

## MARCH 23 County Cllr Report to Parish & Town Councils & Communities in the Itchen Valley Division

### Council Tax 23-24

You will have been setting your Council's precept. At the Meeting of Hampshire County Council on the 23<sup>rd</sup> February, 2023, it was agreed that HCC's requirement from the Council tax payer for 2023/24 would be £781, 761,572.99. (£78.7million). This sum is 89.4% of the total funding needed (cf with 2011:73.6%) and equates to £1460.25, an increase of £69.45 per annum. The lower band charge is (A) is £973.50, upper (H) is £2920.50. This includes a 2% uplift for Social Care. With approx. £1m vired straight from Govt to schools, the total turnover is approx.. £2.6million. Academies receive their funding separately.

**A paper goes to Children's Services on March 6<sup>th</sup> which details the consistent reduction in attainment of our Hampshire pupils following the Covid Lockdowns.** The Hampshire results are usually a few % higher than National average but this time, the differential has dropped. Children arriving at school after broken pre-school years require SALT (Speech and Language Therapy) and the reading attainment has dropped too. This decrease extends to children right through to KS5, at Sixth Form College. Identification of Special Needs are being picked up later, and the CAMHS service is in greater demand than it can supply. Children in areas of greatest need were unsurprisingly,, the worst affected. You may like to look at the charity BEAT which supports families where a child has an eating disorder: more common than ever after lockdown.

**You may have heard that the Government has just released £2.6 billion for Special Educational Needs and Disabled children (SEND) .** We had hoped there would be funding to pay back councils for their overspend on the 'Higher Needs block' of Special Needs spending, but this funding includes money to spend on the construction of new schools. Whilst this is most welcome, most parents of children needing this help will be disappointed that much of it will go to capital costs, not day to day revenue. Importantly, *it will include* funding for the training and provision of specialist assessment and support staff, but this will take longer to implement. I will be asking for updates at HCC to see how they fare in the programme as I know this is of interest to all families with SEND children here in Hampshire.

### Adult Safeguarding Survey: Survey closes on 12 March.

Jac Broughton at HCC has sent this request: Please could we ask for your support in disseminating a survey from the Hampshire Safeguarding Adults Board (HSAB) to your local community groups and contacts. The Board is a statutory, multi-organisational partnership coordinated by the local authority, which oversees and leads adult safeguarding across the county, ensuring that safeguarding arrangements to support and safeguard adults in our area who are at risk of abuse and neglect are working effectively.

To help HSAB to understand what's important to local people when it comes to safeguarding adults at risk, and how to prioritise and improve safeguarding services, a questionnaire has been created here <https://hampshireecc.welcomesyourfeedback.net/Safeguarding2023>. They have asked for our support to help 'spread the word' about the survey, and to encourage as many people as possible to give their views – both stakeholders and the public. Feedback will assist HSAB to refresh their strategic plan  
Thank you.

### Sharing names and contact details of Highways Engineers

Some departments at HCC are continuing to share their details but the Highway team do not wish us to do so. I have taken this up with the relevant Director, and await her reply. If you are not sure who to contact, please write to [roads@hants.gov.uk](mailto:roads@hants.gov.uk), Director Tim Lawton or Cllr Nick Adams-King. Please copy me in if there's an issue unresolved.

### Cart and Horses junction and Andover Road: and their part in the Movement Strategy

A paper on this is going to HCC Decision Day on the 9<sup>th</sup> March 2023. You can see the detail here and a pdf attachment sent with this email. I will also place it on my website. The paper includes the decision to make changes to the B3047/A33 junction in conjunction with National Highways as they construct the new

motorway junction. I remain hopeful that some short term measures can be implemented soon too.

<https://democracy.hants.gov.uk/documents/g10854/Public%20reports%20pack%2009th-Mar-2023%2014.00%20Leader%20and%20Executive%20Member%20for%20Hampshire%202050%20and%20Corpora.pdf?T=10>

Did you use the junction whilst the traffic lights were in place? What was your view of that potential solution? I had hoped that HCC were using this as an opportunity to trial traffic signals- but it was not, but merely a safety issue for work team as they renewed the popular section of path alongside the A33.

### **S106 and CIL payments**

I have raised this before, but if you have ideas for your community and are considering how the capital costs can be covered, or why the S106 funds have not been spent, please contact me (CIL) or the planning team at WCC or HCC. At the Policy and Resources Select Cttee in late 2022, and again in early 2023, it was agreed that there is a systemic problem with delays resulting in projects failing due to massively rising costs or just disinterest after such a long wait. Please let me know if you feel that your community is a victim of this torpor.

HCC has been planting trees on highway verges. Some residents aren't happy because they don't want a tree and some want a tree but none has been planted!

To request a tree at <https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/tree-planting>

And to complain, go to <https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/treehedge>

County Councillor Jackie Porter [Jackie.porter@hants.gov.uk](mailto:Jackie.porter@hants.gov.uk)

Tel /text 07973 696085 [www.jackieporter.co.uk](http://www.jackieporter.co.uk)