

Hampshire County Councillor Update – July 2024

Cllr Malcolm Wallace (malcolm.wallace@hants.gov.uk)

Grant Opportunities

Several grant opportunities have just re-opened:

- [Leader's Community Grants](#)
 - The purpose of the scheme is to fund one-off, time limited projects which provide community benefit and help local communities thrive; and help local organisations become financially self-supporting and not reliant on public sector funding.
 - Applications can be made for over £1,000 up to a maximum of £25,000 and may be for activity costs, a specific project and/or capital costs.
 - Scheme is NOT open to parish/town councils or commercial organisations
- [Rural Communities Fund](#)
 - The Fund provides support under the following four areas:
 - Climate Change Resilience (to include Flood Alleviation)
 - Countryside
 - Rural Economy and Business (to include Rural Retailers)
 - Other – we are keen to support other projects or initiatives that will help build community resilience and/or encourage self-help in rural areas
 - Typically fund up to a maximum of £5,000 as part of a match-funded scheme
- [Parish and Town Council Investment Fund](#)
 - The priority of this fund is to support partnerships between local communities and the County Council. It will provide pump priming investments to pilot new schemes which respond to local needs and the growing pressure on County Council Services.
 - There are three primary areas available for investments:
 - Capital Funding: £1,000 to £30,000 for schemes which enhance existing or provide new infrastructure and equipment to support a local community, including energy efficiency grants
 - Meeting local needs: Usually for investments of £1,000 to £30,000 in schemes that enable local communities to be more resilient. For example, schemes which encourage 'neighbourliness' in tackling social isolation or in the management of community assets.
 - Training: Investments up to £10,000 provide appropriate training in the local community.
- [County Councillor Grants](#)
 - Groups and organisations can apply for funding for both revenue (one-off) and minor capital projects. Revenue grants should generally be used to support short term project related costs.
 - It is expected that the grants will benefit a wide range of groups/activities: for example, vulnerable children or adults, young people, facilities for older people, community facilities, parish councils (but only for specific projects), schools' minor traffic or safety works, local environment projects, and community safety.
 - The 2023/24 County Councillor grant scheme is open until 29 February 2024.

More details about each of these grants is available on the County Council website.

Give the Gift of a Loving Home to a Child in Need

Can you give a home to a vulnerable child? That's the question Hampshire County Council's Fostering Service is putting to local residents this summer in its new campaign to find more loving homes for children in care.

A child comes into foster care every 12 hours in Hampshire, leading to an ongoing need across the county for more foster carers.

Anyone aged over 21 and from all walks of life can become a foster carer. The only requirement is a spare room – and of course, plenty of patience, resilience, open-mindedness and positivity. There are many different types of arrangements available, from full-time fostering to more flexible options that fit around home and work-life commitments.

More information is available online: [Give the gift of a loving home to a child in need](#)

Let's Show Domestic Abuse the Red Card

Hampshire County Council is reminding everyone that there is help available for anyone who may be subjected to domestic abuse and for those needing support to reduce their abusive behaviours. Making a single phone call could make all the difference to someone's safety and wellbeing.

More information is available online: [Let's show domestic abuse the red card](#)

Free Activities and Food for Children this Summer!

Hampshire County Council is reminding families to sign up now to avoid missing out on the many Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) schemes on offer during the school summer holiday (24 July to 30 August 2024).

There is a wide range of fun and interesting crafts, sports and outdoor activities for all ages to choose from, which also include a nutritious meal. Free spaces are available for children who receive benefits-related free school meals and vulnerable children who may benefit from the programme. Many schemes also have paid-for places available.

The Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme makes free places available to eligible children for the equivalent of at least four hours a day, four days a week and for six weeks a year. This covers four weeks in the summer and a week's worth of activities in the Easter and Christmas holidays.

Parents and carers who want to find out what is on offer locally can search the [Family Information and Services Hub](#) and then [register online](#) to be able to book a space.

Southern Water Hampshire Water Transfer & Recycling Project

Limits on the amount of water that can be taken from our chalk streams, coupled with our growing population and changing climate, means that a new source of water is needed to supply homes and businesses in Hampshire. Southern Water's proposal is to tap into treated wastewater and use advanced treatment techniques to turn it into purified recycled water. The project includes running a water transfer pipeline from Havant to Otterbourne, passing through the Meon Valley.

A consultation on the project is open until 23 July 2024 when Southern Water are seeking feedback from community members on the following aspects of the Project:

- The Project overall
- The proposed pipeline routes
- The proposed water recycling plant and associated pumping stations
- The proposed sites for the above ground plant along the pipeline route
- The process we have undertaken to develop the Project up to this consultation
- The preliminary environmental and other impacts of the Project and initial proposals for mitigation.

For more information and to contribute, go to: [Hampshire Water Transfer and Water Recycling Project](#)

Decisions on Future Services Delayed

Following the announcement that a General Election will be held on 4 July 2024, decisions on the Future Services Consultation (tip closures, road investment, etc.) have been postponed until the autumn.

A public consultation was held between January and March this year, which invited people's views on 13 proposals to reduce and change some local services to help the County Council deliver savings towards the £132 million recurring budget gap faced from April 2025. Final decisions on the proposals were due to be made by the County Council's Cabinet this summer. However, with a General Election also now due this summer, the County Council has concluded that any decisions and communications activity in relation to the outcome of the Future Services Consultation should be avoided under pre-election rules. The Select Committee meetings that were due to take place next month have therefore been rescheduled to September and final decisions are scheduled to be taken by the County Council's Cabinet in October.

[Future Services – changes to planned decision-making dates | Hampshire County Council](#)

Have Your Say on Local Cycling and Walking Plans

The Winchester District Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) sets out the ambition for investment in walking and cycling in the Winchester District over the next 5-10 years. The draft is out for consultation until 14 July. Please give your feedback by completing two short surveys and adding your comments to the map at: [Winchester District Focus LCWIP](#)

Note: This is important as the finalised LCWIP will be used to identify priorities for investment in cycling and walking in the future. The draft LCWIP is [here](#), and includes sections on:

- Pages 59-67 – Whiteley Core Walking Zone
- Pages 87-96 – Cycle Route from Hockley to Wickham (via BW, Waltham Chase etc.)
- Pages 97-101 – Cycle Route from Botley to Whiteley

So, please get your comments in!