

Cutting Carbon Emissions

More energy efficient buildings and street lights have helped Hampshire County Council cut its carbon emissions by more than a third - and saved almost £3 million for Hampshire taxpayers. In just six years HCC has cut emissions from 54,200 tonnes in 2010 to 34,813 tonnes this year. We are now accelerating towards our 2025 target of cutting our emissions to 32,500 tonnes. These latest figures show that the County Council has cut its carbon emissions by 35.8% compared with 2010 figures, and is on track to reach its 40% savings target by 2025 with the ultimate aim of being carbon neutral by 2050

Alongside energy saving habits adopted by County Council staff and pupils in Hampshire's 500 plus schools, maintenance improvements such as re-roofing projects and boiler and lighting replacements in schools and office buildings, have contributed substantially to the saving. The successful installation of 23 Solar Photovoltaic systems across the County Council's corporate buildings is now delivering efficiency savings of £45,000 per year, and generating 450,000kWh of power annually. A major programme of street lighting replacement has also contributed strongly to the reductions, by using more energy efficient lamps, reducing burning hours and dimming lights.

Housing

Hampshire County Council is to go ahead with phase one of a £24 million two-year investment programme to develop around 100 assisted living units for people with learning and physical disabilities. Phase one of the scheme, with a financial commitment of £14.6 million, will create five developments, providing accommodation in one bedroom or studio flats with supporting communal spaces for staff and group activities, for 63 people with learning disabilities and/or physical disabilities currently receiving adult social care support. The County Council will own the schemes and work in partnership with a Registered Social Landlord to run the buildings. The County Council will procure 24/7 care and support to meet the needs of the residents within each development. Phase Two of the scheme is expected to involve the development of two or three further schemes comprising 30-35 housing units, by March 2019.

Flooding

Hampshire County Council's highways teams are all set for the winter weather this year and keeping the water off Hampshire's 5,300 miles of road surfaces is at the forefront of highways work. This year, HCC engineers are trialling some new sensors in roadside gullies on some sections of roads in Hampshire. These sensors automatically provide data on key factors which affect flooding on the roads, such as silt and water levels in the gullies, and combine this information with weather forecasts. In this way, an inventory of each gully can be established which will show when and where HCC need to direct resources. HCC has installed 25 sensors in known 'high risk' gullies and are currently collecting information at these sites. If these sensors work as well as expected it could lead to a radically different approach in Hampshire and elsewhere.

As well as the new sensors, a new fleet of gully emptiers have been included in the highways network to ensure drains and gullies are ready for the winter weather. These machines have automatic gearboxes to prolong their life, can suck silt from up to 30m deep and jet 100m long pipelines.

The work of the new gully fleet compliments the cycle of inspections, clearing and maintenance work which is carried out on Hampshire's 60,000 gullies and 4,600 catchpits throughout the year, as well as continual structural improvements to the drainage system. As well as gullies in the roadsides, ditches on private land also need to be clear for water to run off the roads, particularly during periods of heavy and intense rainfall, and HCC is asking all residents to make sure ditches on their land are clear of leaves, vegetation and other debris to help prevent localised flooding after heavy rainfall.

Fridges and Freezers

You may have been aware that for the past few weeks Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) in Hampshire were not accepting fridges or freezers for disposal. This was due to a nationwide issue with the collection, storage and treatment of fridges, freezers and similar cooling equipment. The County Council provides a collection point only for the scheme provided by the manufacturers and regulated by the Government. However, central Government has now resolved the issue it had with disposal agencies and HWRCs are again accepting fridges and freezers to store for onward collection and disposal.

Household Waste Recycling Centres [HWRCs]

Earlier this year Hampshire County Council took the decision to reduce the daily operating hours of HWRCs by two hours per day and to close all sites on a Thursday from 1st January 2017. They also approved a charging regime for non-household and trade waste, as from 1st October 2016. These decisions were made in the context of achieving operational savings and made following public consultation held from March to May 2016. However, because of uncertainty created by recent Government intervention regarding the charging regimes being introduced by local authorities across the country, the County Council has decided that the reduced opening hours will not now start until 1st October 2017 as this will give a longer period in which to better establish the potential pattern of demand and the impact of accepting trade waste at HWRCs, which it is hoped, will reduce fly tipping.

Public Consultation - Community Involvement (Planning)

The County Council are carrying out a public consultation, which commenced 7th November and will run until 19th December 2016, on proposed revisions to the Hampshire Statement of Community Involvement [SCI]. The SCI is a statement of policy for involving local communities, consultees and interested parties in matters relating to minerals, waste and County Council planning within their local area. It relates specifically to the County Council's planning responsibilities. The draft SCI and a response form for comments is available to view and download on the Strategic Planning webpages: www3.hants.gov.uk/mineralsandwaste/sciconsultation2016. The draft SCI can be also viewed electronically at all of Hampshire's libraries.

Free Bus Pass

Nearly 2,500 young people with disabilities are now using a concessionary bus pass from Hampshire County Council which allows them free bus travel at any time on journeys in Hampshire. The County Council is hoping more young people will apply for a disabled person's bus pass, and has been working with schools across the county to promote the scheme. The pass enables free travel on local bus journeys which start in Hampshire and between 9:30am and 11pm Monday to Friday and at any time during the weekend in the rest of England. Companion passes are also available, depending on the needs of the person applying. More information on who is eligible and how to apply for a bus pass online is available at: www.hants.gov.uk/concessionary-travel

And finally, I should like to wish all Councillors a very



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