

## **Hampshire County Councillor Update 44**

Dear All

January is finally over, although still no news on devolution and/or Government's approval for an increase in Council Tax over the 5% limit. We expect answers on both in the coming week.

Here's my latest County Councillor update:

### **Highways Information**

#### **Old Salisbury Lane flooding**

I'm afraid the flooding is particularly bad by the railway bridge on Old Salisbury Lane recently.

I held a meeting last month with senior highways officers to raise a concern about the ongoing problems. The drains were jetted a week ago, but clearly that has made no difference.

I have mentioned before that there are problems with the drains running through adjoining land being damaged and blocked. That issue is almost at the point of resolution, subject to the completion of some legal work needed to allow for repair. There is also though an issue with the outflow of the drain where it discharges onto the railway. Network Rail are now involved and a solution is agreed with them.

All those issues presuppose the drains in the road are fit for purpose, which patently they are not. Essentially the entire section of road needs renewed drainage, which is going to require the road to be closed while the work is undertaken. Those plans are progressing and works are scheduled for the Spring.

It is very frustrating and living within half a mile it's the issue about which I hear most (with my most vocal complainants having recently doubled now two other family members drive). There is a solution in sight, and I will keep pressing for it to be resolved promptly.

### **Hampshire County Council to charge utility companies for disruptive roadworks**

Before becoming Leader of the County Council last May I was responsible for highways and began the work to implement this scheme to charge utility companies for the disruptive roadworks which can blight all our days.

I'm therefore delighted my brilliant colleague [Cllr Lulu Bowerman](#) has unveiled plans for a new disruption charge scheme aimed at reducing delays on the county's busiest roads during peak times.



This initiative, designed to complement the existing permitting scheme, would encourage companies and agencies to better plan their work, operate outside peak hours, and shorten the duration of their projects.

◆ How It Works: A daily fee would be charged for the duration of the work, including any delays. Surplus revenues would fund innovative projects to reduce streetworks and roadworks disruption and will also be reinvested into highway maintenance.

◆ Already in use in parts of the UK, 'lane rental' charges apply to the most congested, strategically important local roads. Hampshire could charge up to £2,500 per day, the maximum allowed under current legislation.

## 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/brokensigns>

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/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.**

## **Food recycling on the way for Test Valley residents!**

TVBC is one step closer to launching kerbside food waste collections for households across the borough later this year!

This week at our Cabinet meeting we recommended starting food waste collections on 13 October 2025. This is ahead of the government's requirement for all councils to have food waste collections in place by 1 April 2026, thanks to the Environment Act 2021. 🌱

TVBC is pushing to introduce the collections five months early, marking a positive step towards transforming recycling in the area. ♻️

The new weekly service will see kerbside food waste caddies collected from households across the borough by a new fleet of specialist collection vehicles.

Residents in flats or shared accommodations will also get communal food waste bins, and every household will receive a smaller kitchen caddy to help collect food waste and scraps at home.

Once collected, the food waste will be taken to an anaerobic digestion facility where it will be broken down to produce methane-rich biogas for fuel and nutrient-rich fertiliser.

The government will cover ongoing service costs from 1 April 2026 through New Burdens funding. However, rolling out the service earlier will cost the council around £390,000, with the final decision to be made by full council on 29 January 2025.

## **Waltet, Bunny Lane – planning application**

Last month HCC's Regulatory Committee considered the application to allow a permanent increase in the stockpile heights at the Waltet recycling site on Bunny Lane.

I was delighted that the officer's report recommended this application should be refused and that the committee unanimously backed that view.

I spoke at the committee meeting as the local County Councillor, highlighting the fact that the company had agreed to a permanent reduction in the height of the mounds of earth and rubble they hold on site in various planning permissions over the last few years and most particularly as part of the justification for their placing a wash plant on the site in 2021.

The impact on the landscape and the disturbance caused by machinery operating on and around the mounds at their current height is detrimental to the surrounding community in Michelmersh and Timsbury. It's now time for the company to enact their original promise to reduce the height of the mounds, and to do so quickly.

Thanks to the **Hampshire Chronicle** for covering the story here:

[https://www.hampshirechronicle.co.uk/news/24868172.recycling-plant-blocked-piling-waste-seven-metres-high/?fbclid=IwY2xjawlNhmBleHRuA2FlbQIxMQABHSv1hS-2Wngy2HIJA8D5EAbM0tgbPjXHd1\\_nV9B1RjEg5I57n2GPmKvqw\\_aem\\_OOvVFuoObGiYAlOM\\_tlB4g](https://www.hampshirechronicle.co.uk/news/24868172.recycling-plant-blocked-piling-waste-seven-metres-high/?fbclid=IwY2xjawlNhmBleHRuA2FlbQIxMQABHSv1hS-2Wngy2HIJA8D5EAbM0tgbPjXHd1_nV9B1RjEg5I57n2GPmKvqw_aem_OOvVFuoObGiYAlOM_tlB4g)

## Major Investment in Special Needs Education for Next Academic Year.

One of the greatest pressures on Hampshire County Council's budget is the cost of the increasing number of school pupils with Special Education Needs. Therefore we have announced exciting plans to transform specialist education at four primary schools, significantly boosting support for pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) in Gosport, Eastleigh, and Basingstoke.



**Holbrook Primary School, Gosport:**  
Expanding provision for children with Autism Spectrum Condition (ASC) by an extra nine places from September 2025. Refurbishing an unused meeting room and improving hygiene spaces with a capital investment of £350,000.



**Cherbourg Primary School, Eastleigh:**  
Expanding Social, Emotional, and Mental Health (SEMH) provision from seven to 11 places. Receiving revenue funding for the additional places, with no associated capital costs.



**Bedenham Primary School, Gosport:**  
Increasing SEMH resourced provision from 12 to 18 places by September 2025. Refurbishing an unused classroom, toilets, and external area with a capital investment of £360,000.



**Saxon Wood School, Basingstoke:**  
Adjusting existing specialist provision to also meet the needs of children with Severe Learning Difficulties (SLD) and Moderate Learning Difficulties (MLD).

Enhancing the breadth of provision at no additional capital cost.

We are committed to supporting Hampshire children, whatever their needs, with educational opportunities to achieve their potential within their home communities wherever possible. Keeping such provision within our own successful schools saves costs that would otherwise be spent on special needs provision in the independent sector, often taking children far from their peers and families.

These expansions are in addition to plans for a new SEMH special school in Eastleigh, set to open in September 2026, and further specialist places at three other schools from September 2025.

## Join the Movement Towards a Smokefree Hampshire!

Smoking remains a significant health challenge in Hampshire, with approximately 118,000 smokers contributing to an estimated £988 million in lost productivity and social and healthcare costs. To combat this, Hampshire County Council has set an ambitious goal: to become a Smokefree County by 2030.

☀️ Introducing Smokefree Hampshire: A free and highly effective quit-smoking service available to all residents and those working in the county. Smokefree Hampshire offers free, personalised support tailored to your needs, increasing your chances of quitting successfully.

💪 Why Join the Movement? By quitting smoking, you're not only taking a significant step towards improving your health but also contributing to a healthier, more prosperous community.

📱 Inspired to Quit? Text I QUIT to 66777 for your free quit kit.

## Southern Water outage in December

A note to update you on the outcomes after the Southern Water outage before Christmas.

Local Council leaders and MPs will be meeting with Southern Water at the end of this week to receive feedback from them on their review of the event, their learning from this and the actions they propose taking. We will be looking specifically to identify ways by which Southern Water could improve communication and better engage with local councils who are able to help should a similar situation ever occur once again.

## Romsey Young Carers - New Facebook Page

Romsey Young Carers are a brilliant local charity who support young people who find themselves with caring responsibilities, they've just established a supporters Facebook page, do please take a look and follow them here: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61572603660690...>

👧👦 Who Are Young Carers? Young Carers are children and young people whose lives are impacted by caring for a family member with a long-term illness, disability, mental health issues, or substance abuse problems. Their responsibilities often extend beyond practical tasks to providing significant emotional support, which can affect their daily lives.

💖 Their Mission: Romsey Young Carers aim to offer practical help, emotional support, and opportunities to shine. Their tailored approach empowers young carers to thrive, not just survive.

## County Councillor Grants

My county councillor grants have now been fully allocated for the year. Thanks to everyone who has requested them. A review of the county councillor grant scheme will be carried out this Spring, which will likely delay the opening of the new scheme until August or September. I will let you know more details as soon as I have them, probably around May or June.

Grants awarded include:

Baby Necessities, Romsey Extra – baby bank items  
The Romsey Show – community area at the show  
Winchester and Eastleigh Diabetes Support – garden grant  
Lockerley Parish Council – speed indicator device  
Sherfield English Bowls Club – new mower  
Romsey Town Council – Christmas lights  
Sherfield English and District Association – magazine costs  
West Tytherley Parish Council – speed indicator device  
Chilworth Village Hall – roof mounted solar panels  
Michelmersh and Timsbury PC – plans for a new pavilion

## Getting About

Last month I attended Wellow, Lockerley, West Tytherley, Michelmersh and Timsbury, Nursling and Rownhams, East Tytherley, Sherfield English and Chilworth, parish councils and spoke at the inaugural meeting of the Hampshire Development Forum in Fareham and at an event for care leavers run by the Hampshire Community Foundation in Eastleigh.

## 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](https://facebook.com/nickadamsking)

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**CLLR NICK ADAMS-KING**  
Caring for Romsey Rural





## **General Updates from Hampshire County Council over the last month:**

### **NEW YEAR MARKS MAJOR DECISIONS FOR THE COUNTY COUNCIL'S FINANCES**

The start of 2025 marks the beginning of a significant planning period for the future for Hampshire County Council – with decisions due on the annual budget and council tax setting, alongside proposals to help narrow the scope of local services to align with the Authority's legal duties

[New year marks major decisions for the County Council's finances | Hampshire County Council](#)

### **HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL AGREES TO PROGRESS BID FOR DEVOLUTION FAST-TRACK**

Hampshire County Council has given the green light to press ahead with a once-in-a-generation opportunity for Hampshire to join the Government's Priority Programme for devolution, as well as the reorganisation of the county's local government structures to deliver the best possible future for Hampshire's residents and businesses

[Hampshire County Council agrees to progress bid for devolution fast-track | Hampshire County Council](#)

### **COUNTY COUNCIL PROPOSES TO DELIVER NEW SPECIALIST SECURE WELFARE CHILDREN'S HOME AT STUBBINGTON STUDY CENTRE SITE**

Hampshire County Council is proposing to build a new specialist secure welfare children's home on the site of its Stubbington Study Centre, to help meet the increasing need for residential care to support the most vulnerable children and young people both locally and nationally

[County Council proposes to deliver new specialist secure welfare children's home at Stubbington Study Centre site | Hampshire County Council](#)

### **HAVE YOUR SAY ON LOCAL CYCLING AND WALKING PLANS FOR WINCHESTER CITY AREA**

Anyone living, working or visiting and commuting to Winchester is being invited to give their views on new walking and cycling proposals for the city

[Have your say on local cycling and walking plans for Winchester city area | Hampshire County Council](#)



## **COUNTY COUNCIL ASKS GOVERNMENT FOR GO AHEAD ON NEXT STEPS TO BRING GREATER FINANCIAL STABILITY**

Next steps by Hampshire County Council towards helping the Authority to secure greater financial stability have progressed this week, with a request sent to Government to potentially increase council tax by more than the referendum limit in Hampshire from April this year

[County Council asks Government for go ahead on next steps to bring greater financial stability | Hampshire County Council](#)

## **WANT TO GIVE UP SMOKING? BE INSPIRED BY HAMPSHIRE RESIDENTS WHO QUIT**

Giving up smoking can be challenging, but Hampshire County Council is encouraging anyone who would like to quit to take inspiration from local people who have successfully made the journey to a smoke-free life

[Want to give up smoking? Be inspired by Hampshire residents who quit | Hampshire County Council](#)

## **NEW CYCLING AND WALKING UPGRADES CONNECTING THE WATERSIDE TO SOUTHAMPTON ARE COMPLETE!**

People living working and travelling in the Waterside area can now benefit from improved cycling and walking routes, making local journeys easier and helping people to connect to Southampton

[New cycling and walking upgrades connecting the Waterside to Southampton are complete! | Hampshire County Council](#)

## **HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL SETS OUT PROPOSALS FOR NEW 'LANE RENTAL' SCHEME TO MINIMISE ROAD WORKS DISRUPTION**

Hampshire County Council has set out proposals that could lead to the introduction of a new disruption charge scheme designed to reduce delays on the county's busiest roads, at the busiest times

[Hampshire County Council sets out proposals for new 'lane rental' scheme to minimise road works disruption | Hampshire County Council](#)

## **HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL SETS OUT CONSTRUCTION PROPOSALS FOR THE FINAL PHASE OF THE BOTLEY BYPASS**

Proposals for completing the last phase of the Botley Bypass will be considered by Hampshire County Council later this month

[Hampshire County Council sets out construction proposals for the final phase of the Botley Bypass | Hampshire County Council](#)

## **UPGRADED BUS SHELTERS COMING TO RUSHMOOR, HART AND GOSPORT FOLLOWING COUNTY COUNCIL PARTNERSHIP WITH CLEAR CHANNEL UK**

Residents in Rushmoor, Hart and Gosport will benefit from 151 upgraded bus shelters, some featuring eco-friendly 'Living Roofs' and solar panels, following a new commercial agreement between Hampshire County Council and Clear Channel UK

[Upgraded bus shelters coming to Rushmoor, Hart and Gosport following County Council partnership with Clear Channel UK | Hampshire County Council](#)

## **NEW SPECIAL SCHOOL PLANNED FOR EASTLEIGH**

A planned new special school for Eastleigh has reached an important milestone with a total construction budget of £17.9 million now approved by Hampshire County Council

[New special school planned for Eastleigh | Hampshire County Council](#)

## **MAJOR INVESTMENT IN SPECIAL NEEDS EDUCATION FOR NEXT ACADEMIC YEAR**

After statutory public consultations, Hampshire County Council has announced plans to transform specialist education at four primary schools, significantly boosting support for pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) in Gosport, Eastleigh and Basingstoke

[Major investment in special needs education for next academic year | Hampshire County Council](#)

## **MORE THAN 3,000 NEW SCHOOL PLACES ON HORIZON FOR HAMPSHIRE OVER NEXT THREE YEARS**

Major investment of over £500 million could create 3,175 extra school places in Hampshire by September 2028

[More than 3,000 new school places on horizon for Hampshire over next three years | Hampshire County Council](#)

## **HELPING HAMPSHIRE CHILDREN GET ACTIVE AND HEALTHY**

To help tackle childhood obesity and support children in Hampshire to get active and stay healthy, the County Council is expanding its health and wellbeing programmes for children and families, working closely with district and boroughs, as well as local community organisations

[Helping Hampshire children get active and healthy | Hampshire County Council](#)

## **COUNTY COUNCIL CABINET TO CONSIDER BUDGET ACTION TO PROTECT CORE SERVICES**

Spending proposals for 2025 / 26, totalling £2.6bn, to ensure the County Council keeps delivering its fundamental pledge to serve Hampshire's 1.4 million residents will be considered by the County Council's Cabinet next week, as the Authority takes a step closer to deciding its annual budget from April

[County Council Cabinet to consider budget action to protect core services | Hampshire County Council](#)

## **COUNTY COUNCIL GIVES GREEN LIGHT TO BOTLEY BYPASS COMPLETION**

Work will start next month on the final phase of the Botley Bypass following approval by Hampshire County Council

[County Council gives green light to Botley Bypass completion | Hampshire County Council](#)

## **HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL GIVES GO-AHEAD TO DEVELOPMENT OF NEW SCHEME TO MINIMISE ROAD WORKS DISRUPTION**

Proposals that could lead to the introduction of a new scheme to reduce delays on the county's busiest roads, at the busiest times, have been given approval by Hampshire County Council

[Hampshire County Council gives go-ahead to development of new scheme to minimise road works disruption | Hampshire County Council](#)

## **STILL TIME TO HAVE YOUR SAY IN STUBBINGTON STUDY CENTRE CONSULTATION**

Schools, community organisations and local residents are being reminded to share their views on a proposal to repurpose the Stubbington Study Centre site to provide a new specialist secure welfare children's home. A consultation is currently running on Hampshire County Council's website and is open until Monday 10 February

[Still time to have your say in Stubbington Study Centre consultation | Hampshire County Council](#)

## **GUILLEMONT JUNIOR SCHOOL CELEBRATES NEW AUTISM PROVISION**

Staff, students, and council leaders gathered this January to celebrate the opening of brand-new specialist facilities at Guillemont Junior School in Farnborough for children with Autism Spectrum Condition (ASC)

