

County Councillor Report to Parishes for March 2021

Hopefully some of you will have received notice of vaccination by the time you read this. But that doesn't mean that our problems will be over.

Maybe you have time to be a telephone buddy to a lonely resident? For info :

<https://www.butterfliesfriendship.com/telephonefriends>



The Winchester District Local Plan consultation is open until the 12th April. Go to www.localplan.winchester.gov.uk to see the strategic Issues and give your views on the options posed. Questions include Carbon Neutrality, Homes for all and the Natural Environment, and the Vibrant Economy. If you need a paper copy, please call WCC on 01962 848508

Other consultations are coming straight after the elections in May.

Hampshire Hospitals consultation on hospital provision see more at www.HHFT.nhs.uk

Highways England M3Jn9: go to <https://highwaysengland.co.uk/our-work/south-east/m3-junction-9-improvements/> for details, and to register for updates

Extensive Flooding Alleviation Work is continuing across the division. This has been a major focus for me in the last year. Several sites have been listed but some of the work isn't being done until the next financial year due to budgetary constraints and effects of Covid 19 on work teams.

A pilot of **School streets** is looking at removing traffic from streets in front of school gates, to improve chance of active travel (cycling and walking) into school. Results should be ready for the Autumn term.

Residents are seeking **non-motorised access to Recycling Centres** (HWRC's) but the promised pilot of "walk in/cycle in/buggy in/wheelbarrow in" hasn't started yet. Hopefully the HWRC's will be fully open by the Summer, and the pilot will start then.

Additional special school places are being created in Andover at Ickniel and Samuel Cody school, due by 2022, and opening in September 21, the Austen Academy at Basingstoke for children on the Autism spectrum. This provision adds to the growing need for special school places for children with SEMH and neurological conditions as well as for those with physical disabilities.

The 20/21 HCC Gigabit scheme being carried out in conjunction with BDUK and Openreach is very popular after a slower start and as a result the organisers are finding the process challenging ! Of the 26 registered so far in the county, at least 7 are in the Itchen Valley Division! I have appealed to the County to top-up their fund of £1m to ensure this programme continues. Hampshire County Council scrutinised the process because it is resulting in frustration in failure to deliver by Openreach. It was very useful- you can see extracts of the you-tube of the meeting on my website: search 'broadband'

I have tried to keep you up to date through the month too, please email me direct if you have any queries.

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