

**COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT
TO
SHEET PARISH COUNCIL**

12 FEBRUARY 2019

1. New “Recreation and Community Heritage Fund” launched

A new Recreation and Heritage Community Fund of over £500,000 is being set up by Hampshire County Council to simplify the grant application process and open it up to a wider range of organisations.

The Recreation and Heritage Community Fund will make awards of up to £100,000 and support projects which provide community benefit and/or help organisations become self-supporting, thus reducing reliance on public sector funding in the long term. In addition, small one-off grants from £1,000-£3,000 will also be awarded to help pump prime community events and activities.

The Fund will replace four existing grant schemes so that local community organisations and projects will only need to apply to one funding scheme. The funds being replaced and amalgamated in this new fund are as follows:

- Recreation and Heritage Investment Fund
- Community Investment Fund
- Activity Grants
- Community Building – Capital Fund

2. Draft Strategy for the Health and Wellbeing of Hampshire 2019-2024

A consultation has been launched on the next five-year plan for improving Health and Wellbeing in Hampshire. The Health and Wellbeing Board are keen to hear the views of Councillors, staff, partners and other interested organisations and individuals to help improve the final Strategy. They would be grateful for responses by Friday 22 February.

An analysis of feedback on this draft will be compiled and discussed at the next Health and Wellbeing Board meeting on 14 March, where they will sign off a final

Strategy document. Once this high level Strategy has been agreed, a more detailed Business Plan will be created, setting out the Board's top priorities for action in 2019/20 based on the new Strategy.

The draft priorities in the plan are as follows:

- Improve mental health and emotional resilience for children and young people. This will prioritise prevention and earlier intervention to improve mental health and reduce pressure on Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS). There will be a particular focus on vulnerable groups, including Adverse Childhood Events, the mental health of parents including perinatal mental health, and emotional resilience in educational settings.
- Improve physical health in children and young people through prevention and early intervention. This will prioritise healthy weights, physical activity and reducing smoking in pregnancy.
- Work more collaboratively across organisations and disciplines to improve outcomes and services, including integrated or aligned approaches where appropriate.

You can view an electronic version of the draft Strategy here

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/aboutthecouncil/haveyoursay/consultations/healthandwellbeing> and there is also a link to a short survey to enable people to send in feedback. You can also email comments to hampshirewb@hants.gov.uk

3. Innovative HCC Services recognised in national newspaper

At Hampshire County Council we are proud of our innovative use of technology. Our shared services platform is the largest public sector partnership in the UK and we use technology in Highways, Community Services, Countryside Services and Care Services to drive greater efficiency.

As reported previously, we have pioneered the use of Amazon Alexa technology to augment care services. We were delighted that the Guardian reported on the Alexa pilot project on 7 December. The HCC Director of Adult Care Graham Allen was quoted in this paragraph:

Graham Allen, Hampshire’s director of adult health and care, says almost three quarters of those in the pilot felt the device helped improve their lives and almost as many felt it had improved their independence, with numbers fairly consistent across different ages. “It’s not a cure-all,” he says. “It needs to be used along with other measures.” But he can see potential for many care service users living at home, and the county’s children’s social services department has just started issuing similar devices.

The full article can be read at this link:

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2019/feb/07/control-life-alexa-role-public-service-chatbots-councils>

4. South Downs Photo Competition – results announced

Every year the South Downs National Park Authority runs a photo competition. The standard is generally very high with many residents submitting entries. The competition is a great way to showcase the extraordinary beauty of the National Park and to create a feeling of unity across the Park.

The results for the 2018/19 competition have just been announced. The winner this year was Lorraine Heaysman from Worthing for her picture ‘Autumn Gold’ – taken from the hills above Upwaltham. Early morning light casts shadows across an ethereal autumn mist, witnessed only by rolling hills and one small bird in Lorraine’s winning image. Lorraine wins £250.

Here is Lorraine’s winning photo:



'Autumn gold' by Lorraine Heaysman, South Downs National Park Photo Competition 2018/19

The result has also been announced for the South Downs “People’s Choice” Photo Competition, voted for on Facebook. The winner is Zoltan Kecskes, with his image ‘Coastguard Cottages at Sunrise’. This photo was taken at Cuckmere Haven in Seaford and looks out to the Seven Sisters cliffs.



I hope Parish Councillors will consider submitting their own entries for this year’s competition!

RUSSELL OPPENHEIMER
County Councillor for Petersfield Hangers