

## County Council Report for Parishes September 2017

### **County Matters:**

Budgets are being presented for the different departments in the next two months- the austerity measures and cuts imposed by central Government on local authorities mean that this will continue to reduce services to those which are statutory only. Many departments are being registered charities (eg: sport, arts and culture(museums) and this trend seems to be continuing. The county is also working for other authorities: this can put pressure on staff as they cover a wider role. Please let me know if responses take longer than you'd expect: I may know another person to chase up the query.

**Road maintenance:** one victim of 'austerity measures' seems to be the new road maintenance contract. Skanska are the new contractors as of August, and to achieve the cost savings, the new times for repair are now up to 2 months for 'minor repairs' and up to 6 months for those which are less serious (eg flooding drains). (these longer deadlines replace shorter deadlines with the previous contractor).

So, please report any problems promptly and take up the offer of a regular session with Ray Gardner, your Highway Engineer to look at your parish, and use me to elevate persistent or expensive problems. I carry out a 'drive round' with Ray every three months, usually based on a theme, but your local one can be much more specific. His email is [Raymond.gardner@hants.gov.uk](mailto:Raymond.gardner@hants.gov.uk).

**School places** are becoming ever more limited- and development is creating more pressure. Please consider this seriously in any response to planning applications, because CIL can be allocated to school place planning if necessary. I can provide local school positions if necessary. The deadline for a new H/T applications for Kings Barton Academy (primary) is 29<sup>th</sup> September, to set up the new school.

The County's consultation on **Respite Care for Disabled children** continues this month. Please encourage Residents to have their say: it isn't a 'done deal' at all. You may have family members who are affected by this in other areas of the country: please let me know any lessons they have learned too.

**Boomtown** traffic disruption was serious again this year, more so on Thursday than the Monday this time. A licence for 15,000 on each of the three days for the Motocross in Sept/Oct has been granted. I hear little from Residents about disruption from Car Fest. I would be interested to compare the traffic management arrangements and local feedback with you. I hasten to add that complaints are far outweighed by compliments, but that is no reason not to try to reduce congestion and disruption to residents. The Wash Up 'Drop In' on the 12<sup>th</sup> September is at 6.30pm at ARC, Alresford.

**Elderly Care:** HCC is leading the country in a new service 'Amazon Echo', designed to help people stay in their own homes.

The **Countryside Access Forum** is hosted by HCC and has representatives of varying interests. It meets regularly (4 times per year) during the day and looks at new paths, maintenance, strategic plan for Hampshire owned countryside etc. Meetings are public and cover a wide range of issues. As Parishes, you may be interested in going to speak to the Forum. It is a useful way to communicate concerns or ideas. I understand they are looking for new members (for a 3 year term) If you would like to know more, please contact Petronella Natrass at HCC.

### **Jackie Porter**

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