

Hampshire County Councillor report

July 2022

1. Armed Forces

Hampshire County Council last month raised the Armed Forces Flag to celebrate Hampshire's military and defence community, and to mark Armed Forces Week (20-25 June).



Hampshire is home to a large Armed Forces community. The council is committed to supporting everyone working in this sector and their families in all it does. More details on its strong links with the Armed Forces can be seen at <https://www.hants.gov.uk/community/armedforces>.

Last month also saw the 40th anniversary of the end of the Falklands Conflict, on 14 June. The council has paid tribute to all the servicemen who lost their lives during that conflict, those who were injured and those who gave service in the South Atlantic military campaign.

To commemorate the 40th anniversary, a Union flag was raised outside The Great Hall in Winchester by Nick Burchell, a senior health and safety officer at the County Council, who is a Royal Navy veteran of the Falklands conflict. Nick was on active service on the destroyer HMS Coventry on 25 May, the day it was bombed and sank, leading to the loss of 19 crew members. The flag raising was then followed by a moment of silence.

2. Homes for Ukraine update

The latest available figures for visas issued are that as of 14 June 2022, 64,081 visas have been issued for England. 2,401 have been issued for Hampshire and 1,685 guests have arrived.

3. Defibrillators at Household Waste Recycling Centres

Hampshire County Council has announced that life-saving defibrillators will be available soon at all 24 HWRCs. The sites are run by the private contractor Veolia, on behalf of the county council and are visited by over 1.5m residents every year. Having this equipment available to use in an emergency could help to save lives.

4. Consultations

The County Council is seeking views on proposed changes to supported passenger transport services (local bus and community transport services funded by the County Council) and the County Council funded enhancements to the Concessionary Travel scheme in Hampshire.

The proposals seek to continue to deliver effective services, within a reduced budget, through:

- making operational changes to supported passenger transport services (including supported bus services, Dial-a-Ride, Call & Go, Taxishare and Minibus Group Hire services)
- removing some discretionary enhancements to the Concessionary Travel Scheme
- increasing the contributions users pay for some services, eg. introducing a £1 fare for all Taxishare services and increasing the charge for replacing lost and damaged bus passes. There is no charge for replacing a stolen pass.

The consultation is available at <https://www.hants.gov.uk/aboutthecouncil/haveyoursay/consultations/passenger-transport> and closes on 24th July.

The second consultation to flag is on Hampshire County Council's draft Catchment Management Plans for the 18 river catchments in Hampshire. These plans provide an assessment of flood risk from a range of flooding sources and have been used to identify 66 Priority Areas across Hampshire where specified actions and stricter policies could be applied.

The consultation can be found at <https://www.hants.gov.uk/aboutthecouncil/haveyoursay/consultations/catchment-management-plans> and is open until 21st July.

5. Support for community projects

Over £70,000 has been awarded to five Hampshire groups to help each maintain and extend the activities provided for local communities from the Leader's Community Grant Fund scheme, which contributes, throughout the year, to groups supporting Hampshire's residents.

Projects supported include funding a new roof for a memorial centre; funding projection and audio equipment to allow a heritage trust to expand its accessible services; funding increased accessibility along 12km of public byways for the Riding for the Disabled Association; and funding the installation of new lighting, a sound system, and a projector to create a modern accessible room for the local community a village hall.

Community groups are encouraged to consider suitable schemes that may be suitable for support. The scheme considers applications for between £1,000 and £25,000 to use for activity costs and/or capital costs. Applications can be made at any time and are dealt with on a 'first come, first served' basis. Amounts over £25,000 can be considered in exceptional circumstances.

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