

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL report to Boarhunt Parish Council – 4th April 2018

Adult Education

The standard of Hampshire County Council's programmes for adult education, traineeships and Apprenticeships have been graded 'good' by Ofsted following a recent full inspection. Their report confirms that the quality of provision offered by the County Council and its education and training organisation partners is high. It also highlights how significant improvements in the management of these programmes have been made since the last inspection in 2016.

The County Council's adult education programme teaches over 10,000 people a year across Hampshire, offering a range of courses for people who are unemployed, low skilled or just looking to participate in classes to develop new skills or pursue a hobby. Traineeships, a pre-Apprenticeship programme developed by the County Council, and Apprenticeships were also highlighted as a particular strength. Achievement rates across all areas and for all groups, are above national averages. Individuals from disadvantaged groups outperform similar groups from other areas, as well as their non-disadvantaged peers.

Pothole Fund

Hampshire County Council has been allocated around £3 million from the national £100 million fund announced in March. We welcome the news that the Government has recognised the damage caused to local roads by the recent severe weather but with budgets already under pressure, the County Council estimate that we will need around three times as much as we have been allocated to restore the roads to the condition they were in before the snow and ice.

The County Council have already had to put an extra £10 million each year into making the roads more resilient to the impact of severe weather. However, this does not go far when we have around 5,500 miles of roads in Hampshire, all bearing the brunt of heavy traffic and cold and wet winters. One-off funding is welcome, but it's not going to solve the long-term problem of deteriorating local roads. As long as the Government continues to prioritise funding for motorways and trunk roads looked after by Highways England at the expense of the local network looked after by Councils, then the roads and footways which people use every day in their cars, on buses, on bikes or on foot will continue to decline. Potholes can be reported direct to Hampshire County Council at: www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems

National Care Award

A Hampshire County Council care assistant, Gill Clements, has been named Britain's Best Care Home worker in the Great British Care Awards finals – winning national acclaim for her dedication and excellence caring for elderly and vulnerable residents. Hampshire County Council is the only local authority in England to be registered by the Care Quality Commission as a provider of nursing care.

Traders you can Trust

It is estimated that legitimate businesses lose out on billions of pounds of trade every year, when consumers use the wrong companies and get conned. "Buy with Confidence" is Hampshire County Council's online directory where you can find local trustworthy traders who are Trading Standards Approved.

By supporting the scheme, you will also help to protect your community from dishonest businesses. There are hundreds of businesses on its website, from builders and plumbers to mechanics and gardeners. Trading Standards assess and visit every single one, checking their background, compliance with the law, insurance and (where they visit your home) whether they have a criminal record. Also, as a customer of "Buy with Confidence" you also get the reassurance of support and advice from qualified Trading Standards personnel in the event of a problem or a dispute. Visit <https://www.buywithconfidence.gov.uk/> For anyone who does not have easy access to the internet there is also a hard copy directory containing advertisements, pre-shopping advice and a list of contact telephone numbers. To order your free copy email the team at buy.with.confidence@hants.gov.uk or telephone 01962 833620.

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