

## Flood Wall

A new flood wall has been unveiled in Winchester as part of a £1,085,000 joint project, to help protect the city, following major flooding during the winter of 2013/14. In a partnership jointly funded by Hampshire County Council (£290,000), Winchester City Council (£144,000), the Environment Agency (£591,000) and University of Southampton (£60,000), a new low wall has been installed featuring openings for everyday access, which can be closed when needed - by slotting in flood gates - to protect the St Bede's and River Park areas of the city including St Bede School, Winchester School of Art, homes and businesses.

A second phase of the defences, to be funded by Winchester City Council and the Environment Agency, is currently being designed by Hampshire County Council. This scheme will look to add additional flood protection to areas south of the Durngate Bridge, with works likely to commence in spring 2018.

## M27 Funding

Hampshire County Council has secured national funding to radically improve the M27 Junction 9 bottleneck and the Parkway South Roundabout in Whiteley. See below proposals for Junction 9.



With funding confirmed, Hampshire County Council can go ahead with the scheme to provide an additional traffic lane on both M27 Junction 9 motorway off-slip roads; on the westbound on-slip road, and on the Whiteley Way approach. The existing short left-turn lane on Whiteley Way will be lengthened and additional lanes will be provided on the northern and southern sections of the roundabout. At Parkway South roundabout, a new larger, fully signal-controlled roundabout will be provided, with additional lanes on all approaches, on the Parkway exit road and on the roundabout itself.

The funding for this scheme is comprised of £9.9 million Highways England Growth and Housing Fund, £6.6 million from Hampshire County Council, and £3 million Highways England Congestion Relief Fund. This scheme is critical in ensuring that the £14 million being invested by the Solent Local Enterprise Partnership to widen Whiteley Way and the £150 million being invested by Highways England in the M27 Smart Motorway Scheme will be a success in improving the way traffic flows in this area.

## **Just ask Alexa**

Teaming up with Amazon to help people live independently in their homes for longer Hampshire County Council has become the first ever Local Authority to pilot new Amazon Echo technology to support older people needing care. The Amazon Echo is a voice-activated home speaker with Wi-Fi and Bluetooth connectivity, powered by the Alexa software. Echo users can add new 'skills' to the device and then simply "ask Alexa" to remind them to take medication or check when their carer is due to arrive.

The County Council are trialling this new technology with 50 adult social care clients in Hampshire, to help support and manage their needs within their own homes and avoid the need for additional care packages. Ideas include reminding people to stay hydrated by linking Alexa to movement sensors around the home, so that when a person enters their kitchen they can be prompted to take a drink.

## **Ageing - Facts**

- An 85 year old Hampshire male can expect to live 11 months longer, and a Hampshire female 10 months longer, compared with ten years ago
- There are 280,600 people aged 65 years and older in Hampshire and this is projected to increase by 34,000 over the next five years
- The number of people aged 85 years and over is likely to increase by 21% to almost 50,000
- By 2030 for every 2 people working in Hampshire there will be 1 person of pensionable age
- Hospitalisation and social care for hip fractures [caused by falling] is estimated to be £50 million per annum for Hampshire
- A significant proportion of blindness in older age is preventable if detected and treated in time. Sight loss due to age related macular degeneration is significantly higher in Hampshire when compared with the national average [158.8 cases per 100,000 in Hampshire compared with 118.1 cases per 100,000 for England].

## **Parish Lengthsmen**

Hampshire County Council has been working throughout the summer to increase the number of parish councils benefitting from the Parish Lengthsman scheme. First trialled in 2010 with just 10 parish councils, the scheme funds a local 'lengthsman' to carry out straightforward and low risk maintenance activities on footways, highways and rights of way, prioritised by the local parish or town council. At the beginning of this year, 140 parishes were part of the scheme. Additional funding recently confirmed by the County Council has meant that 38 more parish councils will now benefit.

The term 'lengthsman' dates back to the 1800s, referring to workers who were responsible for keeping a particular length of road neat and tidy. The modern role of Parish Lengthsman was reintroduced by Hampshire County Council in 2010, in order to give communities more say in how their local area is maintained. The scheme has been a real success story in recent years, giving local parish and some town councils an opportunity to prioritise and deliver small scale highway maintenance works, which really matter to their communities.

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