

Hampshire County Councillor Update 10

Hello

Only a relatively short time between the last update and this, my tenth as Romsey Rural's County Councillor, inevitably so as it covers February.

Highways Information

Southampton Road, Romsey - roadworks

Thanks to a combination of hard work and better than expected weather the cycle path along Southampton Road in Romsey was completed in the middle of February two weeks ahead of schedule.

There have been some complaints about the amount of surface water along the carriageway itself, causing splashing of those using the cycle path at periods of heavy rain.

This part of the road has never had any drainage, other than the gullies at the southern end of the road which allow the water to drain into the ditch. The levels here are flat, but there is a slight drop which allows the water to drain towards the southern end. Given the lack of incline the slightest interruption to the flow of water can cause it to pool, we think this is what has happened with the road recently, because of the disturbance to the verge caused by the work and more importantly the damage to verge caused by traffic diverting around a fallen tree after Storm Eunice.

You may have noticed the verge is now repaired and we'll be monitoring any pooling of water along the road. If we find that it is still not draining quickly enough then HCC will look to install grips and additional gullies if necessary.

Works to address flooding on the M271/Romsey Road roundabout

There's been a fair bit of rain over the last few days and I am delighted to see that the drainage works, so far, seem to have worked and preventing the large puddles appearing by Romsey Golf Club.

I'll keep an eye on things to ensure that the problem remains solved.



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>

Pavement problems:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/paving>

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 add a comment as County Councillor, which should hopefully bump it up the priority list.

Storms Eunice & Franklin



We were faced with considerable disruption this month as a result of Storm Eunice and then Storm Franklin. HCC Highways staff undertook a brilliant effort to keep routes open and clear any trees that did block our roads.

Over 12,000 incidents were reported during the storm and the clear up continues. Debris and timber that's lying along the roads will be cleared in the coming weeks, please bear with us while that happens.

It's been sad to see the damage at Sir Harold Hillier Arboretum and Gardens. Around 84 of their trees have been lost or badly damaged. The clean up job has been a big one and the gardens are likely to be affected for a while yet. Well done to the team for getting the gardens safely open once more within a couple of days of the storms.



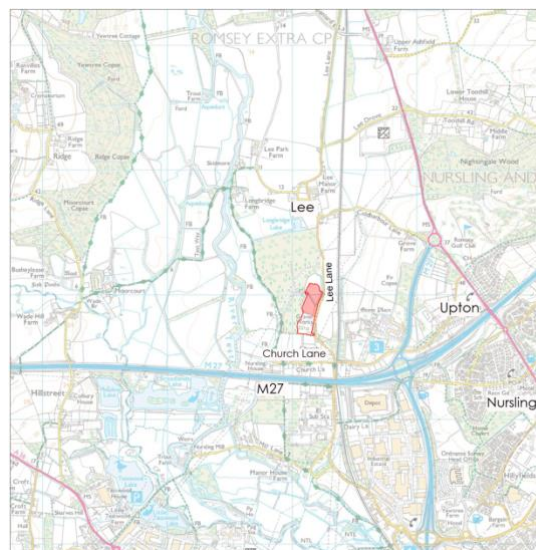
Our local community has proven in the last couple of years that when faced with adversity we all pull together and the challenges Storm Eunice brought proved that once more. For example those who offered support to friends and neighbours left without power, the tree surgeons and farmers who worked tirelessly to clear roads of fallen trees quickly and TVBCs bin collection teams who completed their rounds on Friday in the most difficult of circumstances. Thanks to everyone who played their part.

Planning Applications - Nursling Recycling Centre and Paint Ball site, Lee Lane & Stanbridge Ranvilles Farm, Shootash

I've attended a number of Parish Council meetings recently where both of these applications have been discussed.

I am very concerned about both, most particularly the impact on residents of Lee, Upton and Station Road Nursling in respect of the former and the residents of Awbridge and Shootash in respect of the Stanbridge Ranvilles.

I'm meeting with planning officers to keep up to date with the progression of both and will update residents through social media channels and parish councils when I give my regular reports.



Secondary School Places – September 2022



More than 98% of parents in Hampshire have been offered a place for their child, at one of their three preferred choices for a secondary school in September 2022.

More than 92% have been offered a place at their first-choice school.

Applicants were informed of the outcome of their application by letter or email on March 2nd.

Pupils who did not secure a place at one of their chosen schools have been allocated a place at their catchment school or the next nearest available school. Parents have the right to appeal in these situations and their child's name will be added to the waiting list for their preferred schools. Places do become available owing to parents changing their mind, or families moving home. There's information about waiting lists and appeals on our website:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/admissions>

In total we received 14,982 applications by the deadline this year – that’s an increase of 499 applications compared to September 2021 (14,483).

Traffic Enforcement Consultation

HCC are consulting on enforcement of traffic restrictions at spots where there has been a proven problem.

One of these is local; the yellow hatched keep clear box outside the fire station on Alma Road in Romsey:

New measures to enforce traffic restrictions such as banned turns, yellow box markings at junctions and parking on school ‘Keep Clear’ markings – where they are frequently ignored – could be applied to some locations in Hampshire.

We want your views on 10 proposed sites before we apply to take on these new powers. They've been proposed due to their Personal Injury Accident record (i.e. the number of recorded collisions at a site that have resulted in an injury), historical reports of poor compliance of the traffic rules in the area, and the potential for traffic congestion and delays.

Find out more and have your say in the consultation which is open until 27 March.

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/20221402trafficeenforceconsult>

Working with Romsey Rural Police Team

A bit of excitement for the neighbours last month as the police came to call.

Whilst many may feel it would be appropriate to haul me off to the clink, in fact the local Romsey Rural team took time out to come and talk about local issues and how better to share information to everyone’s advantage.

Lots to talk about; speeding, fly-tipping, rural thefts, community engagement and even potholes. Great support from them for the Community Speedwatch initiative, about which I’m talking with our local Parish Councils.



New Community Grants launched by Hampshire County Council

Hampshire County Council has launched a new round of grants ranging from £1,000 to £30,000 to help upgrade community buildings.

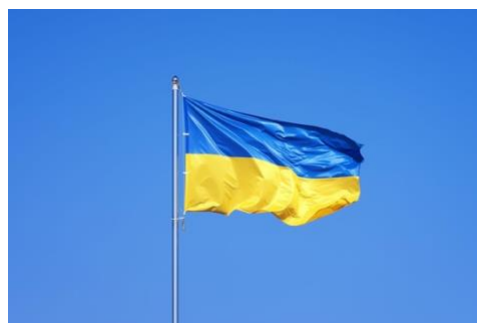
HCC has released significant community grants to help local groups and parishes tackle climate change and improve resilience. These funds may be used to help reduce energy bills, LED light conversion, replace windows or install solar panels.

For further information visit : <https://www.hants.gov.uk/community/grants/grants-list/parish-town-council-investment-fund?fbclid=IwAR2MaXCXQIRMb3fp-y5Cib9dLFkvCvco-TlH9vYXqayl7a14qfp-XHkoROI>

Support for Ukraine

I'm just a councillor, my influence is very much local and therefore what I think about what's transpiring in Ukraine matters little.

What does matter is what I know to be right. That is how it is imperative that good people stand together against evil. That peace-loving people unite against aggression. That we must defend democracy and plurality in the face of extremism and discrimination. That most of all, you must always stand up to a bully.



Putin's Russia is intolerant and discriminatory towards its own people. It exhibits all the characteristics of a bully and is proving that in its aggression today.

It is a very dark time indeed for Europe. A sad, awful one. It's also a time when we need to prepare, once more, to stand up to a bullying European dictatorship.

My parents, as children, saw days like these. I very much hoped I and my children would never see them. But they are here, and we need once more to stand up for our fundamental beliefs and freedoms.

Humanitarian support for Ukraine

I've been signposting residents to collection points for donations for Ukrainian refugees.

For those who would prefer to offer financial support for those undertaking humanitarian efforts in Ukraine, these links might be of help:

Humanitarian aid

There are a number of organisations you can support in the humanitarian aid effort for Ukraine:

The British Red Cross, which has launched an appeal to raise funds for food, medical supplies, shelter and water <https://donate.redcross.org.uk/appeal/ukraine-crisis-appeal>

The Ukrainian Red Cross <https://redcross.org.ua/en/donate/>

Doctors Without Borders, whose base in Ukraine provides treatments for a range of regional diseases and medical problems

<https://www.doctorswithoutborders.org/.../countries/ukraine>

The Association of Ukrainians in the UK have a centralised fund raiser and collection for items, including a warehouse in Ukraine <https://augb.co.uk/>

County Councillor Grant Scheme

I'm delighted that the entire amount of my County Councillor grant for 2021/22 has been allocated to local projects. The funds have been distributed this year to:

Romsey Show – to support the show
Romsey Christmas Lights – toward Christmas light display
Youth in Romsey – counselling for vulnerable young people
Nursling and Rownhams Parish Council – recreation ground project
The Social Collective – toward events to tackle social isolation on Abbotswood
Chilworth Parish Council – towards the jubilee fete and parish garden opening
St Leonard's Church, Sherfield English – toward their memorial bench
East Tytherley Parish Council – defibrillator for the village
Awbridge School PTA – toward school gardening project
Lockerley Village Hall – for audio visual equipment
All Saints Church, Awbridge – new cooker for coffee hub and lunch club
Romsey Young Carers – for equipment for their social activities

Getting About

Parish Council meetings have continued. I've attended meetings of Chilworth, Romsey Extra, East Tytherley, Sherfield English, Michelmersh and Timsbury and Wellow parish councils since my last report.

I've been at Hampshire County Council meetings too, where I have attended meetings of the Health and Adult Social Care committee and the HASC Community Funding working group. I'm afraid Covid kept me from attending the Full Council meeting in February.

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

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Caring for Romsey Rural

