

**Electric Vehicles.** Hampshire County Council has rolled out its first electric vehicles for staff use, to help cut fuel and energy costs. A new electric delivery van and pool car based at Bar End, Winchester, will cost 97 per cent less to 'fuel' than equivalent diesel vehicles. The Council is also reviewing which other vehicles in its 156 small vehicle fleet could be replaced with electrics – which could save £210,000 every year. The Council has already saved nearly £30 million in energy costs over the past seven years after cutting its carbon emissions by 38 per cent since 2010. It has now set a more ambitious target to cut carbon from 40 per cent to 50 per cent by 2025.

**2018/2019 Budget Proposals.** Cllr Roy Perry has stated what budget proposals he will be presenting to the Parliamentary Under Secretary at DCLG. His report says entry fees could be introduced at recycling centres, and the over 65s could be charged £10 for a five-year bus pass. The charge could raise £500,000 for community transport, while £4m could be raised by piloting a pay-as-you-go scheme at HWRCs, generating enough income to safeguard the future of the centres. Some residents fear it will put off residents from visiting the waste sites, and lead to more fly tipping. Cllr Perry says residents have told the Council they would be willing to support raising existing charges or introducing new charges to help cover the costs of running some local services. He said, "If we're able to introduce these initiatives, I remain convinced that they will offer the best approach to protecting these valued services over the longer term."

**Cllr Roger Huxstep**

**Member for Meon Valley Division**

**8<sup>th</sup> January 2018**