

Hampshire County Councillor Update 25

Hello, I'm sorry this update is a bit later than normal in the month. Busy first week of June. Congratulations to all the Parish Councillors returned in last month's election.

Here is the report for June 2023:

Highways Information

Local Resurfacing work

The County Council contractors who resurface roads will be around our area from the end of next week (week of June 12th) and will be carrying out various works over the weekend of the 17th – 18th June.

These will include:

Castle Lane, between North Baddesley and Valley Park.

The road will be closed on Saturday 17th between 09.30 and 15.00.

North Lane in West Tytherley.

Much needed. The road is due to be closed on Monday 19th between 07.30 and 18.00 between Yew Tree Lane and West Tytherley itself.

A3057 Greatbridge Road

Will be closed during the day on Saturday 17th June between 09.30 and 16.00 for resurfacing works. The closure will be between Yoksesford Hill and Greatbridge - so no access to Old Salisbury Lane that day.

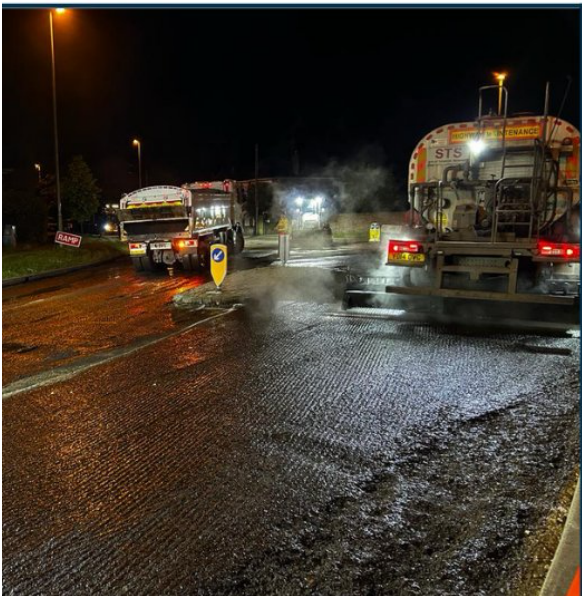
A27 Shootash

A new road surface is being laid on the A27 Shootash, between Tanners Lane and Embley Lane. This means the road will be closed on Saturday 17th June, from 9.30am to 4pm. Important if you plan on attending the Shootash car boot that day.

Winchester Road Resurfacing

You'll have noticed that the Winchester Road, Winchester Hill and Plaza Roundabout resurfacing is almost complete.

Thanks to the teams for a great job. And thanks to everyone for putting up with the disruption.



Redbridge Causeway Update

The works to repair and refurbish the Redbridge Causeway are proceeding well. A heads up that full closures of the Causeway are planned to allow for resurfacing works, starting from this evening onwards.

Additional eastbound A35 overnight FULL CLOSURES

Full closures are required to allow the old carriageway surfacing in Lane 1 - adjacent to the carriageway centreline - to be planed off safely. Any changes to these dates will be communicated as soon as they are known.

8pm Tuesday 30 May until 6am Wednesday 31 May
8pm Wednesday 31 May until 6am Thursday 1 June
8pm Monday 19 June until 6am Tuesday 20 June
8pm Tuesday 20 June until 6am Wednesday 21 June

During the closures, the eastbound A35 will be completely closed between Rushington Roundabout and Redbridge Roundabout. Eastbound traffic will need to follow the fully signed diversions which will be in place for both motorway and non-motorway users. A plan showing the diversion routes is attached.

In addition, Lane 1 of the westbound A35 will also be closed from the Totton off-slip as far as the emergency access to Eling Wharf, where temporary traffic lights will be in place to allow safe access onto the westbound carriageway for HGVs from Eling Wharf.

The north footway of the eastbound A35 will remain open between Rushington Roundabout and the down ramp to Commercial Road in Totton, but it will stay closed over the Redbridge Causeway. The south footway of the westbound A35 will also remain open however, temporary control measures will be in place to allow pedestrians, cyclists, and other non-motorised users to cross safely at the temporary access to Eling Wharf.

Eastbound A35 weekend FULL CLOSURES

The closures are required to re-waterproof and resurface the areas of the three eastbound bridge decks which cannot be accessed safely from either of the lane closures. As the work to be carried out is highly weather dependent, these dates may be subject to change at short notice. Any changes to these dates will be communicated as soon as they are known.

8pm Friday 7 July until 6am Monday 10 July
8pm Friday 14 July until 6am Monday 17 July
8pm Friday 21 July until 6am Monday 24 July

Arrangements for these weekend closures, including the Lane 1 closure on the westbound A35, will be the same as for the overnight closures above.

As the removal of the existing surfacing in Lane 1 is not due to commence until 30 May, and we have reached a point in the works where the road may be opened safely, the current lane closures were lifted temporarily for the duration of the Spring Bank Holiday weekend.

However, once removal works commence on 30 May, the lane closures will then remain in place 24/7 until the resurfacing works are completed in late July.

Hampshire Highways Update – April

Here's the update from Hampshire Highways detailing their work in Test Valley in April:

Highways Maintenance Newsletter

April 2023



Members are asked to note that in this April update, **the February and March statistics have been combined.**

During April we deployed additional frontline resources using the £5.9m funding recently allocated to Hampshire by the Department for Transport. With the resources we currently have we anticipate this will enable up to 80,000 more potholes/defects to be repaired during the current financial year.

You may have noticed that we have recently started our

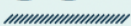
seasonal rural grass cutting programme. We work closely with the conservation charity, Plantlife UK, to ensure that our work promotes biodiversity and to support this we try to avoid cutting grass at ecologically important times, and particularly at sensitive sites. For safety reasons however, there are some locations where roadside grass still needs to be mown in order to maintain adequate visibility and sight lines, for example on the approaches to roundabouts or at junctions. Our grass cutting regime is always kept

under review and, as well as working with Plantlife, we also work with the Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre. More information can be found on this webpage: **Grass cutting and weed control | Hampshire County Council.**

As ever, please continue to direct colleagues and residents to report highways issues to us via the online reporting webpages: **Roads and road maintenance | Hampshire County Council.**

Countywide Statistics for February and March combined 2023

887



Emergencies attended

28,467



Square metres of surface dressing and micro asphalt

20



Operation Resilience schemes completed

24,484



Gullies and other drainage cleared

17,483



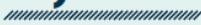
Carriageway defects repaired (including potholes)

251



Arboriculture jobs completed

8,623



Square metres of footway repaired/resurfaced

8,289



Heavy Patching Programme

1,326



Other jobs completed (outside of all works shown)



Test Valley Statistics

for April 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.

91



Emergencies attended

8,214



Square metres of surface dressing and micro asphalt

3



Operation Resilience schemes completed

3,080



Gullies and other drainage cleared

2,822



Carriageway defects repaired (including potholes)

35



Arboriculture jobs completed

154



Square metres of footway repaired/resurfaced

509



Heavy Patching Programme

67



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

TVBC Election Result

Thank you so much everyone who voted last month. I am truly humbled that so many people voted for Gordon and I.

I love our area and am very proud to represent our wonderful communities. I'm so very grateful to everyone who supported me. I promise to absolutely do my best and I will not let you down.

Commiserations to the other candidates, particularly Christopher Craig who worked so hard. Thank you for putting yourselves forward, it's never easy to be the unsuccessful candidate. Do please try again!

Borough Elections 4 May 2023 - Results

Blackwater Ward

| Name of Candidate | Description (if any) | Number of votes | Result |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------|---------|
| ADAMS-KING Nick | Local Conservatives | 1465 | Elected |
| BAILEY Gordon Leslie | Local Conservatives | 969 | Elected |
| BEESELY Andrew Robert | Liberal Democrats | 293 | |
| CRAIG Christopher Leonard | Independent | 643 | |
| EZARD Thomas Harold George | Liberal Democrats | 858 | |
| REEVES Jason Martin | Green Party | 294 | |

Turnout 43.83%

Another successful prosecution for TVBC linked to Lee Lane fly-tip

A woman was ordered to pay a total of £1,778.84 for failing to support officers with a fly-tipping investigation.

On 29 January 2021, TVBC became aware of a large fly-tip on land just off Lee Lane in Romsey.

The waste included fridges, a washing machine, mattresses, toys, clothes, bottles, a headboard and numerous other items.

Information obtained within the waste eventually led officers to Sarah Kepple, of William Macleod Way in Southampton.



On 28 November 2022, the defendant was sent an invitation to attend an interview under caution on 14 December 2022. She failed to attend.

Kepple was sent a formal notice requesting her to attend the council offices on 5 January 2023 in order to assist with the investigation into the fly-tip. No response was received, and the defendant failed to attend.

Appearing at Southampton Magistrates Court on 5 May 2023, Kepple was given a fine of £660 and ordered to pay a victim surcharge of £264 and costs of £854.84.

If you receive a notice from TVBC requesting your assistance with a fly-tipping investigation, the easiest and best thing to do is to respond and check how you can help. In situations like this, not only does it delay the investigation and cause more work for our officers, but it could also land you with a hefty fine.

If there is evidence of the source of items in a fly-tip we ALWAYS investigate and we ALWAYS prosecute if we have evidence to do so. Saying nothing is not an option.

Sir Harold Hillier Gardens Christmas Lights

Good news if you enjoyed the light-up trail at Sir Harold Hillier Gardens last December. The experience is returning this year between November 30th and December 31st.

Tickets are available here: <https://www.lightuptrails.com/.../light-up-hillier-gardens>

There is an offer of 10% off for the first 1,000 tickets sold. Details on the poster below. Hard to think of cold mid-winter nights and Christmas just now, but worth booking, they were fantastic last year.



Aster sewerage charges - fresh bills

New Aster sewerage charge bills have been sent out in the last week. They include increases ranging from 15 to 45% once more.

I have asked for a detailed breakdown of the costs and the budget in each case. That will no doubt raise further questions. I'll also cross reference what they are saying with what they have told us in the meetings we have had.

Earlier last month, Caroline Nokes and I met once again with Aster to discuss the costs being levied for Sewerage Treatment Plants to homeowners attached to them.

Headlines from the meeting were:

Review of Treatment Plants/Management Contract

- Reviews of Sewerage Treatment Plants' condition and maintenance contract completed
- They will be looking to reduce costs, have agreed to cap tankering charges and excessive charges for other expenses too and will be crediting this over-charging back to service charge accounts at the end of each financial year. Errors in charging and some sites also being credited.

- The maintenance contract was tendered correctly but they accept a national award has caused additional costs. A new contract being prepared for tender, scope to include more localised suppliers being sought.

Alternatives sewerage solutions:

- Financial Support will not be forthcoming in the form of interest free loans to cover the cost of individual or group installation of private treatment plants
- Further work to be done researching Southern Water's proposed adoption of the Cowleas Cottages Sewerage Plant
- Lymer Villas, Upton - the mains drains are 500m from the plant, technical and cost investigations being undertaken after Southern Water agreeing to connection in principle.

Financial Issues

- An acceptance that the length of tenure of residents should be taken into account when large costs are passed on as they have failed to create sinking funds to mitigate the cost of significant works at each of the sites.
- Repayment solutions for those struggling with payments to be offered, all interest-free, including the option to create a charge against house value to be redeemed upon its sale.
- Sinking funds to be created going forward for all sites.

Launch of Test Valley Community Energy Programme

Last September I attended the launch of the Test Valley Community Energy Company in the Crosfield Hall. The idea is that residents are able to invest in a company which uses public buildings to generate energy from solar panels, which is then fed into the grid.

As a result, TVBC is now launching a Test Valley community energy scheme to work with communities across the borough to identify and deliver projects that will help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and tackle climate change.

This programme is being delivered in partnership with Community Energy South and Dragonfly Power during 2023/24 and 2024/25, funded through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. It will provide the Council with tangible deliverables to meet the Climate Emergency Action Plan which includes a commitment to work with our communities and partners to identify opportunities for making the Borough carbon neutral.

The launch event is planned at 6pm on Tuesday 13 June at Stockbridge Town Hall inviting residents, parish & town councils and community groups to find out more and how they can get involved.

For more information and to book your ticket at this free event visit:

https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/test-valley-community-energy-launch-event-tickets-633979889917?utm_medium=email&utm_name=&utm_source=govdelivery

Effect of voter ID in Test Valley

The big change with this year's local elections was of course the introduction of the requirement to show photo ID to vote.



On election day I visited our local polling stations and only found one instance of someone forgetting their ID, who subsequently returned and successfully voted.

The polling clerks reported no problems with the new system, everyone had been prepared and had brought photo ID or voter authority certificates with them.

This anecdotal response seems to be borne out by the official figures from election day:

"Data shows most electors voting in the borough met newly introduced voter ID requirements.

Figures show that across Test Valley Borough Council, 21,789 electors voted in person at our 95 polling stations on 4 May 2023.

By the end of polling day, 52 electors who had tried to vote in a polling station had not been given a ballot paper because they did not meet the new voter ID requirements (0.2%). This equates to 0.1% of the entire turnout for the elections which was 33,916 votes cast, including postal votes.

The figures also show while 127 electors were initially turned away, 75 returned with acceptable ID and were able to vote.

The Electoral Commission is collecting data from all local authorities across England who held elections on 4 May. It will publish an initial assessment of the voter ID requirement in June and a full evaluation of the local elections in autumn."

Whilst it is disappointing that any elector was turned away, the Returning Officer had to comply with the new legislation introduced for polls from 4 May 2023. These figures demonstrate that the vast majority of electors who came to our polling stations were aware of the new ID requirements and were able to cast their vote.

Awbridge Neighbourcare Coronation Cream Teas

I stopped by to say thank you to the wonderful team from Awbridge Neighbourcare who have been preparing Coronation Cream Teas for distribution to their clients this afternoon (with help from the [Test Valley Borough Council](#) Coronation grant scheme).

Neighbourcare are the very best of community, helping those in need without reservation, transporting people to medical appointments and offering support to many local residents. Huge thanks to the ladies in this photo and all the other volunteers who help with coordination and providing transport and support for residents. (They wanted me in the photo too, which was completely unwarranted as all I did was support the grant).



Community Collective Energy Fixed Deal

Hampshire County Council have worked with a green energy supplier to offer a collective energy fixed deal switch.

HCC have teamed up with iChoosr to offer Hampshire residents the chance to be part of a collective energy fixed deal switch.

Register today for free, without obligation, and you could benefit from the power of group buying to lower your energy bills, gain the certainty of a fixed deal, and help reduce [#ClimateChange](#)

Once residents receive their personal quotation – from 4 July – they can decide if it's right for them.

Find out more <https://www.hants.gov.uk/.../wha.../projects/energyswitching>

Support for Nursery Education for 2 year olds

Local children could receive funded early years education in an approved nursery, pre-school or with a childminder the term after they turn 2 years old.

Families may be eligible if they have a low income or are unemployed, or if their child:

Has been in care and/or adopted;
Has a current statement of SEN or an Education, Health and Care Plan
Receives Disability Living Allowance (DLA).

For more information or to check eligibility, apply online at <https://www.hants.gov.uk/.../freechildcare/2yearoldoffer> or speak to your childcare provider.

Access Hampshire's Parish Registers online for free

Discover your Hampshire roots with millions of historical records now available online through our partnership with [Ancestry](#)!

From prominent figures like Florence Nightingale and Jane Austen to quirky insights into history, these records offer a fascinating look into the past. Hampshire residents can access Ancestry® for free through public libraries and Winchester's Record Office.

Read more at <https://www.hants.gov.uk/.../20230526HistoricRecordsAncestry>

Access
Hampshire
parish registers
online for
FREE

Jane Austen
was baptised in
Steventon in 1775
and buried in
Winchester in 1817.

Hampshire
Archives
& Local Studies

ancestry

County Councillor Grants

County Councillor grants are open for applications. Do please let me know if you are aware of a deserving cause.

TVBC Councillor grants have also opened again.


Getting About

I've been along to Parish Council meetings in Wellow, Chilworth, Sherfield English, Nursling and Rownhams, Awbridge, East Dean 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



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Caring for Romsey Rural