

Sorry- this is a long update this month...

20mph Review

This has now been completed by 'pilot villages' and town areas and we are awaiting a report on the matter. After that I should be able to give a clear guidance to all villages hoping for a 20mph limit.

M3 Junction 9: you have until the 19th Feb to make your responses: go to www.highways.gov.uk/m3j9
I particularly want to raise the profile of this with villages who feed into this junction, and who suffer the impact of delays on the A34/M3. When I spoke to the Project Manager, he seemed curiously unaware of the problems in our community when either of these roads are blocked. The challenge is to solve this too.

Winchester Movement strategy- funded by HCC and WCC

Councillors are being briefed on 20th Feb. I will update you after the meeting.

Flooding- conversations are continuing. If your Parish has an emergency plan for flooding, please could I have a copy or link? I have committed to ensuring all of these are updated with relevant and current information as part of the deal to sort out flooding mitigation in our communities. Whilst these plans don't solve the water arriving, they can help reduce the impact and stress that it causes.

Thank you. Please email your current plan to me on Jackie.porter@hants.gov.uk

County Council Tax -5.99% increase

Following permission to increase the Council Tax by an additional 1% for social care authorities, the proposed HCC increase is 5.99%. The financial and staffing toll on Social Services as the population grows older, and more children are reported as 'at risk' is explained in the Cabinet paper:

Significant funds (around £40m) have been taken from reserves to shore up these services, community buses, what school crossing patrols are left and our recycling centres, but even the paper describes the temporary reprieve: there isn't that sum in the free reserves to do this year on year. FYI: 1% = £5.7m

There is a new parent support group for parents and carers have been bereaved by suicide.

Go to www.theredlipstickfoundation.org

River quality: the EA has received a renewal request from Bakkavor. This affects east side of the division only: more details on request.

Tidying up your village this year?

This year's **Great British Spring Clean will take place from 2nd – 4th March**. As in previous years it will be supported by WCC and its' street cleaning contractor ID Verde by providing free equipment, safety clothing and litter sack collections. Register to take part by emailing Katie Lynas on Katie.Lynas@idverde.co.uk. She will register your interest and then be in touch regarding the final arrangements. You will also be issue with safety guidelines on how to carry out litter picks, particularly when they be near to traffic. If you are interested in the National Campaign further details can be found at <http://www.keepbritaintidy.org/get-involved/support-our-campaigns/great-british-spring-clean> This event has proved both incredibly popular and successful over the last few years and I have no doubt that it will be the same again in 2018 so please forward on to your networks of contacts.

Update on SDNPA Local Plan

SDNPA will present the final version of the Local Plan to the National Park Authority Meeting on 22 March and will submit it to the Secretary of State for examination by the end of March. They will also submit all evidence documents including all the responses received to the Pre-Submission Consultation in both their original and summarised form. SDNPA will make all these documents available online and in printed form.

If you have signed up to the consultation database you will receive confirmation when this happens. Once the Local Plan has been submitted, the Secretary of State will designate a Planning Inspector to hold an examination into the Local Plan. Everyone on the Local Plan database will receive a letter or email when the dates of the public hearings are known. [Sign up to the Local Plan list](#)
Meanwhile, you can sign up for updates on the WCC local plan online. I hope all Parishes will do that.

Boomtown

You will know by now that the Boomtown (reduced number) Licensing application has been approved. The conditions are improved, and it is subject to a successful planning application. Following the very strong Police, WCC and public objections, which led to a pre-licensing meeting 'change of heart' from Boomtown, the conditions place a much greater role on Boomtown to manage the drugs, the mental health of those on and offsite, and the sound past 11pm, with no noise off site on Wednesday, or lighting or sound after midnight on Sunday, as well as placing constraints on the traffic management and numbers to +5000, +1000 on Sunday. This seems to be the most pragmatic solution, though, frankly, I still expect traffic issues.

Concessionary Travel Bus Passes expiring 31 March 2018 should be arriving on doorsteps before that date. Any queries to concessionary.fares@hants.gov.uk or call 0300 222 1376

Closure of Merrydale and Sunbeams Respite Care for disabled children

I challenged the decision called a 'call-I' but the challenge was rejected and the closure will still go ahead. I am told that our close scrutiny of the process will lead to a better follow up with parents: I hope so. Merrydale in Kings Worthy is expected to close by May. I have high hopes that staff-who are experienced and highly employable, will find similar work easily.

Buses:

The County usually spends the bus 'pay back fee' on infrastructure improvements (eg: bus stops, signage etc). Because of the risk to rural services, the proposal is to use the funds to 'prop up' the service subsidies going forward. We await details. This sounds like good news for the 67, the Sunday services in general and the 86.

The Spring Bus- following complaints by KWPC, and many residents who live locally, I have taken up the matter with Strategic Transport at HCC-awaiting clear reply.

Lengthsman contracts- for all users, both Preston Candover and Uplands groups:

I asked for dates that you might be free last month, and a few of you replied, but then HCC put another paper to Cabinet which seemed to repeat the promises of Feb 2017! Mike Pillans of HCC has offered to meet all of us to discuss the matters we have raised before, so we can resolve them and to talk through how the changes will occur and also to tell us about the training courses available for lengthsman and examples of good practice.

This sounds more useful. I would like to propose w/c Feb 26th to do this. He cannot do Wednesdays. Can I suggest either Monday 26th Feb during the day or Thursday 1st March early evening 5-7pm?

School transport and places

Worthy Down Housing is coming onstream, and a new cycle/footpath is being constructed from Worthy Down to South Wonston school which should be ready for the Summer Term, taking away the need for children to be transported by bus.

Barton Farm Affordable housing is starting to fill. School places needed are being watched carefully.

The Old Alresford Footpath 15 issue is being taken to School Transport as a potential funding stream to upgrade the path, especially for rainy days, when in practice the path becomes pretty much impassable for schoolchildren at the south end.

Jackie Porter, County Councillor, Itchen Valley Division, City Councillor, The Worthys

