

Councillor's Grant scheme

After the County Council's AGM in May, and a new fiscal year, and I'm pleased to announce the return of the County Councillor Grant scheme from 1st June 2023 to 28th Feb 2024 or until the grant money is fully granted, whichever is the earlier. The application process is relatively simple, but if anyone is interested, they need to contact me first to discuss the application.

Arrangements at HCC have changed.

The new Chairman is Cllr Patricia Stallard. The Leader continues to be Cllr Rob Humby.

At the AGM, the HCC constitution was changed to reflect the change of Directorates earlier in the year. As the number of directorates has decreased, it was argued that the number of hours of Scrutiny would decrease, which was a concern. It was therefore decided that each of the Scrutiny meetings would extend for up to a full day to ensure the wide range of the county's activities would be covered and the number of members briefings would be increased to inform all councillors. FYI: Cllr Nick Adams- King continues to be the Exec. Member for Universal Services, including Countryside services, Highways, footpaths etc. I continue to be the Opposition (shadow) spokesperson for Children's Services.

Local issues

Cart and Horses junction. After the fatal accident in the Autumn, the local councillors felt they had no democratic way to voice their concerns to the Exec Member. He agreed to meet only after the accident investigation, but relented and he met with Parish and City Councillors at the end of May. My thanks to those who took the trouble to attend.

We discussed the councillors' suggestions for short term junction improvements which are now being assessed for feasibility by the traffic engineers on the call. We all acknowledged that a long term improvement to the new junction 9 is a key opportunity for a complete change and the County will be consulting on options for that new Cart and Horses junction in the summer, probably July- September. I raised this, too, at the M3 Junction 9 Open Floor Hearing on the 17th May. You can see the full (OFH) Open Floor Hearing on the NSIP website; my presentation is also on www.jackieporter.co.uk

Planning Permission for the Taylor Wimpey site at Sun Hill was granted in 2019, but as I write, there is still no agreed Construction/Engineering Management Plan. I am pressing HCC to finalise this, but am fully sympathetic to the problem: there's no easy way into the site, and HCC are making it difficult because they want to protect local residents during construction.

Many of you will walk the Millennium Walk alongside the river in Alresford. Plans to do the work this summer may yet falter because EA permission has still not been granted. I have urged the County to do this asap. A lady fell in the river recently, caused by a path pothole. This must not happen again

Talking of potholes; I asked three questions at the last HCC meeting, about potholes, recycling and the cost of travel to special needs education which has increased by 27%.

One was the number of **complaints about potholes in the first three months of 2023**. The answer was 1175, distinctly increasing from the previous year.

I also asked a question about **pedestrian access to the Alresford HWRC**. It was a question posed to me by a resident. The Exec member agreed to look at this again, this time specifically for Alresford and a couple of other urban sites. You can see the answers to these and my third question on the HCC County Council recording of the 18th May 2023.

Good news about Worthy Road improved pedestrian and cycle path plans: after the cancellation of the Active Travel grants, the county has been granted £250K to develop the plans (which you first saw at Jubilee Hall, Headbourne Worthy a while ago) and install crossings: the first being at Stoke Road. The bad news for worried parents is that this puts Henry Beaufort buses back in question: already two more parents have

been informed, despite promises by the HCC officer that this would not happen, that their child's journey is too short to claim a bus pass. I am investigating why HCC seems to be renegeing on their promise not to change anything until 2025.

Water Treatment is such a big issue at Sutton Scotney and Micheldever: SW tanker foul water out every day to the SW treatment sites and are constructing a new pipeline from Sutton Scotney to the Harestock Water Treatment works.

I have had three appointments with the Management at the Southern Water site (at Otterbourne to glean further information) cancelled for various reasons. This is very frustrating. Meanwhile, I continue to work with residents to improve and update different water treatment systems.

Ecogen had set up their first Liaison Meeting which is on June 8th, but disappointingly, have since put in planning permission seeking *the same changes to conditions* that were proposed before. I have asked that Wonston Parish is represented at the Liaison Meetings as well as Kings Worthy, the most affected.

Kings Barton continues to be a challenge, and the County and Cala are still not 'on the same page' on the road design. I continue to work with County officers to bring this to a conclusion, but frankly, I am losing patience with both parties. Both must sort this out in a timely way for the sake of residents on and off the development.

I'd like to see all of these matters brought to a conclusion, but meanwhile, I am dealing with a number of **families across the county whose children are finding that a suitable school** place is a real challenge this year. Although some can be solved, there are still some parents who are disappointed. I hope that the HCC scrutiny on the subject, promised this Autumn, will bring some relief for parents.

Mid-year moves to this county are a particular problem for children requiring a special school place in Hampshire- there are just not enough places.

The Candover Water augmentation scheme plans are being considered by HCC now. I noted the Northington objection, but felt that I had to make constructive comments regarding conditions. This solution short term to the slow fill of the Havant thicket reservoir is a requirement of the Ofwat permission to trade in this area. But only if we require conditions will they be considered by the Regulatory Cttee. SW have improved the offer since the first application- but I acknowledge that there's still much to do.

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