

## HCC PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER



An update from Hampshire County Council

February 2016

### News for Local Councils

#### Household Waste Recycling Centre consultation 2016



All Hampshire residents will be [asked their views](#) on how savings can best be made in the running of Hampshire's Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) in a county-wide consultation due to be announced in the next few weeks, as the council looks to make further savings due to continued reductions in

Government funding.

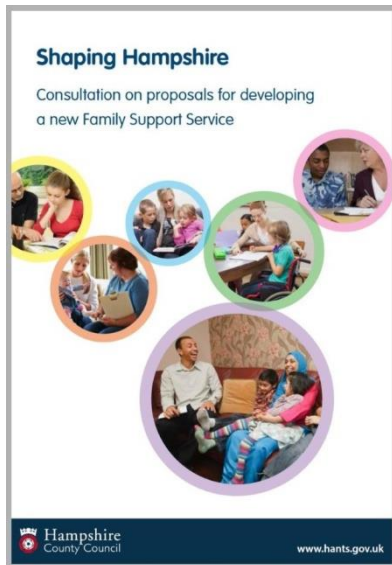
A number of different scenarios around possible changes to the service are being modelled for the consultation, including the possibility of charging for non domestic waste, reducing opening hours and the pattern of sites across the county.

Hampshire's HWRC service currently costs around £11 million a year to run and county and district councils together spend over £100 million each year dealing with waste – this is more than is spent on maintaining the highways and so it is really important to find ways to reduce these costs.

Dates for the consultation on potential changes to the HWRC service will be confirmed later in the year, when the County Council will be keen to hear from as many people as possible about what they think of the different proposals.

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## Views sought on new way to support Hampshire's families in need



A ten week public consultation has opened (23 February 2016), on proposals for developing a new, single, integrated [Family Support Service](#) that would bring together the work of early help hubs, children's centre services and youth support services, while aligning closely with the Supporting (Troubled) Families Programme.

Health professionals, voluntary organisations, residents and other stakeholders are being asked to give their views on the proposals - that aim to transform and modernise existing early help services for families in need - by **midday on 3 May 2016**.

More information can be found in the Family Support Service [consultation document](#). If you would like to make your views known, please complete the Family Support Service [consultation questionnaire](#).

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## Hampshire and the Isle of Wight's Devolution proposals



Hampshire and the Isle of Wight's [devolution proposals](#) focus around four key themes: supporting business and skills; accelerating housing delivery; investing in infrastructure; and transforming public services.

Within these themes, projects would deliver on the government's productivity plans, including rural and ensure: homes are built more quickly with extra protection for Hampshire's green spaces; further expansion of broadband; better mobile connectivity; improved transport connections and more integrated public transport; a more highly-skilled workforce with employers setting the skills agenda locally; higher employment and better wages.

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## A budget for difficult times – Hampshire County Council approves lowest Council Tax rate of all County Councils



Hampshire County Council has approved plans which, despite the first increase by the Authority in six years, will see Hampshire residents pay the lowest rate of Council Tax of all county councils nationally.

The increase has been necessary to close Hampshire's £81.5 million funding gap in 2016/17 - resulting from the Government changing its funding formula to local authorities. The Government formula led to a massive and unexpected reduction in Hampshire's grant for the coming financial year, and assumed that local authorities would raise Council Tax to pay for the growing social care needs of elderly residents, and ease the burden on the NHS.

To help close the funding gap in the County Council's budget, its share of the Council Tax precept will increase by 3.99% from April (the first Council Tax increase in six years), and greater use will be made of the Authority's reserves (£45 million). The Council Tax increase is the maximum amount permissible, and 2% of this total sum will support the delivery of adult social care. This financial strategy was supported by the majority of people responding to the County Council's public consultation in the summer. The decision means that for the year beginning 1 April 2016, the County Council's precept will be £1,079.28 at Band D – the equivalent of an extra £41.40 for the year 2016/17, or just under 80 pence extra per week.

For more information visit the [County Council's website](#).

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## Keeping Hampshire Moving through the winter



Hampshire's highways teams have dealt with many different issues caused by the weather in the past few weeks, with extra crews always ready on standby if need be. The cold and wet conditions this winter mean that timings of salt runs are very important to ensure that salt spread has a chance to prevent ice forming on the road before it is washed away. Salt wicks help with this - hessian bags full of salt which are placed at sites

where water is known to flow onto the road from adjacent land. As the water passes through the salt wick, it increases in salinity and helps prevent ice forming.

Storm Imogen kept arboriculture teams particularly busy as they worked round the clock to keep the roads clear of fallen trees and branches, and the recent high levels of the Lymington River coupled with intense rainfall was dealt with by extra tankers and highways crews, working through the night to ensure the roads around Brockenhurst were passable again as soon as possible.

Any problems on the roads can be [reported online](#)

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## Hampshire's Walking Strategy in place



A [walking strategy](#) has been established by Hampshire County Council, which aims to make walking accessible to all, particularly to support continuous journeys and independent mobility. It will serve as a guide across the council when decisions or policies are developed which affect

walking in Hampshire.

This follows [public consultation](#) last year, which showed that 84% of the individuals or organisations who responded agreed with the overall aspirations of the strategy to help people better access walking routes and promote walking as an everyday lifestyle choice.

It will sit alongside the Hampshire [Countryside Access Plan](#), which focusses on the rights of way network, and also supports the Living Well priority of the [Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2013-2018](#)

Work will now begin to identify additional sources of funding which could be applied to investments in walking, as well as looking at opportunities to add value to wider County Council initiatives by incorporating walking measures.

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## Neighbourhood Planning in Hampshire





The neighbourhood planning process is a way for local communities to have a greater say in where they live and work. At the end of last year, all neighbourhood planning bodies in Hampshire received the new [Neighbourhood Planning in Hampshire](#) document from the County Council.

The document is a guide for Neighbourhood Planning bodies in Hampshire (officially designated Neighbourhood Forums, Parish Councils or Town Councils) to understand Hampshire County Council's role in the Neighbourhood Planning Process and help those interested in preparing a Neighbourhood Plan to quickly identify what information, guidance, help and support can be provided by the County Council.

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## Appeal for more school governors



Schools across Hampshire are looking for people willing and able to work with education professionals to improve outcomes for children.

Hampshire County Council is holding an information event on **Tuesday 8 March 2016**, at **St Mary's Church**, Goat Lane in Basingstoke, from **10am – 6.30pm**, for anyone interested in becoming a school governor, where they will get the opportunity to find out more about the role and talk informally with some school governors and Governor Services staff.

Those unable to attend the information event or interesting in finding out more can contact Governor Services on 01962 845706 or visit the [Governor Services webpages](#)

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## Blood in pee? Talk to your GP



Hampshire County Council is supporting the NHS 'Be Clear on Cancer' campaign - '[Blood in Pee](#)'. In Hampshire, around 400 new cases of kidney and bladder cancer are diagnosed each year. If you notice

blood in your pee even if it is 'just the once' you should tell your doctor and this is a key symptom of both cancers.

Early diagnosis means that the chances of treatment being successful are dramatically improved. Bladder and kidney cancers affect both men and women. In Hampshire, twice as many males are diagnosed with kidney and bladder cancers than females and most of those diagnosed are over 50.

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## Working to help beat loneliness



Hampshire County Council's Wellbeing team, has been trained by the charity [Campaign to End Loneliness](#) to help combat loneliness amongst older people.

They will now share their training with community partners, practitioners, professionals and individuals in an effort to raise awareness of the impact of loneliness and isolation and attempt to prevent or reduce it.

According to research carried out by the Campaign to End Loneliness, in the United Kingdom:

- 17% of older people are in contact with family, friends and neighbours less than once a week and 11% are in contact less than once a month.
- Over half (51%) of all people aged 75 and over live alone.
- Two fifths all older people (about 3.9 million) say the television is their main company.

Research shows that loneliness and social isolation are harmful to health: lacking social connections is a comparable risk factor for early death as smoking 15 cigarettes a day, and is worse for us than well-known risk factors such as obesity and physical inactivity.

Hampshire County Council already has some measures in place to ensure older people are not left isolated and lonely and are able to maintain active, healthy and independent lifestyles.

These include [Meals on Wheels](#), provided by Apetito, and the [Food and Friendship Service](#). Both services ensure older people have a hot, healthy meal and some contact during their day.

There is a growing movement bringing a sense of community to retired men the [Men's Shed](#) movement – that is helping combat social isolation.

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## Planning ahead for increased cost of school meals



A small increase in the price of a school meal has been agreed by Hampshire County Council, to come in to effect on 11 April 2016 - the first increase in six years.

To meet the rising costs of providing school meals, the 10p increase takes the cost per meal to £2.10. The price continues to represent good value for money for a two course, freshly cooked school meal.

Over 70,000 healthy school meals are served in Hampshire's primary and secondary schools across the county, daily. All HC3S school meals meet the Department for Education's rules for healthy school dinners and HC3S has worked with schools, pupils and parents for over 20 years, to create menus that are varied and follow the guiding principles of healthy eating.

Menus also adhere to the Hyperactive Children's Support Group's recommendations to remove over 70 additives and colourings that could affect children's behaviour.



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