**County Report to Parish, Town Councils and Parish Meetings in September 2023**

August doesn’t have many formal meetings at HCC, but there’s still a lot going on.

And emails continued to flood in! After a period of recuperation and exercises, I am now back driving, but still recuperating, and I will be with you at your meetings as far as possible from this month. Please drop me a line if I’ve missed anything whilst on shorter hours. Thank you.

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**Neighbourhood Watch** is using a new acronym: **WIDE(N)** when considering the security of your home.

**W**indows: lock your windows

**I**nterior: put interior lamps on a timer

**D**oors: double or deadlock your doors

**E**xterior: Put exterior lights on a sensor, shut and lock gates

(**N**eighbours): keep an eye out for neighbours

A new aim ‘Making a Better Place to Live’ has sprung out of Neighbourhood Watch. I hope you get chance to look it up online and hopefully feel inspired! If any community wants to set up a group, advice is available and I can provide an HCC councillor grant grant. Most important, don’t forget to be wary of emails/texts and phone calls: beware fraud and cyber crime too.

**RAAC- Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete** is present in just a few schools in Hampshire but on the 1st September, HCC confirmed that no schools would be closed because of RAAC.

Cranbourne College is the only HCC managed school affected: it is thought there are 4 academies affected too- but these are not closed either.

**The Cart and Horses design consultation** continues until 1159pm on the 17th September 2023 :-

Hampshire County Council is gathering views on options for redesigning the ‘Cart and Horses’ junction on the A33 and B3047 in Kings Worthy, Winchester and has opened a survey, asking residents’ and other stakeholders’ to comment on the designs put forward.

Two options are proposed – either a signal-controlled junction or construction of two roundabouts – ahead of potential changes by National Highways to Junction 9 of the M3.

The County Council (as do I) considers that the M3 Junction 9 improvement scheme will have impacts on the Cart and Horses junction. To inform discussions with National Highways on the solution needed, HCC has developed two design options and want to hear what people living locally, or who regularly use or avoid this junction, whilst travelling to and from Winchester, think about the options to inform development of any final scheme. *Find out more and complete the online survey via the scheme* *webpage* www.hants.gov.uk/transport/transportschemes/cart-and-horses-junction-improvements

**The 20 mph Task & Finish Working Group** has completed its review of information and evidence in supporting and feeding into the County Councils review of its 20 mph Policy. Approximately 9,500 responses were received. The 20mph Task & Finish Working Group reported their findings and recommendations to HCC’s Transport & Environment Select Committee in Jan 2023, leading to a report by the end of 2023. The current policy restricts new 20 mph zones and limits to address casualty reduction.

**Sewage seems to have dominated the summer**: in rivers, water, and in our own communities. I am dealing with several different problems relating to sewage in different roads and households, but to help residents connected to the SW systems, who are struggling for their complaint to be heard, they may wish to use the Consumer Council for Water at www.ccwater.org.uk to register a complaint.

**Highways** are making progress with filling potholes, but still, new ones arrive. Having received so many complaints that they are not doing the job properly, I have put a question to next Council on the subject.

**The Government has disbanded Local Enterprise partnerships** and their function is returning to the Higher Tier Authority. HCC is currently assessing the work of the LEPs and the role that HCC will take in future.

**You may be aware that HCC’s Adult Social Care Homes are being rethought.** There is a current consultation until 11.59pm on the 12 November which asks your views on new units, closures and rearrangement of higher dependency beds across Hampshire to better match centres of population and land/staff availability. It is expected that HCC will continue to offer higher dependency places to serve those with dementia , and needing nursing care. I urge you to take part in this consultation.

It includes provision of a new unit at the Cornerways site in Kings Worthy.

The easiest way to reach the relevant pages is to search ‘Consultation’ on www.hants.gov.uk or go to [www.hants.gov.uk/aboutthecouncil/haveyoursay/consultations/social-care-2023](http://www.hants.gov.uk/aboutthecouncil/haveyoursay/consultations/social-care-2023)