

1. Introduction

Happy New Year to everyone

We are unfortunately in a very difficult period with Covid and the Tier system. There are widespread concerns about the adherence to the Lockdown regulations with Stockbridge being a prime example with numerous complaints about the lack of social distancing as Stockbridge continues to be a 'go to' destination. However the **AstraZeneca** vaccine is a game changer and now available and will allow an accelerated path to recovery in 2021.

2. National Lockdown

Updated National, HCC Guidance and details of key services are available via the links below. **HWRCs and Country Parks remain open but residents are urged to stay local.**

www.hants.gov.uk/socialcareandhealth/coronavirus/general-advice

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/socialcareandhealth/coronavirus#impacted-services>

3. Police and Crime

The Police and Crime Commissioner has launched his annual survey to ask residents their views on the policing precept of the council tax and if they would agree to an increase to support policing across Hampshire, the Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton.

Following the announcement that Police and Crime Commissioners would have the flexibility to increase the policing precept by up to £15 a year for a Band D property for 2021/22, wider consultation is now being undertaken and residents are being encouraged to give their view. The survey can be accessed through the Commissioner's website: [Your view on the policing precept of the council tax 2021-2022 - Hampshire Police and Crime Commissioner \(hampshire-pcc.gov.uk\)](http://Your view on the policing precept of the council tax 2021-2022 - Hampshire Police and Crime Commissioner (hampshire-pcc.gov.uk)).

The Chief Constable and her team have made a compelling operational case for investment in policing through an increase in the council tax. An increase of up to 7.1% (29p week based on a Band D property) would enable the force to build on what has been achieved during the last year, take the fight to criminals and to start to reduce crime. An increase would enable:

- the early recruitment of 50 new police officers
- targeted operational policing to take drugs and weapons off our streets
- an increase in further prevention work, including diverting young people away from crime
- an investment in forensic capability to enable officers to get evidence to bring more offenders to justice
- continue investment in police officer wellbeing to improve productivity even further.

The public survey will be supported with online focus groups to explore residents' views around policing priorities and levels of an increase in more depth.

4. Local Transport Plan for Hampshire

Hampshire County Council is asking for your views on the vision, desired outcomes and guiding principles behind a NEW Hampshire Local Transport Plan. This is the start of a conversation to help develop a new transport strategy and plan.

Since 2001, Hampshire's Local Transport Plan has set the objectives, policies and strategy for transport across the County, helping people to maintain their quality of life and go about their daily business. Seven years have now passed since the Plan was last updated, and there is a need to review outcomes and design principles in the changed context of new technologies, the pandemic and increased focus on active lifestyles and the challenges of climate change.

You are invited to influence the early development of the new Local Transport Plan by sharing your views on the emerging:

- **Vision:** What will our transport system look like in 2050?
- **Outcomes:** What are we trying to achieve in terms of climate change, economy, the environment, and society?
- **Guiding Principles:** How we will change the way in which we plan and deliver transport?

To view more information and leave your feedback, visit:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/localtransportplan>

5. Ash dieback

The link below gives some helpful guidance on the responsibilities and options for landowners dealing with ash die back disease.

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/en/landplanningandenvironment/countryside/ash-dieback-disease>

6. Surface Water Drainage and Flooding

We are approaching a potentially really wet Winter. Hampshire Highways routinely maintains Hampshire's 60,000 gullies and 4,600 catchpits, as well as carrying out a continued programme of improvements to highway surface water drainage systems to make Hampshire more resilient to the effects of extreme weather.

If you believe the flooding is from a main river contact the Environment Agency at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/environment-agency> or phone 0800 80 70 60.

Urgent issues on the public highway can be reported to the County Council via www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems during office hours and via 101 outside office hours.

Surface water flooding on the highway can also be reported direct to Hampshire County Council at www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems

For other incidents of flooding please report these

at: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/environment/flooding/reportingflooding>

Flood prevention guidance on reducing the risks and impacts of flooding is available

at: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/environment/flooding/floodprevention>

Advice from Hampshire County Council and the Environment Agency on managing the risk of flooding is available

at: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/environment/flooding/sandbags>

Advice on how householders can be

prepared: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/community/emergencyplanning/whattoplanfor/floodingadvice>

To sign up for flood alerts visit: <https://flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk/warnings>

7. Great Waste Grants Open

Grant funding is now available to community groups, small businesses, schools, charities and Parish Councils to fund projects to help reduce waste, reuse or repair items. The fund has supported many projects in the past including repair cafes, cookery and upcycling classes in schools, a second-hand school uniform service, swap events and a click and collect service for refillable containers.

The deadline for the first round of applications is Friday 4 December 2020. A second round of applications will be open in early 2021. For more information

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/02102020Wastegrant>

8. Sir Harold Hillier Gardens

I am a Member of the Sir Harold Hillier Arboretum Management Board and I am very happy to tell you that, once again, we have won gold in the annual South and South East in Bloom Awards. The autumn colours were wonderful and even in the Winter it is a sea of tranquility, so plan your trip, become a member, or a volunteer by visiting [hants.gov.uk/thingstodo/hilliergardens](https://www.hants.gov.uk/thingstodo/hilliergardens) The Gardens are a jewel in the portfolio of Hampshire County Council

9. Parish Lengthsman scheme

Local communities across Hampshire will continue to benefit from the County Council's Parish Lengthsmen scheme. Funding for their work to carry on next year was approved by the Hampshire County Council Cabinet.

The Parish Lengthsman scheme gives local communities more say in the upkeep of their surroundings and to play an active role in the highways service to improve their village environments, while adding value to the County Council's planned and routine maintenance programmes. Both the County Council and parish councils greatly value the role of the Parish Lengthsmen in undertaking work on Hampshire's highway network. The scheme allows quick response to localised issues. Highways are keen to extend some of the work and are offering Traffic Management training which will enable Lengthsmen to work under the appropriate safety requirements. The training will allow the Lengthsman to erect basic traffic management signage and then work within the live carriageway on low speed roads. Currently the Lengthsman are not permitted to work within the live carriageway, only on footways and verges.

The Parish Lengthsman scheme has been in place since 2010, and currently, 187 parishes across Hampshire take advantage of the scheme, normally receiving £1,000 per annum funding from the County Council to finance works undertaken.

The term 'Lengthsman' dates back to the 1800s, referring to workers who were responsible for keeping a particular length of road neat and tidy.

10. Test Valley School

I had the opportunity to visit Test Valley School this week and I was pleased to see that the very positive feedback from parents of pupils, over the last 6 months, was clearly justified. I spoke to the Headmistress and a number of pupils, all of whom were a credit to the school. I was impressed by the pupil's confidence, optimism and enthusiasm. The new Headmistress is encouraging aspirational students and taking the school onto a very positive trajectory.

11. Highways Area Management

Highways have changed their operating model for Test Valley and our area, which was managed out of Totton, is now managed out of Hook. As a result we have a new team of Engineers working in our area. The new team have stressed that they depend on the Parish Councils and residents, reporting issues and problems on the Highways portal and then, with the knowledge of the Job Ref. No. escalating through the County Councillor. While this is not a new operating model for all it will be for some of the parishes. I have attached the latest Highways report for November.

Cllr Andrew Gibson,

Hampshire County Council

Test Valley Central Division

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