

Hampshire County Councillor report

January 2022

1. Roads update

For those concerned about motorbike noise and speeding, especially near the A32, there is to be a parish update on Teams at 1pm on Friday 14th January. Attendees will include the PCC Donna Jones, local MPs Flick Drummond and Damian Hinds as well as HCC Councillor Russell Oppenheimer, who is responsible for roads at HCC. Details have been circulated to parishes, do let me know if you don't have them and I will send these over.

Statistics have been published by Hampshire Highways for Winchester District for last November. In that month 49 emergencies were attended, 4,440 gullies and other drainage were cleared and 766 potholes were fixed. In addition, they also coped with Storms Arwen and Barra, keeping the roads clear of fallen trees and other vegetation, debris and excess water.

General road problems should be reported online at <http://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems>. Emergency issues on the highway can be reported outside of office hours by calling 101. In any emergency where there is a danger to life, call 999.

Highway operations are continuing as normal during the Plan B restrictions. Parishes are advised to check their blue grit bins are all full in case of freezing temperatures and to contact Hampshire County Council if any need replenishing. This can be done either online at <https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance> or by emailing roads@hants.gov.uk.

Going forward, Hampshire County Council has agreed to put extra "recurring" funding into highway maintenance, equating to about £7 million per year, from April this year.

2. Support for Swanmore College

Capital funding has been made available by Hampshire County Council for the Science Laboratory refurbishment project at Swanmore College. The council is working with the college on the detail of the project with an ambition that it is delivered as soon as possible.

3. Community grants

I have supported various projects locally with my county councillor grant for the Meon Valley Division. These include the Shedfield Pavilion project, the Hambledon playground, the West Meon community shop, tree works in Warnford and works to the village hall in Waltham Chase.

If you have a community project in need of support then please contact me.

4. Support for vulnerable households

Hampshire County Council has received £7.124m from the Government's Household Support Fund to support households in need with food, energy and water bills, as well as wider essential costs and housing costs. The county proposes to deploy this funding (which must be spent by 31 March 2022) through its "connect4communities" programme.

The programme includes support for free school meals in holidays and half terms, support with utility bills, community pantries giving access to discounted food and community grants, which could be used for example to assist unpaid carers.

Details can be found at connect4communities.org where it is possible to apply for community grants, and at HCC's online directory ([connect4communities | Family Information and Services Hub \(hants.gov.uk\)](https://connect4communities.org/family-information-and-services-hub)) which will also be a useful resource for families and individuals in need of food and fuel support.

Residents can also apply for half term support for food and activities at <https://www.hants.gov.uk/socialcareandhealth/childrenandfamilies/connectforcommunities/holidayactivities/holiday-activities-hants>

5. New Year resolutions

A new 12-week weight management programme has been funded by Hampshire County Council for residents who want to achieve a healthier weight. Offering free professional support either in-person, through regular online meetings or via a mobile app, [Shapeup4life Hampshire](https://www.shapeup4lifehampshire.co.uk) is available to anyone with a body mass index (BMI) of 30 or above and combines exercise and food choices to make positive lifestyle changes rather than a prescriptive diet. To find out more, check your BMI and to self-refer, go to www.shapeup4lifehampshire.co.uk.

Councillor Hugh Lumby, Meon Valley Division
hugh.lumby@hants.gov.uk

