

GREEN LIGHT FOR HILTINGBURY REC FOOTPATH

Construction of the long-awaited footpath at Hiltingbury Recreation Ground has been given the go-ahead thanks to generous funding from Hampshire County Council. HCC is providing £45,000 from its Safer Routes to School budget to get this project underway. Chandler's Ford Parish Council has approved up to £12K to meet any shortfall.

The path is set to run from the Ashdown Road entrance along the hedge line parallel to Hiltingbury Road to the connecting point with the access road at the eastern end. Families with children at Hiltingbury Schools have been calling for this footpath for some time.

Hiltingbury Councillor Mike Hughes says, "I'm delighted that Hampshire County Council have listened to local people and allocated this much needed funding. I will be ensuring that construction gets underway as soon as possible. This will make a huge difference to families who want to walk their children to school more safely, away from the busy traffic on Hiltingbury Road. I hope it will encourage more parents and carers to leave the car at home and take the healthier, walking option."



Cllrs Mike Hughes & Margaret Atkinson at Hiltingbury Rec

NEWS IN BRIEF.....

- Good news for children at Merdon School - the school crossing patrol vacancy in Brownhill Road has been filled. The new lollipop person started work in December.
- Sadly, Honorary Alderman Ken Thornber CBE, former Leader of Hampshire County Council (1999-2013), passed away in November 2017. Ken served as a county councillor for 40 years.
- Hampshire County Council regularly consults residents on a range of issues so their views can be taken into account in decision-making. Have your say at: www.hants.gov.uk/aboutthecouncil/haveyoursay/consultations

HCC TACKLING CARBON EMISSIONS

Hampshire County Council has saved £30 million on energy costs in the last 7 years after cutting carbon emissions. The target to cut carbon emissions further has now been raised from 40% to 50% by 2025. New electric vehicles are currently being trialled to reduce emissions and save on fuel costs.

MEND-A-POTHOLE

Skanska is Hampshire Highways' new contract partner delivering highways maintenance. The contract started in August 2017 and runs for 7 years. Skanska's innovative pothole patching machine, the 'Dragon Patcher', is part of the fleet that is working on the Hampshire road network to complete surface repairs to reduce the number of potholes. The patcher is five times faster than traditional methods, saves money and is safer because it is operated from the vehicle's cabin.

The quickest way to get a pothole fixed is reporting online at:

www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/potholes



Dragon Patcher

NEW LOOK LIBRARY

Work to replace the roof tiles is due to be completed in early February, ahead of schedule. The tiles had to be specially made to meet the specification requirements of this Grade II listed building. Inside, new self-service terminals have been installed by the County Council.



OPERATION RESILIENCE

In January, Hampshire County Council worked through the night to carry out surface repairs to the northern end of Winchester Road. Surface dressing will follow from April 2018.



COMMUNITY SALT BINS

Hampshire County Council provides over 3,000 blue or yellow bins filled with salt and/or grit for use in the community on public roads and pavements. To find out more about how much to use or to request a refill, visit:

www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/severeweather/salting



LOCAL PLAN SHAMBLES

Around 700 people attended Eastleigh Borough Council's Full Council meeting on 11th December to object to the Council's emerging Local Plan (2016-2036) which had been due to be decided. However, the Plan still wasn't finished, with half of the 38 key evidence studies incomplete. There wasn't even enough evidence for a proper transport assessment to be done. So, Lib Dem Councillors voted to delegate the final decision to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Council Leader.

EBC has given planning consent for thousands of new homes since 2011 but still wants to build thousands more, in fact 2,000 more than the borough needs, thereby accommodating shortfalls in neighbouring authorities. At the same time, it's planning for less employment space overall than we had in 2001. Conservatives' fears that Eastleigh will be a dormitory town are well-founded.

Lib Dems are pressing ahead with plans for 5,200 new homes on green fields north of Bishopstoke with a new 6.65km bypass bringing traffic up to Junction 12 on the M3 via Allbrook. There are genuine concerns about the negative impact on irreplaceable ancient woodland, the South Downs National Park and the River Itchen SAC (Special Area of Conservation).

Whilst recognising that we need more housing, particularly affordable housing, Cllr Judith Grajewski says, "This is arguably one of the most important decisions for Councillors. The Draft Plan should come back to Full Council when it's finished. I'm dismayed that Lib Dems appear to be shirking their responsibility to decide this matter and their duty to represent their electors, instead delegating the final decision to an officer and just one Councillor. This is not democracy or transparency in action."

COUNTY CASH FOR CULTURE

Hampshire County Council has awarded £50,000 to The Point theatre in Eastleigh town centre. The money, from the Culture & Recreation Fund, is to develop new performing arts work, including dance. It is hoped that this welcome injection of cash will help attract county-wide audiences to come to Eastleigh.

The grant is part of over £0.5 million of funding for 2018/19 allocated to cultural and community projects across the county.



The Point, Eastleigh

COUNTY COUNCILLOR GRANT SCHEME



Cllr Judith Grajewski

Could your local charity or group benefit from a County Councillor grant? The deadline for applications is 28th February, 2018.

Find out if your project might qualify and read more at: www3.hants.gov.uk/grants/county-councillor-grants.htm

Please contact Cllr Judith Grajewski before applying.

Judith says, "Every County Councillor has a grants budget. I've been very pleased to have approved 23 grants since 2015, among them:

- Chandler's Ford First Responders
- Fryern Community Association
- Dovetail Centre
- Hampshire Puja & Cultural Association
- Eastleigh Memory Support Group
- Hiltingbury Community Association
- Friends of Fernhill Court
- Happy Bunch Over 70's Club

STRONG AND COMPETENT LEADERSHIP IN OUR COMMUNITY

LOCAL AREA FUNDING CRISIS

Chandler's Ford Local Area Committee has very little funding compared with other LACs in the Borough.

Cllr Margaret Atkinson says, "Every year, part of the few reserves it holds is used to fund an extra leaf sweep in the area, which is very necessary to avoid blocked drains and slippery pavements. There is no obvious means of replacing these reserves from the current funding process at Eastleigh Borough Council, so in the next few years there'll be no money left to pay for extra leaf clearance.

"The lack of funds also means there is very little resource available to provide other maintenance in the area or to introduce new initiatives to enhance our area."

Conservative Councillors want to know why our LAC is so poorly funded when other LACs in the Borough seem to have an abundance of funds made available to them.



Cllr Margaret Atkinson

BOROUGH FEES & CHARGES HIKED UP AGAIN

Fees and charges at Eastleigh Borough Council went up again on 1st January. The increases aim to raise overall income from charging residents for services by 4.9 per cent minimum,

well above inflation. Some services will see double digit percentage increases - domestic pest control services will cost between 5 and 11% more and some planning fees will go up by 6.5%.

In December 2017, the Council's Cabinet approved a range of increases in the community charges for hiring The Point of between 37% and 55.5%. Cllr Judith Grajewski queried this after the meeting and officers discovered that the figures approved had been **incorrect and the increases should 'only' have been between 3% and 37%**. Judith asks, "Why did Cabinet approve such hefty increases in the first place? Either the Councillors on Cabinet thought increases of up to 55% for community groups were acceptable and approved them, or they hadn't read the papers they were voting on. Is there any other explanation?"



Eastleigh House

BEWARE FAKE NEWS

There seem to be some speculative rumours circulating about various 'service cuts' by Hampshire County Council. While the County Council needs to save £140M from its budget by 2019/20, when the Revenue Support Grant from central government reduces to zero, no decisions have been made (as we go to print) and there will be further consultation on any firm proposals brought forward.

In a statement on 13 December 2017, HCC Leader, Cllr Roy Perry said, "I'm pleased to say that we have made substantial progress on a range of alternative funding options for school crossing patrols, household waste recycling centres and community transport. As such, I'm confident that a significant proportion, indeed the majority of the proposed savings from these areas, should now be found elsewhere."

The full statement can be found at: www.hants.gov.uk/news/dec13meeting

Cllr Judith Grajewski says, "It is disappointing that some people have been scaremongering and trying to second guess how HCC will make savings, especially when this has caused unnecessary worry to some of the more vulnerable members of our community".

BOROUGH COUNCIL DEEPER IN DEBT

Eastleigh Borough Council started the financial year 2017/18 with a Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) of £193 million and had borrowings of £162 million. By September the borrowing had risen to £196 million. A report to Cabinet in November forecast the CFR would reach £370 million and a further £146 million borrowing would be needed by the end of March 2018.

This is to fund the Lib Dem Council's property deals, including the £19.25 million purchase of an aviation manufacturing facility in Bournemouth.

They will tell you that income from property is good for the taxpayer. Conservatives say this level of borrowing is too risky for a small council. Interest rates may be low and occupancy rates good today, but this could all change in the coming years. If there is an economic downturn, the Council will be left with empty properties and still have to pay millions in interest on the debt.

STRONG AND COMPETENT LEADERSHIP IN OUR COMMUNITY

Name

Address

Home/Mobile No

Email

Please let us know of any local issues which are of concern to you:

HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT US:

- Stand for Council
- Join the local Party
- Display a poster at election time
- Deliver leaflets
- Vote by post

We would like to keep in touch with you about any issues raised and our work locally. Please tick the relevant boxes below to indicate how you would like to receive this information.

Address Email Telephone

The information you provide will be used for these purposes only, and will be used only by the Conservative Party, including its candidates, representatives and associations. We will not give information to anyone else.

Please return to:

Winchester Conservative Association,
The Conservative Office, Manor Farm,
Itchen Stoke, Alresford SO24 00T

BODYCOATS ROAD UPDATE

In September 2017, County Councillor Judith Grajewski organised a meeting for local stakeholders and County Council officers to discuss road safety in Bodycoats Road near Toynbee School. The area can become quite crowded with traffic and school pupils, some of whom have visual impairment and attend the special unit at Toynbee. The meeting was positive and constructive.

As a result, a range of action points was drawn up and the County Council's internal engineering consultancy has been commissioned to produce a draft scheme to improve safety, while working within the constraints of the site. A draft design is due to be completed shortly.

STEVE BRINE MEETS AWARD-WINNING BUS OPERATOR

Steve Brine MP met with Andrew Wickham, Managing Director of Go South Coast for a catch-up just before Christmas.

Go South Coast operates the Blue Star 1 route from Winchester - Chandler's Ford - Southampton, with a service every 15 minutes, and Andrew told Steve how demand is increasing, as well as how they are running new buses introduced just last year.

Steve Brine said: "It was good to catch up with Andrew to hear how well the service is going, and also to pass on my congratulations for winning



Steve Brine MP with Andrew Wickham,
Managing Director of Go South Coast

the Bus Operator of the Year award last month, which is testament to the continual focus on improving the service for customers.

"It is a hugely popular route which they operate through my constituency, and I wish them well for 2018."

IF YOU HAVE ANY ISSUES THAT YOU THINK YOUR LOCAL CONSERVATIVE TEAM IN CHANDLER'S FORD AND HILTINGBURY CAN HELP YOU WITH, PLEASE CONTACT:

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