

## County Councillor Jackie Porter's report to Parish Councils for April 2022

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### **Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)**

The Hampshire Police and Crime Commissioner, Donna Jones has opened a 'call for evidence' to hear the thoughts, views and experiences of residents and practitioners in relation to Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) here in Hampshire and on the Isle of Wight. This call for evidence is open until April 18th 2022 11.59pm.

The aims and objectives of this call for evidence are to better understand the true scale and extent of VAWG and its impact upon individuals, their families and communities, to hear people's experience of the reporting process, to understand support service capacity and to identify examples of best practice and what is working well locally.

To complete the survey, visit: <http://s.alchemer.eu/s3/Public-VAWG-Survey-2022> Thank you

### **Broadband**

Regretfully, the Scrutiny with Openreach & BDUK due to be held 3<sup>rd</sup> March was postponed until June.

### **County Council on-street parking**

The County Council made a decision to take back all on street parking, with on street meters in market towns, limiting the free period to 20 mins, and then charging. This decision has been 'called in' by County Councillors on that committee, supported by your local councillors. Information will be forwarded as soon as available.

### **County Council planning and regulatory matters:**

- **Ecogen:** the matter is still not resolved, and Ecogen is responding to HCC objections. Likely date for decision now not until June earliest.
- **Inert Waste site:** This Public Inquiry appeal takes place 10<sup>th</sup> May for 4 days. It is expected that the outcome will be announced in July.
- **HWRC update:** Pedestrian access at Alresford HWRC has been confirmed on 2 days per week: I continue to ask for full cycle/pedestrian access and repeated access during slot times, better cardboard recycling and other improvements at all HWRC's.
- **Minerals and Waste plan update:** we are still awaiting the consultation. I will be raising the issue of oil extraction/fracking licences, waste transfer vs waste recycling, formal identification of land available for waste sites, and the impact of lorry movements. If there are other issues, please let me know
- **School numbers for entry** at infant level is low in September 2022. This ties in with the low numbers predicted for 2022 until 2024.
- **Good news!** Barton Farm School, designed by HCC, has received an award from RIBA.

### **Highways**

There has been a highways leaflet sent out by HCC. Recent innovations include bollards made of sugar cane. Lighting will be dimmed by 65% to reduce cost of electricity. I remain concerned that this is too low a light level to avoid trips and falls, and ensure public safety (see my first paragraph). I'd welcome views.

**Leaders Grant scheme:** Local groups are encouraged to apply to Leader's Community Grants Scheme for support with community projects

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/24032022communitygrant>

## **Social care:**

*Adult services:* Cuts proposed to delivery of social care grants: Live at Home scheme, Citizens Advice, homeless services. These are being vigorously contested.

*Children's Services:* HCC benefitting from share of additional Household Support Fund announced in the Spring statement: HCC follows guidance: every child that receives Free School Meals during the term (incl 6<sup>th</sup> form, early years too) is entitled to a £15 per week voucher in the school holidays; to be issued via schools

## **I have given the following grants under County Cllr grant scheme in 2021-22, totalling £8000**

Citizens Advice	Improved client access	£500	Across division
Unit 12 CIC	BeWYSE youth advice website	£600	Across district, including division
Swan Bowlers	Royce Bowls Wheelchair for disabled users	£800	For bowlers of all ages in district/division
Community Heartbeat Trust	To renovate a Telephone box to hold a Community Defibrillator box	£950	Alresford, Meryon Road
Micheldever Youth club	Funding for trips out to restore confidence after Covid	£814	Micheldever
Winchester Castle Football Club	Football funding scheme	£500	Division and district
Read Easy Winchester	To provide training for more volunteer teachers	£120	Division and district
MHA Communities	Supported singing for over 60's	£800	Division and district
Itchen Valley Parish Council	Plant a tree for the Jubilee	£200	Itchen Valley
Micheldever Parish Council	Platinum Jubilee Parish Celebrations	£400	Micheldever
Itchen Valley News	Laptop for new chief editor	£400	Itchen Valley
Wessex Cancer Trust	Hosting virtual events using ipads	£490	Division and district
Friends of Perins association	Perins wellbeing garden	£650	Perins, Alresford
Worthys Youth football	Pitch maintenance at Micheldever	£500	Worthys/Micheldever
Home start Winchester TBC	To support start up of 2 new groups in Kings Worthy	£276	Division, Kings Worthy

**Please start thinking about the next round which starts 1<sup>st</sup> June 2022!**

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/community/grants/grants-list/county-councillor>



## Winchester Council April 2022



### Phosphate pollution

On March 16th Natural England dropped without any warning a major bombshell by releasing new guidance and evidence on the problem excess phosphate in waste water is having in the Solent. This problem is similar to the problem of excess nitrates in the Solent. The end result is excessive algae bloom and excessive seaweed growth which kills off fish and invertebrates at the lower end of the food chain. The mudflats of the Solent are a vital source of food for both migrating and local birdlife. In short, a serious problem that can also impact on human health.

It also, of course, adversely affects our rivers! It will be no surprise to any of you that the phosphates from existing housing will dwarf those from new homes.

The logic is that new residential development adds to the excessive phosphate due to the wastewater that is produced. Planning authorities within the River Itchen catchment area are required to calculate the impact the nutrients will have on the Solent. Planning permission will only be granted for new residential development where the phosphate as well as the nitrate impact has been addressed.

The River Itchen catchment area does not cover the whole district so that areas outside the catchment are not affected. The catchment extends into Basingstoke and Eastleigh, which allows a collective approach. The solution developed for excess nitrate can perhaps be used as a model, for the nitrates problem a system of mitigation was set up, in which developers bought credits.

The problem is now that the council cannot progress planning decisions until the full impact of more wastewater is understood. The Council has a statutory obligation to follow the most up-to-date guidance provided by Natural England in determining applications. The immediate impact is going to be a delay in new planning applications and the secondary impact is going to be an increased cost for developers. Neither of these is good news. The government took almost a year to address the problem of high levels of nitrates, so it is likely that the phosphate problem may take a similar time.

Furthermore, this problem is going to impact on the programme for the developing Local Plan. Two aspects against which the Local Plan will be judged, the five year supply of building land and the viability are going to be affected.

Methods exist to reduce the level of phosphates being released from sewage treatment plants back into rivers. These can be either chemical or biological solutions such as reed beds. Both solutions are difficult to implement particularly in smaller Water Treatment Plants. There has been chronic under investment on water infrastructure leading to sewage overflows after heavy rain into rivers. Human waste in raw sewage also contains high levels of phosphates. Lack of proper investment in modern phosphate removal and recovery has led to excess levels of phosphate in discharged water. Privatisation was supposed to lead to investment into the industry, something that clearly hasn't happened.

One of the main causes of high levels of phosphates in domestic waste water is the excessive use of cleaning products and detergents containing phosphates. Collectively we can all help to reduce the problem at source by cutting out any cleaning products that contain phosphates.

The WCC planners are working with other to develop solutions. We will keep you informed.



## Winchester Council April 2022



### News from the Doorsteps

**The costs of heating and food** are a grave concern to those on limited incomes and existing measures will not address any but the short-term issues of affordability. We are encouraging those that do not currently claim any form of benefits to see if they can claim, it opens up so many other doors.

The **20's plenty** campaign is very popular, and for so many keeping to existing 30mph limits would be a blessed relief. We would encourage you to endorse a form of the resolution to Hampshire County Council on this matter.

**Community SpeedWatch** in Alresford has ceased due a lack of administrators. Margot is one of the volunteers and found it a positive experience. Perhaps we need an Itchen Valley wide pool of volunteers?

**Trees** are a mixed blessing for those that live very close. Many of those in the town are coming to the end of their life and being replaced with more appropriate species, and some action is being taken where pavements have been made impassable

**Next Steps for Sun Lane.** There are omissions in the construction management plan, we are working with officers to have those incorporated to the approved version in the interests of protecting residents from undue nuisance.

**Unsafe conditions for pedestrians** through town and villages are widespread. Some recent work on Broad Street is of such poor standard that it has been reported again. Some good news, the sinkhole at the bottom of The Dean has had some material packed in, but we suspect it may be washed away before it is capped.

The normal plethora of **missing and damaged road signs** have been reported.

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**Bishop's Sutton Footpath.**

Here is the update on all the activities I have been undertaking during this year and up-to-date on this issue.

1. Waking and measuring of the footpath with 2 other members of Bishop's Sutton parish councillor an enhanced path ,wider and on one side with clear crossing points.
2. Discussions with portfolio holder and officers at HCC to secure funding.
3. Meeting organised with Bisho's Sutton and NATC representatives to review options for potential joint CIL funding project.
4. Gaining funding under the 106 set aside for enhancement
5. Cutting of the grass
6. Getting extra funding for cutting back of the path
7. Feasibility study undertaken to see what the cost would be for the enhanced proposal
8. With the costs in excess of any potential CIL monies to top up the 106 monies, I asked the lead officer to produce a plan to look at different options that could be achieved on one side of the footpath (Longbarn side) as the other side is not suitable. These are now complete.

**UKRAINIAN ASSISTANCE - update**

I welcomed 2more Ukrainian families to our ward this month. It's been a fantastic effort across our ward of host applications and offers of support. Winchester District is the second highest in the Uk for hosting applications and that should make us very proud. I was the only City Cllr to attend the Alresford Host-for Ukrainians meeting this month. Pleasure to give my support to help get our arriving guests settled into this fantastic community as soon as possible.

- I have written over 5 letters to key Directors and others of StagecoachBus over the last month to ask about a free 6 month free travel. As many of our more rural areas have empty seats, its not costing Stagechoach any more.



- I was the only WCC councillor to attend the Ukrainian refugee guest and host meeting in Winchester. I spent a lot of time ensuring pathways to employment and communication of vacancies within our local groups. Linking in the the Chamber of Commerce locally and Hampshire, and other business groups (eg Winchester BID)

### **Grass Cutting**

Sadly I have had to raise some issues with the lead officer relating to some areas. I have asked for a copy of the approx timings of the cuts. It was agreed that we will receive as a minimum 9 safety cuts within project areas. Sadly some were not done (Various reasons). These areas have been passed onto the team and unfortunately, 2 weeks later, have not been addressed. After further discussions, they have raised this for action. I am concerned about visibility as some areas are on junctions and bends. If the Sitaline cuts are done, then I believe it will make all the difference on these areas.

### **Sunlane recreation park**

Some residents asked when or if the other park will get improvements. They acknowledge that NATC's enhancement plans for Stratton Bates.