

## **Hampshire Road Repairs**

The County Council has invested an extra £10m each year in our planned maintenance Operation Resilience programme and this is proving effective in reducing the rate of decline of our roads. However, without additional Government funding, it is simply not possible to deliver overall improvements in Hampshire roads from year to year. Consequently, the County Council are lobbying the Government for more money. The motorways and major trunk roads maintained by Highways England receive around 52 times more funding than local roads – this is a huge gap which must be addressed. Local councils are also drastically underfunded for maintaining highway bridges. In Hampshire, we estimate we have only around 20 per cent of the funds needed to safely maintain all of Hampshire's bridges over the next 10 years. A reminder that to report potholes to the Council at [www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems](http://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems)

## **Meals on Wheels for Young People**

The Meals on Wheels service is being extended to include young adults for the first time. The County Council will continue to provide meals for older Hampshire residents but a new £16 million contract will enable the authority to support people aged 18 years and above. People with learning difficulties, mental health issues and physical disabilities are among those who will benefit from the new service. The service delivers a hot two-course lunch with the additional option of afternoon tea. Meals on Wheels drivers are also trained to carry out a wellbeing check as well as delivering the food.

There are currently 1,770 customers receiving Meals on Wheels from one to seven days a week and nearly 35,000 lunchtime meals are delivered each month. Over 64% of customers are aged 75 years and over, with 36 per cent aged between 55 and 75 years. The proportion of those people aged 85 years and over is expected to increase by almost 30% to 54,600 people by 2023 as society continues to age.

## **Employment Growth in Hampshire**

The Economic and Business Intelligence Service at Hampshire County Council has released the following update on the local labour market –

- Employment growth amongst Hampshire residents is robust. At the start of this year, unemployment fell to the lowest in the South East and 5<sup>th</sup> lowest in the Country
- Hampshire had some 13,400 more people in employment in the year to September 2017 than in the previous year
- The employment rate reached 81.1%, the second highest in the South East
- The proportion of Hampshire residents in employment increased more than twice as fast as the UK average and faster than the South East average
- Hampshire had some 12,000 fewer unemployed people than in the previous year
- Youth unemployment in Hampshire remains stubbornly high with more than one in ten young people who are actively seeking work remaining unemployed in the year to September 2017

## **Be Sugar Smart**

In Hampshire, one in five children entering school is overweight or obese, and by the age of 10 to 11 years this rises to almost one in three.

On the Sugar Smart web pages <https://www.nhs.uk/change4life/#mh5iPmIStrtRzLOV.97> you will find advice on purchasing healthier snacks as well as promotional offers on a range of healthier snacks, including fruit and vegetables at selected supermarkets. Parents can also get money-off vouchers to help them try healthier snack options, including malt loaf, lower sugar fromage frais, and drinks with no added sugar.

The recommended sugar guidelines for children are:

- Children aged 4 to 6 years old should not have more than 19g of added sugar per day – that's 5 cubes (based on 4g sugar cubes).
- Children aged 7 to 10 years old should have no more than 24g per day – that's 6 cubes (based on 4g sugar cubes).
- From 11 years up, children should have no more than 30g per day – that's 7 cubes (based on 4g sugar cubes).
- No more than 5 per cent of a person's (from 2 years old and above) daily energy intake should come from sugar.

## School Transport

Around £30million is spent providing transport for thousands of schoolchildren and students in Hampshire but this could change under new proposals. People are being asked to give their views on possible reductions in Home to School Transport and the post-16 transport service, which currently goes above and beyond what is legally required. If agreed, the changes could become effective from September 1<sup>st</sup> 2018.

HCC is required by law to transport all children of compulsory school age [meaning after the child's fifth birthday] who meet the nationally set distance criteria, who have special educational needs or disabilities, or whose route to school is an 'unsafe walking route'. The consultation on proposals will run until 13<sup>th</sup> March 2018. A report on the feedback will be prepared for consideration in May. To have your say, visit [www.hants.gov.uk/consultations](http://www.hants.gov.uk/consultations).

## New Special Free School in Wymering

A joint bid with Hampshire County Council and Portsmouth City Council was approved under the government's Special Free School Building Programme. The proposal is for a modern, purpose-built special free school to be located on the former Wymering Community Centre site. The special free school will specifically cater for up to 40 pupils with autism/social communication difficulties and associated challenging behaviour and sensory needs. These children need more specialist support and interventions than mainstream schools provide and there is a growing need for this type of specialist provision. The new school will support young people throughout their education including post-16 and help give them the best possible start as young adults.

## Short Breaks for Children with Disabilities

- Grants totalling more than £2.2 million have been agreed by Hampshire County Council for short breaks, provided by community and voluntary organisations, for carers of disabled children, across the County. Over the past twelve months, just over 2,200 families, from all over Hampshire, have accessed short break activities. Activities take place outside of school time, during evenings, weekends and school holidays. The type of break being funded in 2018/19 will include:
  - educational and leisure activities for disabled children, outside their homes;
  - day-time care of disabled children either in their home or elsewhere; and
  - services to assist carers in the evenings, at weekends and during school holidays.

The total short breaks grant funding included agreement to a further year's support for the Parent Voice Information and Participation Service (£37,500), the Rose Road Buddy Scheme (£140,000) and Hampshire Parent Carer Network (HPCN £35,000).

## Bayeux Tapestry

The Bayeux Tapestry is set to be displayed in the UK for the first time after France agreed it could leave their shores after 950 years. Described by some as history's first graphic novel, the 230ft-long embroidery depicts events leading up to the Battle of Hastings and the Norman conquest of England by William the Conqueror in 1066. The arrival of the Normans saw the capital switched from Winchester to London. Although referred to as a tapestry, it is an embroidery stitched in nine different panels and it is believed to have been sewn by nuns in Canterbury.

The Leader of Hampshire County Council, Cllr Roy Perry, has offered to host the historic tapestry in the Great Hall of Winchester Castle, after the French president Emmanuel Macron announced it would be loaned to the UK. Cllr Perry has also suggested in a letter written to Prime Minister, Theresa May, that in exchange for the priceless item, Hampshire could loan King Arthur's Round Table to our neighbours across the Channel. The medieval round table was constructed as a replica under the orders of Edward I and painted during the reign of Henry VIII and is displayed in the Great Hall, Winchester. King Arthur's Round Table bears the names of the Knights of his court, and depicts Arthur sitting above a Tudor rose. The location for the display of the Bayeux Tapestry is due to be decided later this year.

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