

COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT TO EAST TISTED PARISH COUNCIL

28 NOVEMBER 2017

1. Serving Hampshire consultation

At the Full Council meeting on 2 November 2017 the County Council approved a report on implementation of £140m of savings. In the short term, this involves some immediate spending on IT investment in order to gain efficiencies. HCC will also be investing in more social workers with a view to better supporting troubled families and thereby reducing the number of children taken into care. In the medium-term, the detailed cost savings as a whole are subject to further consultation and executive decision-making. A detailed public consultation is now expected in the New Year. Two further points are worth noting:

- Councillors have backed a new £500,000 fund to help Parish and Town Councils to provide more services themselves. This could for example help increase the frequency of grass verge cutting or could help with purchasing equipment. Details of the scheme's application process are currently being developed.
- The Council passed a resolution calling on the Government to give Hampshire the powers to undertake a trial scheme that enables the Council to charge OAPs a nominal £10 charge for bus passes. This would raise around £3m and we believe that the public would prefer this charge than to see unviable bus services cut.

The County Council is lobbying Government hard to give us other powers to charge for other services and this campaign has support from several other Shire County Councils.

2. New fund for waste reduction initiatives

Hampshire County Council has launched a new grant fund supporting local communities and organisations to help people reduce waste. To mark European Week for Waste Reduction, the County Council is inviting applications from local organisations for up to £5,000 to support them in delivering projects, products and

services which prevent household waste. At HCC we know that some of the best work in waste reduction goes on at a local level with groups sharing knowledge or providing facilities and we want to encourage these initiatives and inspire more.

Example projects could include (but are not limited to):

- Sharing, hiring and rental services, such as for baby products or home wares and equipment.
- Educational activities on home management, such as cooking, food preparation and storage, sewing and growing your own food
- Community engagement activities to increase awareness, knowledge and understanding of preventing waste, for example events, films and social clubs
- Digital projects that make preventing waste easier or more convenient, such as the development of an app or an online hub
- Repair and upcycling of furniture and other household items
- Redistribution of surplus household food, for example via community fridges
- Introduction of local services that enable waste prevention and reuse, such as community composting and tool libraries

The closing date for applications for the Waste Prevention Community Grant Fund is 31 January 2018.

Applicants are encouraged to discuss potential projects with the County Council's Smart Living team prior to submitting an application. Please contact the team via email: waste.prevention@hants.gov.uk to arrange an informal discussion.

For full eligibility criteria and more information on the Grant, including how to apply, visit:

www3.hants.gov.uk/grants/environment-grants.htm

3. Plans for new assault course at Queen Elizabeth Country Park

A £2m investment program is getting underway at QECP. Up the hill at Juniper car park, the Forts and Fleets project is close to completion. HCC is working with the armed forces to bring military and civilian communities closer together through a shared love of nature and the great outdoors. Armed Forces Covenant Funding is helping us improve the park with a new play area, assault course, community space and dog activity trail. These will be ready early in the New Year.

Meanwhile new plans for the centre are on display. The plans include making the restaurant larger, moving the visitor reception, a flexible hall space and landscaping the front and rear of the building. Any feedback on the plans would be most welcome.

4. New winter fleet keeps Hampshire moving in icy weather

The new Skanska contract for Hampshire Highways which commenced on 1 August 2017 is going really well so far. The latest technology fitted in the new winter fleet means that salting operations are as efficient as possible, that salting is accurate, and there is no salt wasted. Highways teams monitor conditions constantly, from October through to April, and send out the gritters when road surface temperatures are set to hit zero or below, and frost or ice is likely.

The winter vehicles have state-of-the-art Euro VI efficient engines, are fitted with snow ploughs, and with the latest technology, which provides:

- Satnav guidance
- Programmed and automatic salting of roads so that no salt is wasted
- The ability to vary the width of the road treated for more accurate and effective salting
- A record of which roads have been salted and when

Highways teams use localised weather forecasting and roadside weather sensors around the county, constantly monitoring conditions to make decisions about the best time to salt the roads, where to salt and how much salt to use. Road surface and air temperatures, wind speed and direction, rainfall, and ice formation are all important

factors in putting the winter fleet to work. Roads are treated with salt before temperatures drop to freezing to try to stop frost and ice forming. Temperatures and conditions can vary significantly even within one county, so, winter teams look at three distinct weather bands: north, central and coastal. This helps decide when and where to put the winter fleet to work.

Highways crews will always salt Hampshire's main roads first. These 'Priority one' routes cover approximately one third of the county road network but carry the majority of Hampshire's traffic; covering A roads, some B roads, major bus routes, roads to hospitals and other key emergency hubs, large schools and colleges, areas of high traffic concentration and public transport interchanges. During periods of prolonged severe weather, Priority two' routes, which include remaining B roads and single access roads to villages, may also be treated.

HCC has a full stock of salt for the winter, with 20,000 tonnes of salt ready in barns which are strategically placed across Hampshire at Hook, Havant, Bishops Waltham, Weyhill, Totton, Micheldever, Dummer and Petersfield - and stocks are topped up when needed.

During severe weather, everyone can do their bit in their community to keep pavements and smaller roads not covered by the main salting routes clear of ice, by using the salt provided in the blue or yellow community salt bins. There are around 3,700 across Hampshire, and all are now re-stocked and full for the winter. All it takes is about one tablespoon of salt (20 grams) to treat one square metre of road or pavement surface. So, used sparingly, a full salt bin should last through the worst of a severe winter.

Find out more about priority routes and where to find your nearest salt bin on the map at this link:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/severeweather/salting>

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