

Hampshire County Councillor Update 22

Welcome to the March update covering February, Spring is almost here.

Highways Information

Potholes

Last week was the first week since the beginning of December where the number of pothole repairs outnumbered the number of reports. Hopefully the corner has been turned and we can concentrate not only on fixing those needing more permanent repair but also on the 'business as usual' work that has been delayed as a consequence of the bad weather.

A reminder that Hampshire Highways can't fix them unless we know about them, so PLEASE, if you see a pothole in your road or when you are out and about, take a few moments to report it to the [Hampshire County Council](#) online system. The link to do so is here:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/.../roadma.../roadproblems/potholes>

Reporting it here is the best way to ensure it is fixed as quickly as possible.

We prioritise the busiest routes first when fixing issues, so if it's a minor road it may take a longer to get to it, but we will fix it.

A full list of where to report various issues to HCC is below as always.

Braishfield Road/Abbotswood roundabout – road works.

I know that there has been lots of concern at the proposed roadworks to create a new entrance from the Abbotswood roundabout on Braishfield Road into the development being built at Abbotswood House.

3-way temporary traffic signals are currently proposed to be in use on the roundabout from 29/03/2023 to 19/06/2023.

A temporary pedestrian crossing will be placed at the entrance to the Abbotswood estate for pedestrian safety.

I've reflected the concern about the disruption this will cause to the HCC Highways team who deal with issuing permits for roadworks.

I've received confirmation that:

- The developers have been told to shorten the period of time during which the lights will be in place.
- The traffic lights are to be manually controlled at morning and evening peak times to ensure that queues do not build up at busy times.

****Exit from Abbotswood to Woodley Lane****

Lots of people have asked why we can't re-open the exit which was to have been a bus gate onto Woodley Lane for the duration of the work.

I'm afraid the process for doing so would involve consultation and various legal stages, by the time that was completed the work on the roundabout would be (almost) over. So it's not a practical option. Sorry.



January Highways Update

Here is the HCC Highways Update for February, covering January:

Highways Maintenance Newsletter

February 2023



In January, a decision was secured to utilise external funding to ensure that the County Council's parish lengthsman service can be maintained for the coming financial year (2023/24).

The term 'lengthsman' dates back to the 1800s, referring to workers who were responsible for keeping a particular length of road neat and tidy. The modern role of Parish Lengthsman was reintroduced in Hampshire in 2010, in order to give communities more

say in how their local area is maintained.

First trialled in 2010, with just 10 parish councils, the scheme funds a local 'lengthsman' to carry out straightforward and low risk maintenance activities on footways, highways, and rights of way. The work mainly involves jobs that can have a big impact, such as ditch clearing, hedge cutting and sign cleaning. The scheme has since been successful in giving 186 local parish and town councils an opportunity

to prioritise and deliver their own small scale highway maintenance works that will be of high value locally.

As always, we would be very grateful if Members could continue to take any opportunity they may have to remind their town and parish councils, as well as local residents and businesses, to report all road issues using our online reporting tools wherever possible: hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/flooding.

Countywide Statistics for January 2023

1,301

Emergencies attended



2

Operation Resilience schemes completed

15,595

Gullies and other drainage cleared

6,320

Carriageway defects repaired (including potholes)

173

Arboriculture jobs completed

1,174

Square metres of footway repaired/resurfaced

7,038

Heavy Patching Programme

1,246

Other jobs completed (outside of all works shown)



Test Valley Statistics

for January 2023



Please note that the figures quoted accurately reflect the highway maintenance activity carried out in each district area during the previous month. The scale of activity is generally based on a combination of cyclical work (routine), local demand/need (reactive), and the utilisation of asset management principles (planned), rather than a simple distribution across the 11 district areas. This means that the level of activity will vary from district to district each month so the monthly figures should not be compared on a like-for-like basis. Over the course of a typical financial year, maintenance activity will be relatively proportionate across the Hampshire local authority area, recognising that the size of each district area varies.

112



Emergencies attended



504



Gullies and other drainage cleared

817



Carriageway defects repaired (including potholes)

17



Arboriculture jobs completed

9



Square metres of footway repaired/resurfaced



135



Other jobs completed (outside of all works shown)



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

Council Tax

February 23rd was a long day of Council meetings. Almost 5 hours of [Hampshire County Council](#) in Winchester in the morning, followed by 2.5 hours of [Test Valley Borough Council](#) in Andover in the evening.

Both meetings looking at our finances for the year ahead.

The financial situation is such that both Councils have had to increase Council Tax for 2023/24. HCC by 4.99% (2.99% for general costs, 2% for social care).

TVBC have increased their Council Tax by 3.25% which equates to £5 per annum on a Band D home.

Parish precepts differ of course, here are the figures for those in the south of Test Valley:

Parish Precepts 2023/2024				
Parish	2023/2024		2022/2023	% Change
	Precept	Tax at Band D	Last Year Tax	
	£	£	£	
Ampfield	43,085	46.98	45.20	3.94%
Awbridge	12,799	22.98	28.78	-20.16%
Braishfield	22,500	60.48	61.48	-1.61%
Broughton	28,000	49.12	49.91	-1.58%
Chilworth	33,500	49.70	47.97	3.62%
East Dean	1,750	18.62	36.46	-48.94%
East Tytherley	4,435	45.72	46.68	-2.06%
Houghton	14,000	58.58	61.67	-5.02%
King's Somborne	68,471	93.03	88.39	5.25%
Lockerley	22,656	60.58	49.70	21.89%
Longstock	9,000	40.36	38.81	3.98%
Melchet Park & Plaitford	3,600	27.07	27.91	-3.01%
Michelmersh & Timsbury	15,500	34.07	34.52	-1.32%
Mottisfont	7,750	50.65	46.36	9.27%
Nether Wallop	43,350	105.22	106.77	-1.46%
North Baddesley	140,622	56.09	55.98	0.20%
Nursling & Rownhams	69,500	26.75	26.75	-0.01%
Over Wallop	42,000	51.92	52.30	-0.74%
Romsey (former Romsey Extra)		57.01	27.06	110.69%
Romsey (Former Romsey Town)	473,455	57.01	55.81	2.15%
Sherfield English	10,000	28.82	29.85	-3.46%
Stockbridge	22,965	67.94	67.15	1.18%
Upper Clatford	31,469	48.56	49.53	-1.95%
Valley Park	39,000	12.99	12.96	0.23%
Wellow	81,704	53.05	46.19	14.85%
West Tytherley, Frenchmoor & Buckholt	15,300	49.20	49.02	0.36%

Awbridge Neighbourhood Plan

Thanks to everyone who attended the Awbridge Neighbourhood Plan drop-in last month at the village hall. A great turnout by the village. Lovely to see [Caroline Nokes](#) there too.

More importantly thanks to the organisers who put together an excellent presentation. If you didn't manage to come along and would like to have your say there is still time to do so.



Visit the Parish website <http://www.awbridgepc.org.uk/.../awbr.../neighbourhood-plan/> to see the exhibition online.

There is an online feedback form hosted by Survey Monkey, which can be accessed here via this link: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/YZYQCM6>

East Tytherley Neighbourhood Plan

Many of our parishes are either working on, or have already agreed, a Neighbourhood Plan. It's great to see that East Tytherley have joined their number.

East Tytherley Parish Council have submitted an application for the designation of a Neighbourhood Area covering the whole of the parish. The Council has considered the application and approved the designation on 10 February 2023.

The designation of a Neighbourhood Area will enable a Neighbourhood Plan to be prepared for the area. The documents can be found here:

<https://www.testvalley.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planningpolicy/neighbourhood-planning/east-tytherley-neighbourhood-plan>

Waste and Recycling

Part of my role with Hampshire County Council now involves being responsible for the waste and recycling functions of the Council.

The County Council is responsible for processing and disposing of waste. The borough, city and district councils are responsible for the collection of waste.

So, it's to County Council sites that your waste is taken once it's collected from your bin.

I was fortunate enough to be taken this month to see the journey that waste takes. It's fascinating.

Recyclables are processed through Material Recycling Facilities, the main ones being near Alton and Portsmouth. There the recycling is sorted, processed and transferred for re-use elsewhere. What was shocking watching the waste going through the system were the number of items needing removal that could not be recycled.

Hampshire, as everyone knows, is behind the curve in terms of recycling. I completely understand how frustrating it is to see other areas of the country where much more can be recycled and to see those items go into your black bin here.

The reason is the infrastructure in place to process the waste. Hampshire was an early adopter of recycling and our facilities in place in the late 1990s which were cutting edge at the time. However, now they have been surpassed by more sophisticated systems able to process a much wider range of material.



For that reason we are building a new Materials Recycling Facility in Eastleigh which will enable the recycling of very many more items, including tetra paks and plastics. The site will be fully operational in 2025, although Test Valley will begin the introduction of those collections in 2024.

Waste that cannot be recycled currently is not sent to landfill. Instead it is sent to be burnt for energy at facilities in Basingstoke and Marchwood. I visited the Chineham facility in Basingstoke too. Again, the visit was fascinating, learning how the right mix is achieved to maximise energy production, minimise residue and how the output is cleaned to ensure its emissions are safe and do not damage the environment.

Even the ash from the incinerator is processed to reclaim any useful material and recycle it for other uses (like surface material for car parks for example). This results in less than 5% of waste in Hampshire ending up in landfill.



Post-16 Transport Policy Consultation

[Hampshire County Council](#) are consulting on transport arrangements for those travelling to access education in school, college or other education settings.

As part of this year's consultation, we're proposing to increase the parental contribution, in line with the increased costs of running this discretionary service. This is the only proposed change to the policy.

The consultation is open until 11:59pm on Sunday 2 April 2023.

We want to hear from as many people as possible, so please do get involved and have your say before the closing date.

Further information can be found in this news item <https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/20230220post-16transport> which includes the link to the consultation and details of how to submit your feedback

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/aboutthecouncil/haveyoursay/consultations/Post-16-Transport-Policy-for-2023-24>

Comments can also be submitted in writing to: School Transport Team, Elizabeth II Court North, The Castle, Winchester SO23 8UG

Consultation opens on change to Post-16 Transport Policy



Footpath Repairs and Refurbishment

It's the time of year when much work is carried out by HCC to our local footpath network, to get it ready for the spring and summer.

News therefore of the closure of local footpaths being repaired and improved.

The footpath which runs parallel to the A3057 from Fishlake Cottage (just behind the old World of Water site) toward Greatbridge is being closed from today (March 5th) until 1st May, or once the works are completed, whichever is first.

The works being undertaken are footpath repair and the installation of a boardwalk along part of the route.



TEMPORARY CLOSURE PART OF ROMSEY FOOTPATH 9

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Hampshire County Council has made an Order under Section 14(1)a of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, to allow for works in connection with a surfacing improvement project as follows:

ROAD TO BE CLOSED: PART OF ROMSEY FOOTPATH 9

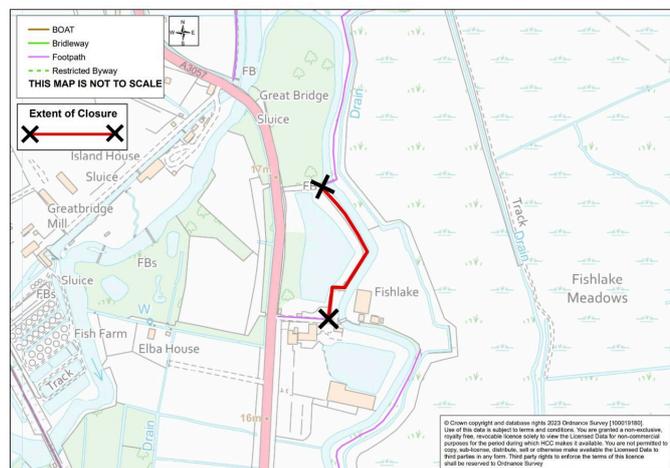
ALTERNATIVE ROUTE: No alternative route available

PERIOD OF CLOSURE: From 05.03.2023 until 01.05.2023 or until completion of the works, whichever is sooner.

Reasonable facilities will be provided to allow access to adjacent premises while the work is being carried out.

For information visit www.hants.gov.uk/publicnotices, contact the Countryside Access Team on 0300 555 1391 or email countryside@hants.gov.uk

JONATHAN WOODS, Countryside Strategic Manager, Castle Avenue, Winchester, SO23 8UL



****Improvements to the Test Way - Squabb Wood****

I warned of a closure coming up of a section of the Test Way through Squabb Wood for the refurbishment of the footway.

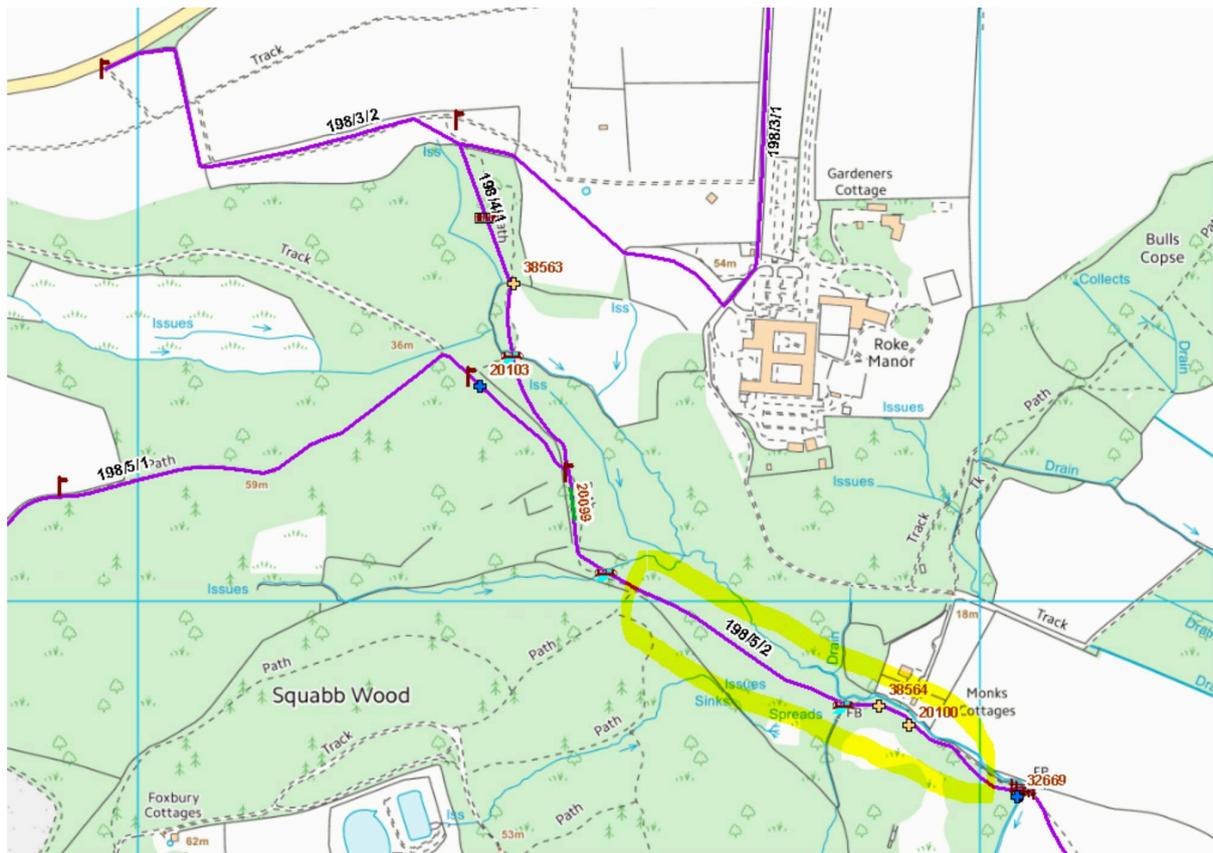
That work has been brought forward and will be happening from next week. Hopefully it should take only a couple of weeks to complete.

The map below shows the section being renewed in yellow.

[Hampshire County Council](#)'s ranger team have replaced a bridge (where 20103 is marked on fp4) in the last week or so.

The Community Engagement Ranger is organising a work party to install steps where 38563 is marked.

Huge thanks to everyone, I already have reports of how much easier it is to walk this part of the footpath.



Coronation Street Parties

No, we're not talking about a knees-up in the Rovers Return.

The coronation of King Charles III is on Saturday May 6th and Test Valley Borough Council would like to help our communities who want to throw a street party fit for a King.

 To help with this we have created a Coronation Grant Scheme, which will enable organisers to apply for up to £500 towards local celebrations to mark this historic event. Voluntary groups, not for profit organisations, clubs and societies, parish and town councils and schools can all apply.

Residents looking to come together to run street parties and other events in their neighbourhood can also apply but are asked to contact their local community engagement officer first using the contact details at:

www.testvalley.gov.uk/CommunityEngagementOfficers

 The council has also agreed to waive the fee for road closures for events linked to the coronation.

For more information, or to apply for a grant or road closure, visit:

www.testvalley.gov.uk/TheKingsCoronation

For bigger events, organisers can also apply for a Councillor Community Grant at:

www.testvalley.gov.uk/councillorcommunitygrantscheme

Hampshire County Council have also confirmed the support they are able to offer:

Thinking of organising a [#Coronation](#) Big Lunch street party in your neighbourhood on Sunday 7 May? You can now sign up for a FREE event pack full of ideas to make your local celebration one to remember.

If you'd like to close off your road to traffic during your celebrations, make sure you apply to your local district or borough council for a temporary road closure licence as soon as you can.

And if bunting is a must for your celebration, check the rules online before you decorate the highways <https://www.hants.gov.uk/trans.../licencesandpermits/banners>

FREE Coronation Big Lunch event pack –

<https://www.edenprojectcommunities.com/the-big-lunch>

County Councillor Grants

The final County Councillor grant for the 2022-23 financial year has now been paid. For transparency's sake, here are the details of the recipients this year:

Romsey Show – support for the show

Baby Necessities – support for young families

Hampshire County Youth Orchestra – Support for local members with exchange trip to Germany, Spring 2023

Romsey & District Walking Football Club – toward new kit

Nursling and Rownhams Friendship Club – toward their Christmas lunch for residents

Wellow Primary School – Items for their forest school

Romsey Christmas Lights

Awbridge and Michelmersh and Timsbury Parish Councils – New speed indicator device

Whitenap Lane Crossing – New pedestrian crossing for Whitenap Lane

West Tytherley Village Store – Toward the cost of new freezers for the community run shop

Rownhams St Johns School – Toward the cost of their reading shelter.

Getting About

February was a little less busy, not least as we were away for half term, but still visits to the Meon Valley, Farnborough and Winchester for highway meetings

Additionally, I've been along to Parish Council meetings in Wellow, Chilworth, Sherfield English, East Tytherley and Michelmersh & Timsbury

Contact

Do please get in touch if I can ever be of any help. For those of you using social media, I post very regular updates on many local issues including roadworks and planning applications on my Facebook page here: facebook.com/nickadamsking



Contact me:

t : 07771 727402

e: Nick.Adams-King@hants.gov.uk

 facebook.com/nickadamsking

CLLR NICK ADAMS-KING

Caring for Romsey Rural