

**COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT
TO
ALL PARISH COUNCILS
IN PETERSFIELD HANGERS**

1 JULY 2021

1. Serving Hampshire consultation

Hampshire County Council is currently consulting on ways to find £80m of savings from its annual budget. It is a broad consultation. If you have strong views on things like the importance of Household Waste and Recycling Centres, then I would encourage you to take 10 minutes to complete the online consultation. It is quite likely that there will only be around 4,000 responses so your opinion will carry genuine weight. You can complete the consultation at this link:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/aboutthecouncil/haveyoursay/consultations/balancing-the-budget>

The consultation closes on Sunday 18 July 2021.

2. Active Travel schemes

At my first “Decision Day” on 17 June 2021 I decided to remove all the emergency active travel schemes in Hampshire once Covid lockdown restrictions end on 19 July. The only exception is Winchester due to their ongoing Movement Strategy. The plastic barriers in Petersfield will be removed in late July or early August.

Lessons have been learned from the “pop-up” schemes implemented during the pandemic. Those lessons will inform the next phase of Active Travel measures. Decisions on Phase 2 Active Travel measures will be taken in late July and implemented later in the year. These schemes will be tasteful, permanent and will make no use of plastic barriers. Hampshire County Council is committed to improving walking and cycling networks and this will form a core plank of our Local Transport Plan later this year.

3. Parish Forum on Motorbike Noise and Nuisance

On 25 June 2021 I chaired a Parish Forum to consider actions to tackle the scourge of motorbike noise and damage to BOATs in our area. The meeting was well attended and I am grateful to all those Parish Councillors who attended from Petersfield Hangers Division.

Damian Hinds MP explained that he is working closely with Flick Drummond MP to pursue action at the national level. He is pushing for the outcome of the Department for Transport trial into acoustic cameras to be published. Damian is also following closely the acoustic camera trial at Kensington & Chelsea which uses Public Space Protection Orders to penalise noise as anti-social behaviour with £100 fines. Damian and Flick will continue to seek to build a coalition of other MPs towards the possible establishment of an All Party Parliamentary Group. Damian cautioned that legislative change may be difficult to achieve in a reasonable timescale so we should find interventions within the current regulations.

Donna Jones, Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, set out her priority actions with the Roads Police Team. They are undertaking a feasibility study into average speed cameras and she is committed to more patrols, including outside Loomies. Donna also explained that technological progress may provide solutions in the coming years. Donna Jones listened carefully to all the points raised and undertook to redouble efforts with the Hampshire Constabulary to find ways to tackle the excessive noise and speed of motorbikes. Donna and I will meet to co-ordinate our efforts.

As Executive Member for Highways I explained that I am awaiting an “options report” on possible measures which HCC could take as the Highways Authority.

This may include such measures as:

- Signs, lines and coloured surfacing
- Rumble strips and over-run areas.
- Speed limit reminder signs (vehicle activated)
- Speed limit reductions.
- Low noise surfacing
- Traffic calming (e.g. chicanes and build-outs)
- Sound barriers
- Road realignment
- Education, Training and Publicity

On BOATs, it was agreed that it was incredibly unwise to spend public money repairing BOATs so that they could be degraded all over again by vehicles, as seemed to be the current situation. Cllr Robert Mocatta summarised the campaign which he is leading at the SDNPA which seeks to persuade the Authority to use its powers to make Traffic Regulation Orders on the byways open to all traffic (BOATs). This would require the gathering of evidence and working with communities. It was also widely agreed that the National Park Authority had a statutory duty to conserve and enhance the countryside, and to safeguard access to the countryside, and to promote the health and wellbeing of communities, all of which would be well served by meaningful action in this area.

The Campaign Against Noise and Speed set out their progress in progressing their campaign. Parish Councils who are not currently affiliated with them may wish to consider whether they should become members to add to the weight of that campaigning organisation.

Tangible progress in tackling this problem may take some time but your elected representatives will continue to work together to identify effective and affordable solutions, and we will organise another Parish Forum to update you in due course.

4. Recycling of glass at HWRCs

I wanted to explain why glass bottle banks at the HWRC are being removed. The use of glass banks at the HWRCs has declined significantly across the county over the past few years, as districts have introduced kerbside services, with between 60-80% less glass being deposited at the sites. In addition, EHDC does provide glass recycling facilities in places such as car parks and supermarkets.

The glass bank provision at the HWRCs incurs significant costs. The haulage costs of the material far outweigh any income that is derived from the material. Due to the ongoing financial pressures we are unable to fund services where more effective provision is made for a material elsewhere in the system. Our focus has to be on waste prevention as the number one remedy so that we seek to avoid creating the waste in the first place, reducing the carbon impact of waste and helping to manage our resources in the most effective way. The move also maximises space at HWRCs for bulkier items for which kerbside collection is less suitable.

5. Boundary Commission review

The Boundary Commission for England has proposed to chop several Parishes out of East Hampshire.

If approved by Parliament following consultation, two Bordon wards (Pinewood and Chase), Lindford, Headley, Grayshott and Bramshott and Liphook wards would join a new Parliamentary constituency with SW Surrey named “Farnham and Bordon”. This move will damage the interests of residents by making it harder to co-ordinate local government services with national priorities. Further boundary fragmentation will inevitably make it harder to deliver joined-up approaches across welfare, economic development, climate change and transport.

Although this does not affect any Parishes within Petersfield Hangers, I would invite you all to consider how you would feel if the Boundary Commission proposed to move your Parish to a constituency with a Surrey MP. Our community will be divided and the impact on Whitehill and Bordon is especially concerning. I feel we need to show solidarity with our neighbouring Parishes and contribute to the outcry. I have made a strong objection and I would be very grateful if Parishes could debate this issue and consider making objections too (or make individual responses if you prefer).

You can respond online at this web link (enter postcode and then click on the map).

<https://www.bcereviews.org.uk/>

6. Queen Elizabeth Country Park secures grant to boost family-friendly cycle facilities

Good news for mountain bike enthusiasts in East Hants! Please see this link for the full Press Release.

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/25062021cyclefacilitiesQEpark>

RUSSELL OPPENHEIMER
County Councillor for Petersfield Hangers