

COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT TO SHEET PARISH COUNCIL

9 OCTOBER 2018

1. New Parish and Town Council Investment Fund of £500,000

The new fund is being set up in partnership with the Hampshire Association of Local Councils (HALC). The County Council will be inviting local Parish and Town Councils as well as community groups to apply for a share of a new £500,000 pot to kick start improvements in their local area.

There will be three areas in which Parish and Town Councils can apply for funding, all of which look to support new, innovative and sustainable options, these include:

- enhancing existing or provide new infrastructure which supports their communities, such as community centres;
- supporting local communities to be more resilient, for example, tackling social isolation and in the management of their green open spaces; and
- funding training to support local community members to deliver services in the area, such as maintaining rights of way.

It is worth reading the attached Decision Report which sets out more of the detail around the application criteria. Applicants will be able to apply to the fund from November.

2. Bus services and street lighting consultation

The HCC Consultation on supported passenger transport services and street lighting closed on 5 August 2018. Over 4,500 responses were received which was a good result.

The Passenger Transport team are currently analysing the responses. Their report will be published around 19 October at which point we will see what is being proposed. It is inevitable that some reductions to the frequency of services will be proposed.

The final decisions will be made by the Executive Member for Transport and Environment Cllr Rob Humby at his Decision Day on Monday 29 October.

3. Working Group on Plastic Recycling

As Chair of the Economy, Transport and Environment Committee at Hampshire County Council, I have the capability to set up working groups on matters of concern to the public.

I have decided to set up a working group to look at reducing plastic waste and increasing recycling opportunities and information for residents. I believe this is an issue of great concern to many people and I hope we can put Hampshire at the forefront of action to reduce plastic waste and the resulting damage to our planet. If anyone knows an expert on this subject, please put them in touch with me! I look forward to reporting on our findings in due course.

4. Hampshire Village of the Year awards

I was delighted to attend the Hampshire Village of the Year 2018 awards on 25 September, hosted by last year's winner Liss at the Triangle Centre. The winner of 2018 Hampshire Village of the Year was Chandlers Ford.

East Hampshire performed strongly again because Four Marks won four awards! They were runners up to the main award and also won the Best Open Spaces award. They were also highly commended in the Most Inspiring Places and Best Community Initiative Awards.

5. Crowdfunder campaign to mend the South Downs Way

The South Downs National Park has launched a crowdfunder campaign to raise £15,000 for urgent repairs to the South Downs Way. We would be really grateful for help publicising this campaign! Some great rewards are on offer and every contribution will make a big difference. Please visit the appeal page at:

<https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/mend-the-south-downs-way>

Our existing funding allows us to make most repairs but there are a number of significant projects which, because they are on more remote sections of the path, are too expensive to tackle using existing funds. Each year, as the erosion and mud gets worse, they get more damaged and become harder to fix.

Two of the five identified priorities are near to us here in the East Hampshire area:

- Hyden Lane near Butser Hill sits on top of the chalk ridge but suffers from a lack of drainage. As large puddles get trapped on the busy track the surface breaks up and becomes muddy. We plan to replace the existing surface with new layers and create a camber to help it drain.
- For one of the most remote sites on the South Downs Way, Millpond Bottom (between Beacon Hill and Pen Hill) has some impressive scarring. Successive feet, wheels and hooves have more than doubled the width of the chalk track – putting nearby sensitive Scheduled Ancient Monuments at risk. We need funds to safely transport materials to the site, mend the trail and keep walkers on the straight and narrow.

RUSSELL OPPENHEIMER
County Councillor for Petersfield Hangers