

County Councillor Report for February 2021- helpline 0333 370 4000 open 7 days a week now.

Local Transport Plan: towards LTP4

We all grumble about policies that determine speed limits, highways and transport matters, walking and cycling and public transport. The Local Transport plan is being consulted upon now. Deadline for comments is 28th Feb. Please complete either as individuals and as a Parish Council. This will be relevant for your communities. Go to <https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/localtransportplan>

Revised Minerals and Waste Plan

This is being reviewed (Cabinet 9th Feb 2021) Timetable dates are on pp220,221

I have requested the timetable specific process and how you can respond. James Potter , at HCC, leads the review but Melissa Spriggs is the author of the paper Melissa.Spriggs@hants.gov.uk, 0370 779 7153.

For simplicity, I have attached a copy of the Cabinet report to my emailing of this report.

Several of the your Parish Councils have M&W sites. I will update Parishes myself, but you might like to request local updates direct too. I spoke at the **Inert Waste recycling site at 3 Maids Hill**: it was rejected.

County Council Accounts

Members had notice this week that the County's accounts had been signed off. The County budget will go to Council on the 24th February. HCC had estimated they were £52m out of pocket from Covid-19 expenses, but had recently received £27m . Revising the consideration of monies saved as well as spent, the estimated loss is now just £3.8m, but social care and other pressures remain.

The Budget goes to Cabinet on the 9th February; the agenda can be seen online through the HCC Calendar and the attached paper: you can watch live at 10.30am via hants.gov.uk

As you set your precepts, and to put this in context, the precept for the County is required to raise £707,046,869, (increase of 4.99%, including specifically 3% for social care) resulting in the following charges -for Band A: £900, Band D pays £1350.45, Band H pays £2700

Funding for Broadband: During 20-21 HCC supported the Government Gigabit scheme with a £1m fund; I'll be arguing for a sum for 21-22 too. With the realisation that good broadband matters even more than ever, and so many schemes in my division in progress, it would be disastrous for them to fail just weeks after the current HCC support scheme ends. See more about this scheme on www.hants.gov.uk/broadband

Operation Transmission

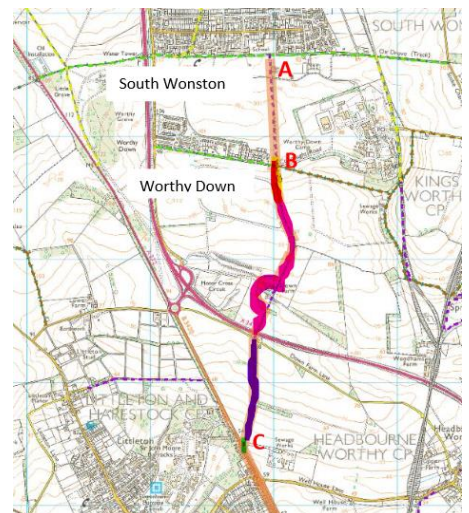
A31 Brexit paperwork checking has been frankly underwhelming. Disruption to residents remains high. Many lorries are returning across the Channel empty of loads and Covid-19 crisis has meant that exports aren't happening. I am meeting with Director Tim Lawton to hear the expected plans for this project.

Connect 4 Communities

The County Council has funds for play schemes at half term and future holidays. Schemes must include elements of play, activity and importantly, food at lunchtime. Schemes must include a substantial element of children and families needing free school meals. It is open to individual childminders, groups, sports clubs and schools. Contact Suzanne.smith2@hants.gov.uk for details

Footpaths and Bridleways

The delivery plan for the Worthy Down to Winchester bridleway has been agreed and it is hoped it will be in place for Sept 21. Point C into Winchester is being worked on as we speak: I have always wanted the route to go through into Winchester, not just end on the Andover Road.





Winchester Council update February 2021



Green Waste Bins: It appears that rather too many have left it until the last moment to order their **green waste bin**. This has not only led to a delay in delivering them, as they do not magically appear with the postman, but has also meant that our website collapsed under weight of numbers and that in turn put our phone systems under huge pressure. The phone system already has a huge strain on it, as most calls have to be re-directed to the staff working at home (which is nearly all staff now). This requires more than a quick upgrade. I cannot defend our website which I find very difficult to navigate. When the dust has settled, we will look at developing a simpler and more robust website.

Street Surgeries: These are all now virtual, they will be promoted on Facebook. Any ideas how we can tell you when they are happening?

Parking Strategy for Alresford: We had a meeting on 25th January to move this forward. The consensus from all was that free on-street parking, and a brisk turnover of spaces, is essential to maintain the viability of the retail centre. In order to ensure a turnover of spaces enforcement is necessary, and unless the fines levied are extensive the costs of enforcement are not covered. Hampshire County Council require that we make a profit from on-street parking and share it with them. I remain convinced that Hampshire need to change their view on this if they are serious about wanting to support the viability of market town.

It is unlikely that any new measure to make enforcement more efficient than the current system will show a profit either. The alternative would be that we cede control of on-street parking to Hampshire, and they use a parking company, who will also want a profit. We would not willingly expose residents to the attentions of private parking company.

Support for Businesses: The local economy team and the business rates team are working their little socks off to try and pump this money out into the local economy. The complexities of the various grant schemes require officer input, and as they are currently assessing up to 500 applications in the last week, their capacity to talk people through the application process is limited. They will speak to you at the earliest opportunity. Some businesses have been disappointed; we will track these applications to ensure that if another grant stream does come forward, we make that accessible to more organisations. A new grant scheme will be launched on Friday 5th February. The latest information is available at <https://www.winchester.gov.uk/business/covid-19-support#relief>

Solar Farm at Godsfield Planning Application 20/02832/FUL. This application is exciting a good deal of comment. Russell is proscribed from having a view as a member of the planning Committee, but Margot is very happy to be included in conversations on the subject.

Margot Power 01962 734167

Russell Gordon -Smith 01962 733219