

## County Councillor's Report to Parish Councils January 2020

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**Cold weather** hasn't arrived with us yet. But please arrange for someone in your Parish to check the salt material in the grit bins. It should be soft and dry enough to dig out easily, (bear in mind we only dig out grit in frozen conditions at < 2 degrees) and the lid should be waterproof. You can report grit bins in poor condition online, using the ref number in the lid. **But it has been wet.** Please continue to report persistent flooding online too. Any site that create a flood risk for homes- please contact me & email [tim.lawton@hants.gov.uk](mailto:tim.lawton@hants.gov.uk) direct. Thanks.



**Do you use the local recycling centre?** Have you registered your car with Hants.gov.uk yet? The Conservative Administration at HCC has decided to wage 'recycling war' on anyone living outside Hampshire! All drivers likely or entering are asked to register- vehicles registered at out of Hampshire will be charged: non HCC council tax payers will be asked to pay £5 to use HWRC's .I think it is probably likely that we'll all be asked to pay a contribution at the next budget round....I am not sure if using an ANPR system is actually legal in this context- but anyway, this is surely a challenge to the spirit of greater recycling in the UK? Go to hants.gov.uk to register vehicles:-

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/wasteandrecycling/recyclingcentres/vehicle-registration>

The County revealed its **Climate Action Plan** at the Cabinet on the 6<sup>th</sup> January. You can hear more on hants.gov.uk TV. Although some council progress has been made, it is the subject of greatest interest to the public, but if this is to be successful, it needs us all to make lifestyle changes! The **jointly commissioned Winchester Movement Study** is now moving onto identifying possible sites for more Park and Ride/Stride into the city. With transport being one of the biggest contributors to our Carbon footprint, even a few miles less in a car- but taking the bus for the 'last mile' instead- will help carbon and emissions.

**Bus transport-** Mervyn's 95/96 service will be sorely missed, but he said that it was just not economic. This service served Micheldever PC, Wonston PC and the Worthys PC's residents. An interim service has been put in place by HCC from 1<sup>st</sup> January for 3 months, but it is not satisfactory. The County has agreed to look at viable alternatives- but needs to know what residents want. We only have until the end of January to decide, and get quotes. Please give me your views asap. A big THANKS to Mervyn for his years of service.

**Children's School Transport:** At present, a lot of parents new into the area (especially those arriving mid-year so not at the local school) are being asked to transport children by car, and being given rates per mile to do so. I have had some successful challenges: if you know of anyone who needs advice, let me know.

**Development Delays:** The Nitrate Neutrality issue is hitting developers right across the South East at present- but Natural England, having set the challenge, are not being very constructive. This is holding up planning. If you'd like to know more, please contact me.

**CIL: The County and City CIL pot is available for bids.** If you have a CIL pot, then you will know the amount that HCC and WCC holds on your behalf too. Parishes and community groups need to demonstrate Parish support and deliverability for schemes which have the potential to reduce the carbon footprint of their community. Please contact me, Lorna Hutchings at HCC or Corinne Phillips at WCC.

**Cycle path from Worthy Down to Wellhouse Lane:** we have met with South Wonston Parish Council and I believe we have a way forward, at least to the water treatments works just north of Wellhouse Lane. I hope the path can be built this Summer 2020. Work will hopefully include the Drove from the Pavilion to the school to encourage 'Park and stride' rather than 'Park outside' (the school) I will be looking for more ways to achieve this for all our schools in this division in 2020.

**Wheelabrator, M3 Junction 9, NSIP's affecting this division-** no new news this month.



## Report to Parishes January 2020

**Happy New Year!** Lots to do in 2020 so we'd better get started. In 2019 there were 18 weeks of purdah, when no sniff of a political decision could be even thought about, so we have a lot to catch up on.

There is a great new local website <https://newleafalresford.org/> which shows lots of easy, and not so easy, ways to improve our environment. It is easy to follow and relevant to all of us in Alresford and surrounding villages. Take a look and let the organisers know what you think.

**The Winchester Council 5 Year Plan** is set for agreement on 15<sup>th</sup> January, this defines ambitions and focuses on five priority outcomes which are:

- Tackling the climate emergency and creating a greener district
- Homes for all
- Vibrant local economy
- Living well
- Your services, your voice

The next steps include setting some Key Performance Indicators to measure how well we are doing. These need to be easy to measure and meaningful to the rate payers, suggestions please

**Bins.** There have been some properties that despite paying the same level of Council Tax as everybody else have, for some years, not received the full range of waste services, this has usually be due to access restrictions. Those are being reviewed, if householders contact me I will ensure that decision is revisited.

The **Parking Strategy for Alresford** will now be the **Parking and Access Strategy** which makes a lot more sense. New Alresford Town Council are major players in this, historically they have funded enforcement when lack of churn in free on street parking was making it difficult to shop in Alresford. Now that Hampshire County Council are insisting that a profit is to be made from on street parking all options are on the table, again. Those that live in the villages and the outskirts of Alresford make a major contribution to the viability of shops, but if there are no buses, and you can't park shops will fail.

No date available as yet but I will keep you informed.

Our next **Councillor Surgery** is 0930-1045 Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February, at Alresford Community Centre, by kind permission of the Trustees.

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