

November 2024

Highways Updates:

Barriers to cycling and walking.

Hampshire County Council are carrying out an audit of accessibility and connectivity across the county.

The survey is aimed at identifying issues with accessibility and connectivity for walking and cycling. This is part of Hampshire County Council's commitment to improving accessibility and encouraging more people to walk and cycle for short journeys.

The survey closes just before midnight on 22 December 2024.

Please click on the scheme web page to access the survey:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/transportchemes/barriers-walking-cycling>

Reporting Highway Problems

Links to report road issues are here:

Potholes: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/potholes>

Tree/hedge problems:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/treehedge>

Flooding/drainage issues:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/flooding>

Pavement problems:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/paving>

Problems with rights of way:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/rightsofway/reportaproblem>

When reporting an issue, you'll be sent an email confirming a reference number for the report. If you would like me to follow this up for you then do please forward that message to me and I will chase for you



Barriers to walking and cycling

Have your say between
28 October and 22 December

As part of Hampshire County Council's commitment to improve accessibility and enable more people to walk and cycle for short journeys, you are invited to help us identify where there are barriers to walking and cycling on your local streets.

We want to hear from all walkers and cyclists, including people who use mobility aids (including mobility scooters), pushchairs or buggies, people who use cargo bikes and trailers, or other adapted cycles.

Have your say

The survey is open from **28 October at noon until 22 December at 11.59pm.**
For more information, and to complete the survey:
Visit: [hants.gov.uk/barriers-walking-cycling](https://www.hants.gov.uk/barriers-walking-cycling)
Email: engagement.feedback@hants.gov.uk
Phone number: 0300 555 1388

HCC Savings Proposals – HWRCs and School Crossing Patrols saved.

HCC cabinet voted to reject proposals to close local Household Waste and Recycling Centres and remove School Crossing Patrols at the budget meeting on 14th October..

The 12 HWRC sites at Aldershot, Bordon, Romsey, Hedge End, Marchwood, Petersfield, Somerley, Alresford, Bishops Waltham, Fair Oak, Hartley Wintney and Hayling Island will remain fully open.

The County Council has bold plans to improve recycling across Hampshire in the next four years, Cabinet felt that any change to the HWRC network needed to be taken into account alongside these emerging schemes.

Cabinet also rejected plans to remove School Crossing Patrols from 17 locations across the county in the meeting on 14th October.

Instead a review will begin into more than 170 school crossing patrol sites to identify whether hard crossings could be eventually be installed as an alternative to manned crossings as and when the posts become vacant.

The review will start with the more than 30 sites where a school crossing patrol should be in place, but the Council have been unable to recruit to the role.

Although school crossing patrols are a lovely, traditional way for school children to cross the road -it is unreliable. Ever fewer people wish to undertake the role. Investment in formal crossings will ensure our children's safety for years to come.

2024 Budget

This is the statement of the HCC leader, Nick Adams King.

"This was a deeply disappointing budget for Hampshire County Council, for local growth and for our businesses.

The extra £1.3 billion for local government is like a few grains of sand when distributed across England but the fact the government has said it will be targeted means we cannot rely on it and I fear much will go to the midlands and the north.

Instead, we will have to grapple with added costs due to this budget. The huge increase in employer National Insurance contributions will cost the council millions, and while Government say it is funded, that is part of the extra local government funding so is in effect an extra burden. The effect of the national living wage rising way above inflation will also likely increase our costs substantially. We simply cannot afford this.

The Local Government Association said before the budget that local authorities were facing a £2.3 billion gap in 2025-26 to stand still. What the Chancellor has done is offer a totally inadequate sum -

even if we receive our fair share of it. Then, almost immediately, she has hit us with increased operating costs. Our budget deficit will remain unless we are given the tools to decide how to spend and raise our money. We should not be forced to operate via government diktat and increased budget ring fencing or with second class status while money heads to other areas. Sadly, there was nothing concrete in the Budget to help us despite me writing to the Chancellor spelling out the situation and how we could improve it if we were given the powers to innovate through less central control of funding and reform of how councils operate. The only good news is extra money for schools and children's social care but they are relatively small sums and, again, we simply cannot rely on it coming to Hampshire, if the government is looking to push funding to other areas.

The extra money for SEND, which is a huge issue for Hampshire, is a drop in the ocean compared to the pressure we face, if shared equally it will turn a deficit next year of £90m into one of £70-75m, so hardly a 'rescue package'!

I just don't see how this government is investing for growth in Hampshire. It has announced it will cease funding for the functions previously delivered by Local Enterprise Partnerships and the Business Board Network. None of this will drive good, local economic decision making. Junction 8 of the M27 is now forever cancelled as an 'unfunded and unaffordable' in another blow to our local infrastructure.

Finally, I have to say, I am hugely concerned for our farmers, who have been treated terribly by the budget. As a former small business owner, I am also horrified for those who own their own businesses - they are the backbone of our local economy and must be devastated. I think the national insurance tax raid on working people and businesses will be disastrous, not just here in Hampshire, but across the country."

Funding for disease-resistant elm trees

Hampshire Forest Partnership has funding available to give away different variants of disease resistant elms (bare root and pot grown).

Farmers and landowners are eligible to apply and can specify preferred tree sizes. The land need not be publicly accessible, but the Partnership prefers locations where people will be able to see the elms once they grow to maturity - for example in fields, hedgerows or boundaries viewable from a road, footpath or viewpoint.

They prefer locations out of woodlands, and the trees must be allowed to grow to full maturity.

Further information can be found here: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/.../peopl.../disease-resistant-elms>

Please contact treeplanting@hants.gov.uk for an application form.



HAMPSHIRE FOREST PARTNERSHIP

a legacy in leaves

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DISEASE-RESISTANT ELM TRIALS

Join our trial and claim your free trees to take part

The English countryside was once dominated by elms, stately giants that watched over our landscape, providing a beauty of form and grace unique to these glorious trees. Since the 1960s, they have been ravaged by Dutch elm disease, a disease that was accidentally introduced to Europe in the early 20th century. The disease is caused by a pathogenic microfungus carried by two species of elm bark beetle and has killed nearly all the mature elms in Britain, an estimated toll of 60-100 million trees.

The elm was historically one of the six major trees within our woodlands, widely used in landscaping and hosts more than 80 species of invertebrate, including several rare moths and the now endangered white-letter hairstreak butterfly.

We are trialling several different elm varieties that have been developed by specialised breeding programmes, with initial findings suggesting these cultivars can resist the disease and establish well. The planting locations are being mapped to help record future growth patterns, ability to resist the disease and how well the elms support biodiversity and nature recovery.



Nominate a rural business for The Countryside Alliance Awards?

The Countryside Alliance is seeking to find the best rural businesses in the country who go the extra mile for their customers and communities.

They will be presenting awards in the following categories:

- Village shop / Post Office
- Rural enterprise
- Pub
- Local food and drink
- Butcher

Anyone can nominate a local rural business, by going to: <https://www.countryside-alliance.org/awards>

Nominees simply have to explain why the business is special and deserves to be recognised, highlighting how the business champions local producers and makes a real contribution to the community. Nominations must be received by Sunday 17 November.

General HCC Information –

WORK STARTING ON ‘ALL WEATHER’ POPULAR HAYLING BILLY TRAIL

Work has begun to upgrade the Hayling Billy Trail, on Hayling Island in Havant, with an all-weather surface, making it easier for walkers, cyclists, mobility scooter users and horse riders to use in all seasons throughout the year

[Work starting on ‘all weather’ popular Hayling Billy Trail | Hampshire County Council \(hants.gov.uk\)](#)

STILL TIME TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF AFFORDABLE RENEWABLE ENERGY AS DEADLINE EXTENDS

With more than 4,900 households in Hampshire expressing interest in the latest opportunity to benefit from more affordable solar energy, Solar together Hampshire is extending its registration deadline

[Still time to take advantage of affordable renewable energy as deadline extends | Hampshire County Council \(hants.gov.uk\)](#)

HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY HAMPSHIRE LIBRARIES!

This autumn Hampshire Libraries is marking its centenary of providing a public library service in the county, and residents are invited to join the celebrations. Whether that's by attending an event at one of the County Council's 40 libraries, contributing to a 'letter to libraries' display or enjoying one of the books in the special collection

[Happy 100th birthday Hampshire Libraries! | Hampshire County Council \(hants.gov.uk\)](#)

GREEN LIGHT FOR M27 JUNCTION 10 IMPROVEMENT SCHEME AS HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL CONFIRMS FULL GO-AHEAD

Hampshire County Council has announced that the M27 Junction 10 improvement scheme is full steam ahead following the completion of formal funding agreements with Buckland Group, the developer of Welborne Garden Village, and Homes England

[Green light for M27 Junction 10 improvement scheme as Hampshire County Council confirms full go-ahead | Hampshire County Council](#)