



DRAFT MINUTES

Hambledon Parish Council
06 Oct 2025; 7.30pm; Hambledon Village Hall

PRESENT:

Cllr Encke (Chair); Cllr Clarke; Cllr Hand; & Cllr Mills-Goodlet

In Attendance:

Mrs Joanna Tester (Clerk); Cllr Wallace (HCC & WCC; arrived 8.11pm; left 8.37pm); Cllr Lee (WCC; left 8.07pm); and two members of the public.

Meeting started at 7.32pm

Item No.	Item	Discussion & Decision	Action
2767	Acknowledgements	Councillors paused and remembered in silence the contributions of Roger Knight and all other villagers who have passed away since the last meeting.	
2768	Apologies	Apologies received and accepted from Cllr Lamb. Apologies were also received from Cllr White (WCC) & PCSO Wheeler-Osman.	
2769	Disclosable pecuniary interests	None.	
2770	Requests for dispensations	None received.	
2771	Public questions & comments	Standing orders suspended for maximum 10 mins. Member of the public (Vineyard employee who is covering for Hannah Marks) updated councillors as follows: • Footpath 13 route amendment - meeting today with HCC Countryside Access. Confirmed that current fp is of the correct width and in the right location. Route amendment to be considered going forward. • Stile on fp 15b (between Vineyard and Whitedale) will be replaced by a gate - due to be completed by the end of October. The Clerk queried whether further discussions had taken place regarding the creation of a formal footpath creating a loop between fp13 and fp15b. [Not aware; to ask colleagues and update at next PC meeting.]	
2772	Resume standing orders	Agreed.	

2773	Hambledon Greening WG	Report received (Appendix A). Sue Crossley (Chair, HG WG) updated councillors as follows: • National Trust has organised scrub-bashing (clearance work) on Speltham Down. • FEL workshop 23/11/25 (VH) - hoped that some PC members may be able to attend. Cllr Clarke volunteered. • WCC climate change. Largest contributors to CO2 - transport; domestic energy; agriculture. Cllr asked if WCC produced a report showing demographics of CO2 emissions? [Don't know.]	Cllr Clarke
2774	District councillor's report & questions arising	Report received (see Appendix B). Additional points discussed as follows: • Community Plan - may be worth the PC looking into producing one. • Winchester looking to form a town council to maintain Mayor. Should those in rural areas pay for this? • Pollution prevention from off-grid drainage. Modernising public sewers. Councillor comment: • Recent communication (received directly) regarding stiles to gates in Hambledon/Soberton. Completed by HCC Countryside Access. Clerk not aware. Cllr to find details. Clerk to forward details to Hambledon Vineyard.	Cllr Hand/ Clerk
2775	County councillor's report & questions arising	Report received (see Appendix C). Additional points discussed as follows: • PC Bus Shelter Grant Scheme - members commented that bus shelter is in good condition, having been replaced a few years ago after being hit by a turning bus. • County Councillor grant scheme now open - funds limited so apply soon.	
2776	Mins of previous meeting (01/09/25)	Agreed as a true record.	
2777	Clerk's progress report	Parish Lengthsman Agreement - schedule for 2025/26: 05/11/25; & 05/02/25. Cllrs to provide suggestions for Nov visit. • Clean drain at bottom of Back Lane. • Clear grips Back Lane. • 20 is Plenty sign by School. [Clerk to look at broken curb stone near People's Market & report accordingly.] Flooding @ bottom of Bury Lodge Lane - no update. Flooding on road near Kings Rest - reported to HH 13/10/23. Response 'could not locate defect'. Likely that they visited when there was no road flooding but didn't look into the cause of previous flooding. Suggest wait for next flooding, take photos & re-submit. Useful/Emergency Info Leaflets - WCC Small Grant fund awarded £150. On-going. Drain clearance - e-mail sent 05/02/25 to Gina Chandler (HH) re blocked drains throughout Village. Member of the Highways Customer Support team has reported online on PC's behalf. Last updated 25/03/25 - initial assessment has taken place & further investigation will be carried out. Checked	

2777 cont	Clerk's progress report cont	06/05/25 - no change to status. Response received from HH via Cllr Wallace 23/05/25 - 'We have made several attempts to identify and clear the various drainage features on Green Lane, with limited success. The site is currently with our colleagues in the Planned Maintenance team to develop and design a scheme to permanently resolve the issue.' CityFibre works: • £1000 received for bed reinstatement. • No response from Adrian Smith (CF) to e-mail requests for updates. • Cllr Clarke in direct contact with Ashley Adams & Lloyd (CCN). Confirmation that chamber/manhole cover cannot be moved out of the flowerbed due to the positioning of other utilities in the pavement. • Jo Walker informed & to consider best way forward. West St hedge overgrown - Chris Silcock was asked to speak to owner of Manor Barn. Awaiting update. Updates from Hambledon Vineyard: • Footpath 13 route amendment - awaiting update. [See item 2771, above.] • Stile to gate on fp 15b (between Vineyard and Whitedale) - awaiting update. [See item 2771, above.]	Clerk Clerk
2778	BASS and Finance WG Members	Resolved: that the PC has approved the following appointments: • BASS WG member - Cllr Mills-Goodlet • Chair of BASS WG - Cllr Clarke • Finance WG - Cllr Mills-Goodlet • Chair Finance WG - Cllr Encke • Lead on Remembrance Sunday - Cllr Encke • Lead torch-light procession (annually in August) - tbc • PC Vice-chair - Cllr Mills-Goodlet	
2779	Review of PC website accessibility statement	Resolved: that the PC has reviewed and approved the updated website accessibility statement.	Clerk
2780	Conclusion of audit	Resolved: that the PC has approved the annual return, including the external auditor certificate for y/e 31/03/25.	
2781	Bank account	Bank balance - £77,189.31 @ 30 Sept 2025; bank statement 190 (01 Sept to 30 Sept 2025) has been forwarded to cllrs.	
2782	Bank Account Signatory	Resolved: that the PC has approved the addition of Cllr Mills-Goodlet as a signatory on the PC bank account, with access to view the account, & authorise (VA).	
2783	Grant Application	Resolved: that the PC has approved the grant request from Hambledon VH for £682.00 to assist with grounds maintenance.	Clerk
2784	Q2 Financial Report/Statements	Resolved: that the PC has received and approved the financial report and statements for Q2 2025/26.	Clerk
2785	E-mail service	Resolved: that the PC agrees to remain with X-Net Services Ltd at the end of the current contract in November 2025 (an increase from £50 + VAT/annum to £100 + VAT/annum).	Clerk

2786	Asset register & insurance pre-renewal questionnaire	Resolved: that the PC has received and approved the updated asset register (no revisions) and pre-renewal questionnaire which will inform any changes to the PC's insurance policy at renewal (01/12/25).	Clerk
2787	Payment of accounts	Mrs J C Tester Clerk salary Sept 2025 £993.14 NEST Clerk pension Sept 2025 £81.13 Mrs J C Tester Clerk expenses Sept 2025 (overtime - 6 hrs @ £15.56/hr & additional HP Ink charges) £105.61 Hambledon Village Hall Hall hire Sept 2025 £32.50 Biffa Recycling bin collection Sept 2025 £111.06 JH Tree Services Ltd Village maintenance Sept 2025 £375.00 BDO External audit for 2024/25 £378.00 Royal British Legion Donation £30.00 Carter Jonas Glebeland rent 2025/26 £600.00 Defibstore Ltd Replacement defib pads £79.20 Sam Richie Tennis coaching Aug & Sept 2025 £120.00 Moritz Flohr Tennis coaching Sept 2025 £40.00 Alfie Goodwin-Hudson Tennis coaching Sept 2025 £40.00	Clerk
2788	Planning applications	• SDNP/25/03338/FUL - The Vineyard, East Street, Hambledon, Hampshire, PO7 4RY. Change of use of Mill Down House from residential (Use Class C3) to business use (Use Class E(g)) with ancillary short-stay accommodation for staff and vineyard/winery workers. [NO OBJECTION.] • SDNP/25/03662/HOUS - Blake Cottage, Green Lane, Hambledon, Hampshire, PO7 4SY. Two storey side extension and single storey rear extension to replace conservatory. Replacement windows, roof covering, fascia, soffits and rainwater goods. Existing outbuilding reduced in scale. [NO OBJECTION.] • SDNP/25/03758/PNTEL - Land Off, Rushmere Lane, Denmead, Hampshire, 28 days notice - in accordance with Regulation 5 of the Electronic Communications Code (Conditions and Restrictions) Regulations 2003 (as amended). Part 16 of Schedule 2 of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 (as amended). H3G Ltd Greenfield-based upgrade at proposed base station upgrade at VINNELLS WOOD, RUSHMERE LANE, DENMEAD, WATERLOOVILLE, HAMPSHIRE, ENGLAND, PO7 6HB. The proposal is to install 1. no GPS Node, Cabin room upgrade, ancillary reworks thereto. [NO COMMENT.] • SDNP/25/03474/TCA - Hollybank, West Street, Hambledon, Hampshire, PO7 4RW. T1 Large beech located in the rear garden to be reduced overall by around 25-30% to appropriate growth points to create a balanced uniform canopy and crown lift 5m from ground level to maintain size and allow additional light to the neighbouring property. T2 Hornbeam is located at the top of the garden to be reduced in height and neighbouring face to allow more light to the neighbouring property, retaining the clients side of the tree. T3 Fell Variegated sycamore located at the front of the property to ground level due to wanting to make use of the area and plant alternative species. [NO COMMENT.]	

2788 cont	Planning applications cont	• SDNP/25/03580/TCA - Vine Cottage, West Street, Hambledon, Hampshire, PO7 4RW. The trees are located on the back boundary of the garden. To crown reduce 1no Maple tree by 20% (1.5m). To crown reduce 1no Silver birch tree 20% (1.5m). [NO COMMENT.] • SDNP/25/03849/TPO - Highbury Thatch, Green Lane, Hambledon, Hampshire, PO7 4SY. T1 - Beech (left tree). Crown raise to 5 metres above ground level. Leaving major limbs Intact. T2 - Beech (right tree). Remove lower most limb. Crown raise the remaining low limbs, by pruning the sub-branches that hang down, to reduce weight and allow clearance beneath the tree. [NO COMMENT.] • SDNP/25/03860/TCA - Bulpitts Cottage, Green Lane, Hambledon, Hampshire, PO7 4SS. 1x Beech in rear garden crown reduce by 2meters to previous pruning points as part of on going preservation of the tree. [NO COMMENT.]	Clerk
2789	Planning apps received after 30/09/25	None received.	
2790	Planning decisions	Noted.	
2791	Flood Action Group	No report received. Cllr Encke and the Clerk noted the following: • Only a few responses to the Hambledonian flyer have been received, despite weekly reminders in the Clerk's village e-mail. • Cllr voiced concerns over vulnerable residents who may be less likely to ask for help and/or use e-mail. Cllr Encke agreed to look at historic data and identify any such residents, then approach them directly.	Cllr Encke
2792	Remembrance Sunday	The Clerk gave the following updates: • no response from Chris Silcock re existing plans; • no response from Toby Finch re attendance of Scouts; • bugler (Mrs Bolton) has agreed to play again this year. • VH has been booked. Resolved: that the PC has discussed plans for Remembrance Sunday Nov 2025 and agrees upon the following actions: • Cllr Encke to chase Toby Finch to confirm attendance of Scouts & speak to PCC regarding Church arrangements; and • Clerk to purchase wreath from the Royal British Legion.	Clerk Cllr Encke Clerk
2793	BASS WG	No report received. The Clerk updated councillors on the PC's application for entrance gates as follows: • HH concerns regarding positioning at Three Corners - they had suggested moving gate to underneath the current directional sign, which would also entail a £300-400 fee for them to increase the height of what is there already. BASS request for HH to attend a joint site visit has been refused. BASS members need to agree on an alternative position (Simeon Carter will give opinion on the alternative before the application is sent to the next department);	

2793	BASS WG	• HH also informed PC that a separate HCC department would need to be approached to apply for a licence to carry out the installation. Confirmation received that fee would be circa £750, and it is likely to take at least two months for the licence to be produced. Cllrs agreed that the following actions now need to take place: • Cllr Clarke, as new Chair of BASS, to review all of the previous correspondence/data etc. and conduct site visits if appropriate. • To be on the agenda for Nov PC meeting, to cover new estimated costs of gates and whether the initiative is still viable, and a re-consideration of BASS aims etc.	Cllr Clarke Clerk
2794	Tennis WG	The Clerk noted the following: • DBS checks received for Alice G-H and the two coaches. Safeguarding training has been undertaken by Alice G-H; coaches to complete hopefully during half-term holiday. • Clerk sorting info to be put on noticeboard. • Clerk to set up MailChimp for members' e-mails. • New parent/carer declaration form has been created (see item 2796, below). • AG-H to send form and a copy of the Tennis Safeguarding policy to all parents/carers. • Clerk to purchase diary for coaches to allow them to keep a record of children's attendance.	Clerk
2795	Tennis court maintenance	Resolved: that councillors appoint Tennis Court Services to carry out the following work: • x2 moss treatments autumn/winter 2025 and spring 2026 (£460 + VAT).	Clerk
2796	Tennis administration	Resolved: that councillors have approved the introduction of a new tennis coaching parent/carer declaration form, with the following addition: ‘Children will not be allowed to participate in the tennis coaching if their parent/carer is not on site to give supervision.’ With regard to an increase in fees for the 2025/26 season, councillors felt that more time was needed to fully consider options, and to look at the bigger picture of tennis funding and PC involvement. To be added to the agenda for the Nov PC meeting.	Clerk Clerk
2797	Play WG	No report received. Updates as follows: • Rust treatment & re-painting of infant swings at VH - awaiting date for work to be completed. • Basketball net has been replaced (thanks given to Cllr Mills-Goodlet). • Loose pull-up bar (SG) - has been tightened. • Replacement of damaged rubber mat at SG has taken place. • Replacement of damaged chainmail fencing adjoining ball-wall at VH has not yet taken place. • Table on the Glebe field needs to be removed. • Cllr Clarke noted that he had spoken to JH Tree Services re concerns over quality of the work undertaken on the wooden baton around the tennis court and JH had agreed to a site visit.	

2798	Reports & Issues	• SDNPA CIL funding bid unsuccessful. New round opens 03/11/25.	
2799	Date/time of next meeting	• Mon 3rd Nov 2025 at Hambledon VH; 7.30pm.	
2800	Confidential matters	No members of the public or press were present.	
2801	Co-option of PC members	No applications have yet been received.	

The meeting closed at 9.52pm

Signed:

Signed:

Cllr Encke (Chair)

Joanna Tester (Clerk)

Dated:

Dated:

APPENDIX A

Hambledon Greening Report Oct 2025

Repair Café and Recycling:

- The next Repair Café and Recycling will be in Hambledon on Oct 18th from 10-12pm.

Biodiversity:

- The National Trust has now agreed to arrange three scrub-bashing events on Sunday November 16th, Monday December 8th and Thursday January 22nd to clear encroaching vegetation on Speltham Down. More details to come re timings.

Future Energy Landscapes workshop:

- Thursday Oct 23rd at 7pm has been confirmed for this event run by Energise South Downs. It will be held in the Village Hall, refreshments will be served and admission is free. Tickets are available here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/1659073175529?aff=oddtcreator>
Advertising is now ongoing and we hope to have between 30-40 villagers in attendance, hopefully including representatives from the Parish Council.

WeCAN Network Event: Designing Winchester's energy system for net zero

- Sue Crossley attended this event on Thursday 11 September and plans to report in person to the PC.

We are grateful as always for your support.

Dr Penny Mahon
(secretary of Hambledon Greening Campaign)

APPENDIX B

Winchester City Councillor Report Oct 2025

Cllr Malcolm Wallace (mwallace@winchester.gov.uk)

Cllr Danny Lee (dlee@winchester.gov.uk)

Cllr Suzanne White (SWhite3@winchester.gov.uk)

Devolution & Local Government Reorganisation (LGR)

The largest shake-up of English local government in 50 years continues. The Government still intends to re-organise the structure of local government in Hampshire and the Solent by 2028.

Devolution

Devolution work is progressing to deliver a Mayor-led County Combined Authority (MCCA) covering Hampshire, Portsmouth, Southampton & IOW with Mayor elections in May 2026.

Local Government Reorganisation (LGR)

Current situation:

The various proposals for LGR were submitted to the government on 26th September 2025. A group of 11 councils, including Winchester, submitted proposals for four mainland unitaries and the Isle of Wight as an independent unitary. Hampshire County Council (HCC) and East Hampshire submitted a separate proposal for three mainland unitaries, with the Isle of Wight remaining independent. The 11 councils' 3 unitary option

business cases are all built around hubs in Basingstoke, Portsmouth, Southampton and Winchester with some boundary tweaks for Option 1A/3.

Option	North Hampshire	Mid Hampshire	South West Hampshire	South East Hampshire
1	Basingstoke & Deane; Hart; Rushmoor	East Hampshire; New Forest; Test Valley; Winchester	Eastleigh; Southampton	Fareham; Gosport; Havant; Portsmouth
2	Basingstoke & Deane; Hart; Rushmoor	East Hampshire; Test Valley; Winchester	Eastleigh; New Forest; Southampton	Fareham; Gosport; Havant; Portsmouth
1A / 3	Basingstoke & Deane; Hart; Rushmoor	Most of East Hampshire; New Forest; Test Valley; Winchester	Eastleigh; Southampton; Totton & Eling, Marchwood, Hythe & Dibden, Fawley (from New Forest); Valley Park, Nursling & Rownhams, Chilworth (from Test Valley)	Fareham; Gosport; Havant; Portsmouth; Clanfield, Horndean, Rowlands Castle (from East Hampshire); Newlands (from Winchester)

Winchester submitted Option 2 as its preferred business case.

Hampshire County Council (HCC) and East Hampshire submitted a separate proposal for three mainland unitaries, with the Isle of Wight remaining independent.

Mid–North Hampshire	Basingstoke & Deane; East Hampshire; Hart; Rushmoor; Winchester
West	Eastleigh; New Forest; Southampton; Test Valley
South-East	Fareham; Gosport; Havant; Portsmouth
Isle of Wight	Isle of Wight (standalone)

All submissions will be considered by the Government to determine which one will go forward to consultation.

Estimated timelines for Local Government Reorganisation.

- November 2025- Government expected to hold a public consultation.
- March 2026: Government expected to announce new structure before the election period.
- May 2026: ‘Mayor for Hampshire and the Solent’ elections, County/District elections
- Summer/Autumn 2026 - New government legislation prepared and laid.
- May 2027: Creation of a Winchester Town Council
- May 2027: Shadow unitary council elections held.
- April 2028: New local Govt structure with Unitary Authorities for Hampshire and the Solent goes live. (If approved).

Winchester Local Plan update

The independent Planning Inspector for the Winchester District Local Plan has published the initial findings following the recent examination hearings in June 2025. Your Councillors are pleased with the findings following our close engagement in the process to deliver the best outcome for the Central Meon Valley and the wider District.

Highlights:

- The Plan meets legal requirements.
- Adoption of the Plan is still on track for early 2026 with a final public consultation on Major Modifications (see link below)
 - Main Modifications is a usual part of a local plan process where the council suggests amendments to the plan and the Inspector, following the examination hearings, suggests further ones. These will be subject to six weeks consultation as part of the next and final stage of the process.
- Central Meon Valley (CMV) – no extra site allocations or housing numbers.

- Strategic policies will guide development for at least 15 years.
- Settlement Gaps Policy (NE7) upheld as sound – protecting areas around Waltham Chase and Swanmore.
- New Carbon Neutrality and Natural Environment policies accepted.
 - The introduction of local energy efficiency standards that go beyond current or planned building regulations. Good for the environment and home running costs.
- SDNP Local Plan review lags Winchester's with examination expected 2027. It is unclear if ~100 extra homes contested between SDNP and Winchester will be required.

Implication for residents:

Overall, this is a positive outcome for our area. No new housing allocations locally will help to deter speculative developer applications (e.g. Lower Chase Road, Waltham Chase). For a full overview of the findings and latest Plan news - see [Local Plan Examination - Winchester District Local Plan](#) If you have any questions, please pass them to your Councillors including any early comments on the Main Modifications. To note, your Councillors are also seeking early engagement with Winchester Senior Planners to ensure any review of the Settlement Hierarchy and Settlement Gap Policies in the next Local Plan do not set back the positive outcomes from this Plan for the Central Meon Valley.

CIL funding : Winchester and South Downs National Park

Winchester district CIL funding:

The funds are aimed at community led schemes with allocations between £10k and £200k. The following types of infrastructure and facilities are eligible for CIL funding:

- Education facilities
- Healthcare facilities
- Energy and carbon reduction schemes / climate change mitigation
- Open space provision
- Built facilities, indoor / outdoor sport, recreational and informal leisure and social facilities
- Green and blue infrastructure
- Community and cultural facilities
- Active travel and movement infrastructure

Bids need to be submitted by the end of November 2025.

<https://www.winchester.gov.uk/planning/community-infrastructure-levy-cil/apply-for-cil>

SDNP CIL funding:

Applications open 3rd November <https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/community-infrastructure-levy/>

Working Groups to scope opportunities for improvement of services and public and environmental protection

Your Councillors will be involved in the following Groups. First two items under the auspices of the 'Health & Environment Cttee' and second the 'Scrutiny Cttee':

1. Electric Vehicle Charging Points.
Identifying current barriers to Increasing the availability and accessibility of EVCPs across the Winchester District and developing practicable options for their removal, with particular focus on equity of access for all residents (City and Rural areas, across all socio-economic strata).
2. Pollution prevention from off-grid drainage
Developing practicable incentives, including indicative costs, for householders off mains drainage to modernise private sewerage systems to reduce the risk of the leaching of nutrients into the surrounding land and watercourses.
3. Planning Enforcement
Developing practicable opportunities for those areas that need improvement.

All three groups should conclude their recommendations before Xmas. If you would like to suggest any aspects for consideration please contact Cllr Danny Lee for (1) and (2) & Cllr Malcolm Wallace for (3).

Weekly food waste recycling collections

Residents should be starting to receive a food waste introductory letter with their new bin collection calendar. Food waste collections will be starting in phases from October and residents can find out when their collections start on the WCC website: winchester.gov.uk/foodwaste In the three weeks before the food waste collections starts, residents will receive a kitchen caddy, compostable caddy liners, an information leaflet and small, grey outdoor bin. The food waste will be used to generate green energy and a soil improver.

District Small Grant Scheme- still on-going

A reminder that the Small Grant Schemes are open for applications until 31st January 2026, although it may close sooner if the fund becomes fully allocated.

If you know any community groups or local charities in your area that would benefit, please ask them to email the grants team (grants@winchester.gov.uk) or to apply via our website.

1. District Small Grant fund is designed to provide small-scale, one-off grants of up to £3,000, to eligible charities and community groups, targeted at activities that promote healthy communities: <https://www.winchester.gov.uk/grants.../small-grant-scheme>

Support for sustainable travel

Winchester City Council's Sustainable Travel Officer Anna Heron is offering support to help promote sustainable travel. This includes advice on community travel planning and collecting data to show what travel initiatives might be needed as well as help with travel events or funding for travel initiatives.

Please contact aherron@winchester.gov.uk for more information.

Winchester City Council Community Hubs

Join us for a FREE cuppa and a bite to eat at one of our Community Hub at Wickham or Winchester. Have a friendly chat with our officers about any issues relating to benefits, housing, and wellbeing. For informal guidance, information and sign-posting for anyone looking for support around the cost of living.

Where and when:

Alresford: Every 3rd Wednesday of the month 10:00 – 12.00pm at St Gregory's Church, Grange Rd, Alresford SO24 9HB.

Wickham: Every 1st Monday of the month | 2.30pm - 4.30 pm. Wickham Community Centre, Mill Lane, Wickham, Fareham PO17 5AL.

Winchester: Every 3rd Thursday of the month | 10.30am - 12.30pm. Unit 12 Community Food Pantry, Winnall Valley Rd, Winchester SO23 0LD.

Winchester: Every 3rd Monday of the month | 10.00am - 12pm. The Carroll Centre, Somers Close, Stanmore, Winchester SO22 4EJ.

My Home Made Better

A new initiative has now been launched by the Hampshire Environment Centre. The aim is to inspire residents with one-to-one advice, case studies, videos, online resources, open homes, events and webinars, all designed to help individuals make more informed decisions about their properties. There is free training available for people who would like to become local 'energy champions', who will then be able to provide energy efficiency information to help residents improve their homes. Contact Stuart Mills at WinACC for more information stuart.mills@winacc.org.uk Local sustainability groups will be sharing this information with residents at some of the local summer fetes. More information here: <https://myhomemadebetter.org/>

Other Home Energy Efficiency opportunities

The following offers advice and support. But please carefully check eligibility for grants as they will depend on the type of home and your circumstances.

- [The Energy Saving Trust](#) . Guidance for the type of insulation for properties..
- [GB Insulation Scheme](#) – eligible if the property has an [energy performance certificate \(EPC\)](#) of D to G and is in Council Tax bands A-D in England.
- [Energy Company Obligation \(ECO4\) scheme](#) - supports energy efficiency measures for homes in fuel poverty.

APPENDIX C

Hampshire County Councillor Report Oct 2025

Cllr Malcolm Wallace (mwallace@winchester.gov.uk)

Devolution

Elections for the new Mayoral Combined County Authority (MCCA) for Hampshire and the Solent have been confirmed for May 2026. As well as promoting the interests of the wider region to central Government, the Mayor will work with local council leaders to make strategic decisions for our region in areas such as transport, skills and employment support, housing and planning, and tackling climate change. Attached is the first newsletter update about the progress of the Hampshire and the Solent Mayoral Combined Authority (MCCA). More information can be found at: Devolution | About the Council | Hampshire County Council

Local Government Reorganisation

Local Authorities across the Hampshire and Solent region have now submitted their plans on reorganisation to central Government (graphic shows the Hampshire proposal). Going forward, the estimated schedule is:

- *November 2025* – Government-led public consultation on the options
- *March 2026* – Government announcement of new Local Authority structure in Hampshire
- *May 2026* – Mayoral election, plus elections to existing County & District Councils
- *May 2027* – Elections for new Unitary Councils (shadow elections)
- *April 2028* – Anticipated go live for new Unitary Authorities

Hampshire Countryside Action Plan 2025-2035 Approved

Hampshire's Rights of Way network comprises 2,883 miles (4,639km) of public footpaths, bridleways, restricted byways, and byways open to all traffic. Hampshire County Council has statutory responsibility as the Highway Authority for managing and maintaining the Public Rights of Way network. This includes maintaining the legal record (the definitive map and statement) and the assertion and protection of public access through the management and maintenance of rights of way. The role of a Rights of Way Improvement Plan is to:

- Understand – the extent to which local rights of way meet the present and likely future needs of the public
- Identify and enhance – the opportunities provided by local rights of way for exercise and other forms of open-air recreation and the enjoyment of the authority's area
- Assess and improve – the accessibility of local rights of way to blind or partially sighted persons and others with mobility problems.

An updated plan covering 2025-2035 was approved at the Universal Services decision day on 22-Sep. The three delivery areas from the 2015 to 2025 Countryside Access Plan have been retained and four new focus areas incorporated within them:

- Delivery Area A: Developing a strategic approach to network management
- Delivery Area B: Working with other organisations and with volunteers
- Delivery Area C: Listening, Informing, Educating
- New Area of Focus: Planning/transport systems
- New Area of Focus: Health and wellbeing
- New Area of Focus: Access for all (physical, mental, cultural, socioeconomic)
- New Area of Focus: Climate change/resilience and environment.

A copy of the new plan can be found on the Hampshire County Council website: Countryside Access Plan 2025-2035

Bishops Waltham Care Home Site

At the Hampshire 2050 decision day on 18-Sep, The Executive Member approved disposal of the former Bishops Waltham House care home site. Several offers for the site have been received; however, none have come from the NHS. In the absence of any indication that the health authorities intend to proceed, the decision was made to move forward with the sale to one of the other interested parties. These parties meet the criteria for continued care home or alternative community use, in line with the Local Plan policy

SE Region Transport Strategy Approved

On 03-Oct, Hampshire County Council approved an update to the South East Region Transport Strategy, which sets out a long-term framework for strategic transport investment across Hampshire and the wider South East region through to 2050. The strategy is intended to guide Hampshire's transport capital programme and support future bids for Government and regional funding. It outlines priorities for improving connectivity, reducing carbon emissions, and enhancing access to services. However, during the Council meeting, several councillors raised concerns about the strategy's continued emphasis on road-building projects, calling for a stronger focus on public transport, walking, and cycling infrastructure to better address congestion, accessibility, and environmental challenges. It's also important to note that responsibility for transport strategy in Hampshire and the Solent region will soon transfer to the Mayor, as part of ongoing devolution arrangements. Further updates to the strategy are expected as this transition progresses.

Botley Bypass

– Mini Roundabout at Pinkmead Junction

As of Friday 26 September, the A3051/A334 junction has been changed to a temporary mini roundabout to enable construction of a new permanent roundabout which will form part of Botley Bypass. During this

period, the layout may be adjusted to introduce further minor improvements as the junction operates in a new way and to accommodate different phases of construction, please refer to the phasing plans for details. The permanent roundabout is scheduled to be installed by late Summer 2027.

– Viewing Area

As part of the project, a dedicated viewing area has been created for residents to safely observe the progress of the Bypass construction. You will find the viewing area along the track leading to Daisy Meadow Dairy Farm. From here, you can enjoy a clear view of both the bypass leading east down to the bridge (being constructed over the River Hamble) area and west towards the main compound on Winchester Street where the bypass will join the previous works. For more information and updates visit <https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/transport schemes/botleybypass>

Parish Council Bus Shelter Grant Scheme

The Parish Council Bus Shelter Grant is available for:

- Refurbishing existing shelters
- Replacing existing shelters

Overall aims are to:

- Improve the waiting area for passengers
- Increase patronage on local bus services

Eligible bus shelters must already be owned and maintained by the Parish Council. Up to £15K per shelter will be available. Grant stream will be available from Wednesday 15 October 2025. A separate communication will be issued to all Parish Councils that will provide a link to further information. Parishes will need to submit a grant application and evidence of quotes. Technical support will be available via the Passenger Transport (infrastructure) team: passenger.transport.enquiries@hants.gov.uk

Help to Support Residents Facing Barriers to Employment

Hampshire County Council has unveiled plans to help more residents across the county into meaningful, sustainable work, especially those who have faced barriers such as long-term health conditions, caring responsibilities, or lack of qualifications. The Get Hampshire Working Plan brings together local employers, health services, education and training providers, local authorities, housing associations and community organisations to tackle the root causes of unemployment and economic inactivity, and better connect employment, health and skills support, based on local needs. The Plan, which sets out proposals to reform employment, health and skills support to tackle economic inactivity and support people into good work, addresses three urgent labour market challenges locally:

- **Labour market exclusion** – supporting people facing barriers to employment including women, residents impacted by ill-health and disabilities, and older workers.
- **Youth employment** – helping young people to thrive at the start of their careers, through better careers support, work experience opportunities, and skills training.
- **Insecure and low-quality work** – working with employers to create inclusive recruitment practices and match local talent to local, sustainable work opportunities. Aligned with the Plan, Hampshire will begin delivering the Connect to Work programme from November this year. This will provide targeted support to help disabled people, those with health conditions, and others facing complex barriers to employment, to secure good quality work. Participants will receive up to 12 months of personalised supported employment from Employment Specialists, including support with job searching, confidence building, and tailored employer engagement. The programme is voluntary and uses a well-established model for helping people into work, connecting work, health and skills in a joined-up way. Connect to Work is expected to support around 5,000 Hampshire residents over the next five years, helping them find and stay in good jobs that match their needs and aspirations. Detailed information on the Programme will be published in the coming weeks. More information on the variety of employment support currently available can be found on the County Council's website at: [Employer support](#) | [Business and economy](#) | Hampshire County Council

Hampshire County Councillor Grants Open!

Following a detailed review, which resulted in a number of significant changes, the County Councillor grant scheme is now open for 2025-26. Groups and organisations can apply for funding for both revenue (one-off) and minor capital projects. Revenue grants should generally be used to support short term project related costs. It is expected that the grants will benefit a wide range of groups/activities: for example, vulnerable children or adults, young people, facilities for older people, community facilities, parish councils (but only for specific projects), schools' minor traffic or safety works, local environment projects, and community

safety. More details are available on the County Council website: County Councillor grants | Hampshire County Council. The 2025/26 County Councillor grant scheme is open until 28 February 2026.

Finally, a reminder for Parents with children due to start secondary school next year: Applications are now open and should be submitted by 31 October!

Free Advice to Reduce Your Home Energy Bills

The Environment Centre has launched a ground-breaking service to make our homes warmer, greener and cheaper to run. It's called ***My Home Made Better***, and it offers free and impartial advice on everything from insulation and heating upgrades, to switching to new energy-efficient technologies. Experienced energy advisers will simplify complex information and dispel myths to guide you through your options and help you find the best ways to keep the heat in, lower your energy bills, and make your home more comfortable.

This is how it works:

1. You call 0800 804 8601 (or email) to chat with one of the friendly advisers. Lines are open Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm.
2. You'll be asked about your property and circumstances, following which you will receive tailor-made recommendations and your own personalised plan. This will comprise a summary of everything discussed, including recommendations and things to consider before taking your next step.
3. When you're ready, search the independent directory to find local suppliers and installers.

This should be a fantastic new service, and I encourage everyone to make use of it! For more information go to **myhomemadebetter.org**

Energy Efficiency Grants

The following offer advice and support. But please carefully check eligibility for grants as they will depend on the type of home and your circumstances.

- Energy Saving Trust – Guidance for the type of insulation for properties
- Great British Insulation Scheme – Eligible if the property has an energy performance certificate (EPC) of D to G and is in Council Tax bands A-D
- Warmer Homes – Warmer Homes provides fully funded insulation, solar panels and other energy efficiency measures for owner-occupiers and private renters living in low-income households in properties that have EPC energy efficiency ratings from D to G. The previous iteration of this program has now closed, but the Government has just announced a further £26 million of funding has been awarded to our local consortium. Whilst the previous iteration of this scheme only funded measures in off-gas households, the new scheme will be open to all fuel types, including on gas households and off gas households.