

Jackie Porter: County Councillor Report for December 2019

Another Police event was held in November- this time it was the work of the 36 Youth Commissioners: all appointed young people are under 18 years of age who decide on their priorities for the year.

This year the priorities were Substance Misuse, Antisocial

Behaviour and Unhealthy Relationships, including online bullying and exploitation.

The Youth Commissioners work on those priorities, going out to schools and other events, supported by police officers. Ben (in the photo) was a presenting delegate.

It gave me an opportunity to discuss again how we can report crime online. (Calling 101 is the phone line) www.fearless.org is the Crimestoppers anonymous website, and you can find out more find out more about cyber safety on #GoFISH with support for young people and parents on www.safe4me.co.uk



The Wheelabrator application is exercising everyone's mind at the moment. I have spoken to our officer at HCC, who expect to make a County statement in mid-December. I have challenged the need for incinerators in the County, how we can work together to dispose of commercial and household waste, and what would be the excess capacity of the domestic incinerators (which could then be used for commercial waste) if food waste were removed. I am expecting to use that clear evidential based information for my approach. I know Highways England and HCC expect to object to the poor road junctions on to the A303.

Continued accidents on the A34 and M3 result in a congested city. Highways England hasn't come back since the last round of consultation on the M3 Junction 9 update: all NSIPs seem to have dried to a halt during the General Election.

Parents should apply for primary school places by 15th Jan 2020, for year 7 by 2 March 2020. For more details, including 'in-year admissions' search School Admissions on the hants.gov.uk website.

Schools: I have had complaints about 2 of the schools in my area. I have taken these up with the Director of Children's Services, who is giving both issues his full attention.

Cold weather brings icy roads: the County has a schedule for gritting and priorities for snow clearance. You can see more detail by going to www.hants.gov.uk. Click the 'Roads & Transport' icon and search Salting and Gritting Guidance. There are three priority categories: the first priority covers 30% of roads which are 'A class' roads, access roads to emergency services, areas of high traffic concentration. Second priority includes schools. If you have any concerns, please contact me or Tim.Lawton @hants.gov.uk. I'll be asking residents to check their grit bins in my January article too. Please continue to report flooded areas and potholes on the same section of the website.

If you hear of anyone deciding between 'heat or eat' please let me know. I am a Food Bank referrer and I know of other charities who can help too

Council Strategy whilst planning to reduce revenue budget by *another* £80m has been to look again at the need for libraries, recycling sites, reducing respite for carers, the lengthsman scheme, footway repairs and asking for more volunteers to take on a wide variety of roles: to take library books out to vulnerable people, to run Mens Shed to combat loneliness, lead Health Walks or act as wardens for footpaths etc. How many people can we find to cover all these voluntary roles? I have asked for a volunteering button on the front page of the website, but if you are interested, please put 'volunteering' into the search box and see what comes up!

We in Children's Services looked again at the CAMHS service and Home Schooling at our recent Select Committee.

Now 1700 young people are home schooled every year in Hampshire (around 1% of all those educated) On average, 7% are privately educated, so this gives an idea of the scale of the issue. Home Schooling wasn't regulated, but following the failure of Govt to bring a cross party supported Home Schooling Bill to Law, (Brexit business got in the way) new 'Guidance' has been issued to Education Authorities which sets a new level of responsibility for the Education Authority to ensure the Education is of a good enough quality and there are appropriate child and adult safeguards in place.. There is no money linked to this. This is an example of how new statutory requirements are frequently placed on local government without any money to back it up. This money has to come from somewhere.

The CAMHS presentation was so depressing: if anyone in your family needs this service they will know that once 'in the system', it is generally excellent but in reviewing their services to see how they could improve it, the reviewers came up with **One Version of the Truth: There is a clear demand and capacity gap.**

2021 brings the next Local Plan2036 for Winchester District. This will include matters which relate to HCC: minerals and waste planning, cycle and walkways, new sustainable developments, the impact of the 4 NSIP's currently in the area, upgrade of energy infrastructure, trees and green spaces.

Please sign up for news of this local plan by request to planning@winchester.gov.uk. Newsletters come out every quarter.

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