure is essential to install a brand-new four-lane underpass using an innovative engineering technique that avoids months of disruption later. But it does mean ****serious delays are expected**** if you don't plan ahead.

****What you need to know:****

- Full closure J9–J11 in both directions.
- Diversion via the A27 (expect heavy traffic, especially 10am–4pm daily).
- Exit available: westbound at J11 (Fareham/Gosport) and eastbound at J9 (Whiteley/Park Gate).
- No westbound entry at J11 (towards Southampton/A32) and no eastbound entry at J9 (towards Portsmouth).

If arranging Christmas and New Year travel please plan your journeys in advance:

Travel outside peak hours

Use alternative routes

Ask yourself if the journey is essential

I know this will cause significant inconvenience, and we thank local communities and road users for their patience while this vital work is carried out. This short closure for the innovative work will save months of additional disruption, lane closures and congestion.



For updates and full details, visit the official Christmas closure webpage:

https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/M27-junction-10/christmas-closure?utm_source=SAPHybris&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=5342&utm_term=M27%20J10%20-%20Motorway%20Closure%20Update___Link&utm_content=EN



Wellow's first Speed Indicator Device is up and working.

Thanks to [Wellow Parish Council](#) the first of the speed indicator devices is in place. Great to check it out this afternoon with parish councillors Chris Craig and Adam Overton-Hore. As usual Chris and Adam have done all the work for this, I just provided some of the funding and support with sorting out the sites with Hampshire Highways.

It was clearly working on its first afternoon as we saw people slowing down to ensure they go the green speed indicator and the smiley face as they went down.



Reporting Highway Problems

Links to report road issues are here:

Potholes: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/highways/report-a-problem/potholes>

Tree/hedge problems: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/highways/report-a-problem/treehedge>

Flooding/drainage issues: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/highways/report-a-problem/flooding>

Pavement problems: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/highways/report-a-problem/paving>

Broken or missing signs: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/highways/report-a-problem/broken-signs>

Faulty street lights: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/highways/report-a-problem/streetlight>

Faded or missing road markings: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/highways/report-a-problem/road-markings>

Problems with rights of way:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/rightsofway/report-a-problem>

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.

Nursling to Testwood footpath update

The footpath that links the end of Mill Lane in Nursling with Testwood, Totton has been closed for some time to allow for the replacement of the bridge across the Test at Nursling Mill.

The old bridge was in a poor state of repair and becoming dangerous, so it's great to see progress now on the new bridge. Hopefully reopening of this route is now in sight.



Important Update: Romsey Post Office Temporary Closure & New Opening Hours

A reminder that thanks to the hard work of [Caroline Nokes](#), Romsey Post Office is remaining open and will transfer to new ownership next week. As a result the post office will temporarily close next Tuesday 11 November 2025 at 15:00 and reopen on Wednesday 12 November 2025 at 13:00 to enable operational changes.

Good news: The same services, serving positions, and access arrangements will remain in place. New Tuesday hours: From 12 November, Tuesday opening will begin at 09:00 (previously 09:30). Note: Paystation services will be unavailable during the closure but will resume upon reopening.

New Opening Hours (from 12 Nov)

Mon–Fri: 09:00–17:30

Sat: 09:00–12:30

Sun: Closed

Parish Council Bus Shelter Grant Scheme

Hampshire County Council has launched a new grant scheme to help Parish Councils replace or refurbish bus shelters – making them more attractive, visible, and welcoming for passengers. Funded through the Department for Transport's Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) 2025/26 Bus Grant, this scheme is all about improving local infrastructure and encouraging more people to use public transport.

Who can apply? Parish Councils that own and maintain existing bus shelters.

How much is available? Up to £15,000 per shelter site – for either refurbishment or installation of a new shelter at an existing site.

When to apply? Applications are open now and must be submitted by 28 February 2026. Awards will be made on a rolling basis from early 2026.

Parish Councils will need to provide quotes from commercial suppliers as part of their application. For more details, including the application form and guidance, visit Hampshire County Council's website or contact the Passenger Transport Team at: passenger.transport.enquiries@hants.gov.uk

This is a great opportunity to improve local facilities and make bus travel more appealing for residents.

Community spirit in action in Sherfield English

An incredible 13 volunteers joined **Test Valley Borough Council**'s countryside officers to plant 6 new trees and remove a huge number of tree guards from the car park hedgerow at Mill Lane Meadows in Sherfield English.

I'm sorry I couldn't be there, and am in awe of how hard everyone worked – and the smiles and enjoyment along the way made it even more special. What a wonderful bunch of people.

Well done and huge thanks to everyone.



Southern Water hosepipe ban lifted from 31st October

Southern Water has confirmed that the hosepipe ban is lifted from 31st October 2025. Thank you to everyone who played their part in conserving water over the summer months—it really made a difference in protecting our precious chalk streams and keeping supplies flowing.

While restrictions are no longer in place, I'd encourage us all to keep up good water-saving habits where we can. Every drop saved helps build resilience for the future.

2026 County Council Elections

The Times has reported that leaders of the Devolution Priority Programme areas are calling for a further postponement of County Council elections, currently scheduled for May next year.

You can read the article here: <https://www.thetimes.com/.../0a601557-49fe-4c0a-b9de...>

To be absolutely clear: I have not requested any delay to elections, nor have I had conversations with Government about one.

When I spoke to a Times journalis, I made it clear that Hampshire is not part of any discussion about postponement. I am only aware of the idea through colleagues elsewhere. It is therefore disappointing that the article suggests that I have asked for further postponement.

My position is straightforward: I have not, and will not, ask for an election postponement.

Ultimately, this is a decision for the Government. Last year's delay was to enable devolution, which is now substantially complete. It was the Labour Government that subsequently imposed Local Government Reorganisation.

This is their project, their timeline, and their decision as to whether they can deliver what they want with or without elections.

County Councillor Grants

The County Councillor Grant scheme is operating once more, with a lesser amount of £5,000 and new criteria as follows:

Hampshire County Councillor Grants – Updated Criteria (September 2025)

Following a comprehensive review, Hampshire County Council has revised its County Councillor Grants Scheme to reflect budget constraints and improve effectiveness. Key changes include:

- **Reduced Allocation:** Each County Councillor now has an annual grant budget of **£5,000**, down from £8,000.
-
- **Eligibility Restrictions:**
 - Grants are only available to **organisations**, not individuals.
 - Organisations **cannot apply for the same project** in consecutive years.
 - Applications must demonstrate **community benefit**, especially if from religious or statutory bodies.

- **Funding Limits:**
 - A **maximum of £1,000 per project** is now in place.
 - Grants for **seasonal or time-specific events** must be awarded **before the event date**.
- **Transparency and Branding:**
 - All funded projects must **acknowledge County Council support** in promotional materials.
- **Application Assessment:**
 - Previous grant awards (from the last two years) will be considered during evaluation.
 - Preference may be given to organisations without access to other funding sources.

These changes aim to ensure the scheme remains fair, transparent, and aligned with the Council's strategic priorities while managing financial pressures.

Getting About

It's been a busy month of Parish meetings, I attended meetings at Awbridge, Lockerley,, West Tytherley, Michelmersh & Timsbury, Nursling & Rownhams, Chilworth, Wellow, Sherfield English and spoke the annual dinner of Sherfield English Bowls Club.

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

Contact me:
t: 07771 727402
e: Nick.Adams-King@hants.gov.uk
 facebook.com/nickadamsking

CLLR NICK ADAMS-KING
Caring for Romsey Rural



General Updates from HCC:

Hampshire County Council honours new Aldermen

Two former Hampshire County Councillors have been recognised today with the award of the title of Honorary Alderman, for their distinguished service to the people of Hampshire

[Hampshire County Council honours new Aldermen | Hampshire County Council](#)

Frame-signing ceremony marks milestone in construction of new special needs school in Eastleigh

A major milestone in the development of a new state-of-the-art special needs school was celebrated this week at a symbolic frame-signing ceremony at the construction site in Eastleigh

[Frame-signing ceremony marks milestone in construction of new special needs school in Eastleigh | Hampshire County Council](#)

Consultations to be requested on School and Post-16 Transport Policies

Parents could soon be asked for their views on Hampshire County Council's School Transport and Post-16 Transport Policies

[Consultations to be requested on School and Post-16 Transport Policies | Hampshire County Council](#)

Statutory consultation to be requested on proposed merger of Havant primary and secondary schools

Residents in Havant could soon have another opportunity to share their views on the possible merger of Park Community School (secondary) with the Federation of Riders Infant and Junior Schools in Leigh Park

[Statutory consultation to be requested on proposed merger of Havant primary and secondary schools | Hampshire County Council](#)

Public consultation on future of Smannell and Enham Church of England Primary School, Andover

Residents of a village on the edge of Andover are being asked for their initial views on the proposed closure of Smannell and Enham Church of England Primary School

[Public consultation on future of Smannell and Enham Church of England Primary School, Andover | Hampshire County Council](#)

Remember, Remember – stay safe this Halloween and Bonfire Night

With Halloween and Bonfire Night just around the corner, Hampshire County Council's Trading Standards team has issued seasonal safety tips to help everyone to 'play it safe' and enjoy the festivities responsibly

[Remember, Remember – stay safe this Halloween and Bonfire Night | Hampshire County Council](#)

Hampshire County Council backs residents to quit smoking this Stoptober – free support available

Quitting smoking isn't easy, but you don't have to do it alone. Hampshire County Council is encouraging residents to take part in Stoptober, the national campaign that helps thousands of people each year start living smokefree

[Hampshire County Council backs residents to quit smoking this Stoptober – free support available | Hampshire County Council](#)

Hampshire County Council's Children's Services recognised in national awards

One of Hampshire County Council's Children's Services teams has been recognised as 'Team of the Year' at the national Social Worker of the Year Awards

[Hampshire County Council's Children's Services recognised in national awards | Hampshire County Council](#)

A warm welcome for all – upgrades to Basingstoke Discovery Centre to support residents this winter

Basingstoke residents will soon enjoy an even warmer welcome at their local library thanks to refurbishment works taking place at Basingstoke Discovery Centre next month

[A warm welcome for all – upgrades to Basingstoke Discovery Centre to support residents this winter | Hampshire County Council](#)

M27 road users given advance notice of closure between J9-J11 over Christmas and New Year

Drivers are being advised to plan ahead to avoid severe delays this Christmas and New Year as details are published for a full closure in both directions on a section of the M27 in Hampshire – this is scheduled from 8pm, 24 December 2025 to 4am on Sunday 4 January 2026

[M27 road users given advance notice of closure between J9-J11 over Christmas and New Year | Hampshire County Council](#)

Hampshire County Council continues to grow SEND provision with more specialist places and inclusive support

Hampshire County Council is continuing its long-term investment in special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) provision, with plans well underway to deliver 1,000 additional specialist school places between 2025 and 2030. This includes a mix of new places in both dedicated special schools and Resourced Provisions (RPs), which are specialist environments based within mainstream schools

[Hampshire County Council continues to grow SEND provision with more specialist places and inclusive support | Hampshire County Council](#)

Statutory consultation to go ahead on proposed merger of Havant primary and secondary schools

A formal consultation will open on Friday, 7 November inviting residents in Havant for their views on the possible merger of Park Community School (secondary) with the Federation of Riders Infant and Junior Schools in Leigh Park

[Statutory consultation to go ahead on proposed merger of Havant primary and secondary schools | Hampshire County Council](#)

County Council to consult on School and Post-16 Transport Policies

Parents will be asked for their views on Hampshire County Council's School Transport and Post-16 Transport Policies in two consultations opening on Monday, 3 November

[County Council to consult on School and Post-16 Transport Policies | Hampshire County Council](#)

Foster Care – a stepping stone on the journey back home

Could you be part of a child's journey back home to their family?

[Foster care – a stepping-stone on the journey back home | Hampshire County Council](#)