

County Councillor Report for Parish and Town Councils, Parish Meetings July 2023

First reminder: the **County Council's budget consultation**- deadline 26th July.

I know that the County Council are considering many options which include charging for on street parking in many more places to support the cost of maintaining roads.

Please take the time to respond to this consultation if you can. www.hants.gov.uk/budgetconsultation

Water treatment: of great interest at City and County levels, there is new legislation for owners of 'private water treatment plants' which include small developments and individual properties. This applies from October 2023. You can see the detail on gov.uk and on my website from 6th July.

Southern Water's treatment works continue to be monitored and (limits set) by the EA.

I am working with residents and the Councils to look at this issue across the planning system too.

Flash flooding continues to be a problem as heavy rain falls over a short period. Please report all flood matters for speedy maintenance. Thank you

Boundary changes: notification that the constituency boundaries are changing has been received. Full details are on the Electoral Commission's website. www.electoralcommission.gov.uk

Road, footway and countryside complaints, flooding, overhanging trees etc must be reported online at hants.gov.uk to start any action. I'm afraid the old days of calling up the highways officer have gone and all matters which might require resources start with a reference number. This includes dying trees if planted by HCC this Spring. If you don't receive a satisfactory reply from your complaint, please let me know with the reference number. Many thanks

I attended as a deputy at a **recent Health and Adult Social Care (HASC) meeting at HCC.**

The agenda items and topics of discussion included:

- Mental health support- raising the lack of professional staff to meet the rising numbers needing help. I note too that the lack of Educational Psychologists across the country is leading to an EP crisis in schools. HCC is seeking authorisation to spend £3.35 million more over 5 years on EP Locums to fill the gaps in provision (so urgently needed) to satisfy their legal requirements on EHCP's.
- Shortage of NHS dental services
- Looking again at the Pharmacy availability which was reviewed post pandemic, but the situation is worsening with community pharmacies closing resulting in even more limited access for those without a car. I have asked for the Winchester district paper to be updated to reflect the current position.
- Update on GP recovery towards more efficient services. Although more direct GP appointments are being offered now, I raised the poor phone service that many people felt was the first barrier to an appointment. This was echoed by other members of the committee, and was a point taken away from the meeting by the NHS representative from the ICB.(Integrated Care Board)

Many of you contributed to the Reg 18 report, but the **Minerals and Waste Reg 19 report is not out as yet.** The details of how HCC will handle the inclusion of Free Handling for DIY waste recently announced have not been published. Other changes to the waste stream to reflect Government aspirations are awaited.

Inflation of costs: Barton Farm primary school cost about £8m. Now, a new school for Basingstoke (2FTE to serve children on the Golf Club site) will cost at least £14.5million. Costs of all works continue to spiral.

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I will not be able to attend meetings from 10th of July and some of August as I am having an operation and cannot drive, but can be contacted by email or phone and use teams/ zoom of course after a short period. I may be not be attending to Council business from 10th-15th July. I apologise for any problems this may cause. Please contact Cllr Martin Tod if you need urgent help.

