

Hampshire County Councillor Update 50

Dear All

Apologies for the slightly delayed monthly report for July/August. Summer holidays and the glorious weather are to blame.

Here's the latest update. I hope you are enjoying the summer.

Highways Information

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/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.

£100,000 Funding Boost for Mental Health Support in Hampshire's Primary Schools!

More children across Hampshire will benefit from better mental health and wellbeing support thanks to a new £100,000 investment from Hampshire County Council.



The funding expands the successful My Happy Mind programme to primary schools in North-East Hampshire — opening the door for all schools in the county to take part.



Children learn to understand their emotions, build confidence, and face life's challenges — all through fun, whole-school activities like classroom games, assemblies, and even playground sessions.



Families can join in too, with access to online tools and live coaching support!



Good mental health is the foundation for a good life, This programme helps children better understand themselves and create a supportive environment to thrive.



With one in six children aged 5 to 16 now likely to have a diagnosable mental health condition, early support is more vital than ever. This funding ensures no child is left behind — and every school has the chance to make wellbeing a priority.

A big step forward in creating happier, healthier schools across Hampshire.

Hampshire Chronicle Local Government Reorganisation Article

My thanks as always to the [Hampshire Chronicle](#) for asking me to contribute an opinion piece last month.

You can read it online here: <https://www.hampshirechronicle.co.uk/.../25319859.../>

And below:

This week, we marked Hampshire Day—a moment to celebrate the rich heritage, vibrant communities, and enduring spirit of our county. Held annually on 15 July, Hampshire Day coincides with St Swithun's Day, honouring the patron saint of Winchester Cathedral and offering a chance to reflect on the past while looking ahead to the future.

Across Hampshire, flags were raised, stories shared, and communities came together to recognise what makes our county so special. From the rolling hills of the South Downs to the bustling ports of Southampton and Portsmouth, Hampshire's diversity is its strength. It's a county steeped in history—home to literary giants like Jane Austen and Charles Dickens—and one that continues to evolve through innovation, resilience, and community spirit.

As Leader of Hampshire County Council, I've had the privilege of witnessing firsthand the energy and dedication of our residents. Whether it's volunteers supporting local charities, parish councils organising community events, or families simply enjoying the beauty of our countryside, Hampshire Day reminds us of the values we hold dear: pride in place, commitment to one another, and a shared vision for a better tomorrow.

This year's celebrations also come at a pivotal time for local government in our region. The Government has asked councils across Hampshire and the Solent to consider proposals for reorganisation—moving from the current two-tier system to a streamlined model of unitary authorities. It's a significant moment, and one that invites both opportunity and challenge.

Hampshire County Council has put forward a proposal for four unitary authorities, designed to balance financial resilience, service quality, and local identity. The suggested configuration includes a North and Mid Hampshire authority (covering areas like Winchester, Basingstoke and Deane, and East Hampshire), a South-West authority (including Southampton, Test Valley, and New Forest), a South-East authority (encompassing Portsmouth, Fareham, Gosport, and Havant), and the Isle of Wight as a standalone unitary.

This model is grounded in rigorous analysis and aims to protect vital services—particularly for our most vulnerable residents—while delivering long-term savings and stability. But it's important to acknowledge that this is not the only vision. Other councils have expressed concerns about scale, identity, and democratic accountability. Some fear that larger authorities may feel remote or disconnected from the communities they serve.

And here's where I want to be clear: there is no single "right" answer. Each proposal has merit. Each reflects a different emphasis—whether on place, efficiency, or local voice. What matters most is that we approach this process with openness, respect, and a shared commitment to doing what's best for our residents.

I've said before, and I'll say again: this is not about winning an argument. It's about shaping a future that works. That means listening to feedback, engaging with communities, and ensuring that any new structure is built on solid foundations—financially, operationally, and democratically. After all, it is the Government who decide the outcome, not us.

As we continue this journey, I encourage everyone to take part in the public engagement programme running through July and August. Your views matter. Whether you're passionate about preserving local identity or focused on improving service delivery, this is your chance to help shape the future of Hampshire.

Hampshire Day reminds us of who we are. The reorganisation conversation asks us who we want to be. Let's honour our past while embracing the possibilities ahead—with humility, ambition, and a deep respect for the communities we serve.

Hampshire Police warn of Quad Bike Thefts Across Hampshire's Rural Communities

Hampshire Police have seen a sharp rise in the theft of quad bikes and ATVs this summer in areas including Dummer, Fareham, Tadley, Whiteley, Broughton, and Lymington. These vehicles are often targeted for use in further crimes.


Hampshire Police's Country Watch Rural Crime Task Force is actively investigating all reports to identify patterns and suspects. We need your help to keep our countryside safe.




****How You Can Protect Your Quad or ATV**:**

- Take clear photos from all angles, including serial numbers
- Security mark your vehicle with your postcode and property ID
- Register at (<https://www.immobilise.com>)
- Store vehicles in locked outbuildings with CCTV and lighting

- Use wheel clamps, ground anchors, and GPS trackers
- Remove keys when not in use

 Seen suspicious activity? Quad bikes in convoy or late-night driving?

 Call 101 or report online at [[hampshire.police.uk](https://www.hampshire.police.uk)](<https://www.hampshire.police.uk>)

 Or contact Crimestoppers anonymously at 0800 555 111 or [crimestoppers-uk.org](<https://crimestoppers-uk.org>)


 If a crime is in progress, always dial 999

Let's stay vigilant and protect our rural areas together!

Summer Fun Awaits at Sir Harold Hillier Gardens!


Looking for family adventures this summer? Dive into nature and creativity at Sir Harold Hillier Gardens with a jam-packed calendar of activities for children and families!


 Crafts & Storytime – Join Romsey Library for panda-themed tales and hands-on fun

 Pond Dipping – Discover the creatures lurking beneath the surface


 Garden Beasts & Where to Find Them – Hunt for minibeasts in the wild


 NoFit State Circus: BAMBOO – A high-energy outdoor spectacle you won't want to miss


 Bamboo Family Trail – Explore fascinating facts on this self-guided adventure

 Prosecco Day – Treat yourself at the Garden Restaurant & Tea Rooms

 Last Night of the Proms – Bring your picnic and enjoy classical music under the stars

 14 Events running throughout August & early September


 Romsey, Hampshire


 Full event details and booking info:
<https://www.hants.gov.uk/thingstodo/hilliergardens/whatson>

Make this summer one to remember — nature, laughter, and a whole lot of fun await!

Temporary Hosepipe Ban for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight

Southern Water has announced that due to the driest spring in over a century and the hottest June on record, river levels across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight have reached critical lows—down 24% compared to seasonal averages.

 In response, and with the Environment Agency's declaration of "prolonged dry weather" across the Solent and South Downs, Southern Water will be introducing a Temporary Use Ban (TUB)—commonly known as a hosepipe ban—for household customers from 9am on Monday 21 July 2025.


 While the ban becomes legally enforceable from 21 July, customers are urged to begin limiting hosepipe use immediately to prevent a spike in demand and ease pressure on the endangered chalk streams fed by the Rivers Test and Itchen.


What's included in the ban?


Watering gardens with a hosepipe


Filling paddling pools or ornamental ponds

Washing cars, windows or outdoor surfaces with a hose

 Did you know? One hour of hosepipe use = 1,000 litres of water—the same amount a person typically uses in an entire week!

 Switch to watering cans or buckets to help conserve water. Every drop saved supports local wildlife, including the rare Atlantic Salmon and Southern Damselfly, and protects our globally significant chalk streams—described as the "Amazon Rainforest" of freshwater habitats.

 The Temporary Use Ban applies to household customers only, but businesses are also encouraged to participate in water-saving efforts. A 'You Save We'll Pay' scheme launches this August.

 Exemptions apply for customers with mobility or health needs, including Blue Badge holders and those on Southern Water's Priority Services Register or WaterSure scheme.

 For full details on exemptions and water-saving tips, visit southernwater.co.uk

General Updates from HCC:

Potential site for new specialist children's home to be considered next week

Potential plans for a new and vitally needed specialist secure welfare children's home in Hampshire could reach a key milestone next week, as a possible site for the home is set to be discussed

[Potential site for new specialist children's home to be considered next week | Hampshire County Council](#)

Green light for major walking and cycling improvements in Fair Oak

People living in Fair Oak will soon benefit from an ambitious package of walking and cycling improvements delivered by Hampshire County Council

[Green light for major walking and cycling improvements in Fair Oak | Hampshire County Council](#)

Hampshire County Council to confirm appointment of new Chief Executive

Hampshire County Council is set to confirm the appointment of its next Chief Executive at a meeting of the Full Council on 17 July

[Hampshire County Council to confirm appointment of new Chief Executive | Hampshire County Council](#)

Kick the single-use plastics habit to save money and help the planet

This Plastic Free July, Hampshire County Council is inviting residents to explore simple ways to reduce single-use plastic waste and make choices that are better for the environment – which can save money too

[Kick the single-use plastics habit to save money and help the planet | Hampshire County Council](#)

Could you help change a child's life, one unforgettable moment at a time?

From cosy family movie nights and graduation day, to riding a bike for the very first time – foster carers get to be there for the most precious moments in a child or young person's life

[Could you help change a child's life, one unforgettable moment at a time? | Hampshire County Council](#)

Decisions due this summer on the future of some local services

From older adults' day services to school transport and planned road maintenance, key decisions will be made this month on the future of some important County Council services delivered to Hampshire residents after April 2026

[Decisions due this summer on the future of some local services | Hampshire County Council](#)

Potential new children's home reaches significant milestone

Potential plans for a new specialist secure welfare children's home in Hampshire have taken a key step forward today, as Hampshire County Council has agreed to progress a possible new site for the home

[Potential new children's home reaches significant milestone | Hampshire County Council](#)

£100,000 funding boost for mental health support in primary schools

More children in Hampshire will now benefit from mental health and wellbeing support thanks to an investment of over £100,000 announced today by Hampshire County Council

[£100,000 funding boost for mental health support in primary schools | Hampshire County Council](#)

County Council to consider simpler, stronger and secure councils for Hampshire and the Solent

Hampshire County Council will next week consider a proposal to simplify and strengthen local government across Hampshire and the Solent by replacing the current 15 councils with four new unitary councils – each responsible for all local services in their area

[County Council to consider simpler, stronger and secure councils for Hampshire and the Solent | Hampshire County Council](#)

Plant a love of reading with the 'Story Garden' Summer Reading Challenge

Young bookworms are in for an exciting summer of reading and fun activities as Hampshire County Council's Library Service launches its hugely popular annual Summer Reading Challenge on Saturday, 12 July

[Plant a love of reading with the 'Story Garden' Summer Reading Challenge | Hampshire County Council](#)

A clear and proven path to better, stronger local government

Hampshire County Council has underlined the clear evidence and facts behind its proposed idea for four strong new unitary councils across Hampshire and the Solent - an approach grounded in robust evidence, financial realism, and decades of experience delivering crucial local services - in people's homes, schools and communities across the county

[A clear and proven path to better, stronger local government | Hampshire County Council](#)

Hampshire County Council's country parks regain prestigious Green Flag status

Once again, five of Hampshire County Council's country parks have gained prestigious Green Flag status, recognising they offer the highest standards in visitor experience, park management and environmental care

[Hampshire County Council's country parks regain prestigious Green Flag status | Hampshire County Council](#)

Hampshire and the Solent devolution reaches new milestone

The Government has confirmed that it will be progressing with the creation of a new Mayoral Combined County Authority (MCCA) for Hampshire and the Solent

[Hampshire and the Solent devolution reaches new milestone | Hampshire County Council](#)

Travel Alert: Lane closures on A32 Wickham Road for M27 Junction 10 Improvement works

As part of the M27 Junction 10 improvement scheme, 24-hour lane closures will be in place over a 26-day period on a 200-metre section of the A32 Wickham Road

[Travel Alert: Lane closures on A32 Wickham Road for M27 Junction 10 Improvement works | Hampshire County Council](#)

Hampshire County Council Cabinet backs preferred model for future local government

Hampshire County Council's Cabinet has today (18 July) agreed to move forward with a preferred model for how local government could be reorganised across Hampshire and the Solent area – marking a key milestone towards shaping a simpler, stronger, and more secure future for council services

[Hampshire County Council Cabinet backs preferred model for future local government | Hampshire County Council](#)

Your Councils – A better future: Have your say on simpler, stronger, secure local government in our area

Hampshire County Council is inviting residents across Hampshire, Southampton, Portsmouth, and the Isle of Wight to help shape the future of local government, with the aim of putting local voices at the heart of decision-making, delivering quality local services and creating financially strong councils, that are built to last

[Your Councils – A better future: Have your say on simpler, stronger, secure local government in our area | Hampshire County Council](#)

New provider announced for Hampshire school meals

Schools, nurseries and families who purchase school meals through Hampshire County Council will pay less from next year, following the appointment of a new catering provider

[New provider announced for Hampshire school meals | Hampshire County Council](#)

New adventure playground opens at Lepe Country Park – just in time for summer days out

Families visiting Lepe Country Park this summer can now enjoy an exciting new adventure playground

[New adventure playground opens at Lepe Country Park – just in time for summer days out | Hampshire County Council](#)