

Dear Boarhunt Parish Councillor

Apologies I can't be with you this evening, but I am on leave. However, I am sure you will have read in the Press statements relating to current consultation plans for devolution proposals across both the Solent area and wider Hampshire. The County Council is not proposing a particular model of devolution, instead it is seeking the wishes of local residents and you can make your voice heard by taking part in the consultation process. The Information Pack and Response Form are available online at <http://www3.hants.gov.uk/hantswebnews/servinghampshirevideo/servinghampshire.htm> or you can get paper copies by emailing servinghampshire@ipsos-mori.com or by calling Freephone 0808 2024 970.

The outcome of the consultation will shape the future of local government across Hampshire so it is very important that you have your say. You will be able to consider a range of options and help to find the best way to sustain public services. The consultation is being undertaken by an independent market research company Ipsos MORI. **The consultation will close on 20th September** and findings will be published later in the Autumn. Don't miss this very important opportunity to have your say

Household Waste Recycling Centres [HWRCs]

Following consultation with the public [almost 12000 residents responded] Hampshire County Council has decided to keep the entire network of 24 household waste recycling centres (HWRCs) in Hampshire open. Feedback clearly indicated that residents' priority was to keep all the HWRCs open and this will be achieved by opening two hours later each day at 11.00 am (outside of peak morning traffic times) and closing on a Thursday. The County Council has achieved additional savings through procurement of a new management contract although we will need to introduce a small charge for people living outside of Hampshire if they wish to continue to use our service. We will also be opening up the HWRC service for the first time for small businesses to use, on a chargeable basis.

The cost of dealing with waste is significant, and there is still much work to do to minimise waste individually and collectively, from our homes and at the HWRCs, and to reuse and recycle as efficiently as possible. This includes tackling fly-tipping head-on which is a concern for all Hampshire residents, as well as a financial and environmental issue for the County Council. Implementation of the changes will be phased in as follows:

Opening hours

- From 1 January 2017, winter opening hours will be 11am - 4pm Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday
- From 1 April 2017, summer opening hours will be 11am - 6pm Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday in summer (except for Efford, which will continue its existing summer opening hours, closing at 4.30pm)

Disposal of DIY and trade waste

- There will be no changes or charges for normal household waste, or recycling or green and garden waste. Household waste comprises the unwanted contents of the house and not part of the house itself. Household waste excludes waste generated by landscaping or garden alterations such as dismantling a rockery or digging up a patio/concrete hard standing.

However, from 1 October 2016

- Soil, and rubble (including construction and demolition materials such as stone, rubble, clay, concrete, bricks, blocks, sand, tiles, paving slabs, and ceramic bathroom suites), gypsum (plasterboard) and asbestos will be 'charged for' items at HWRCs. This type of waste is expensive for the County Council to dispose of and is not classified as household waste under the legislation. Additional materials that are also not classified as household waste may be charged for at a later date.
- Hampshire HWRCs will accept trade waste from small and medium sized businesses on a chargeable basis, accepting the same materials that the sites currently accept from residents.
- The trade waste initiative will only operate during the working week from Monday to Friday (although, from 1st January 2017, this will not be available on a Thursday when sites will be closed)

Non-Hampshire residents' use of HWRCs

- Residents from outside of Hampshire will continue to be able to use Hampshire HWRCs but from 1 September 2017, they will be required to pay £2 per visit to any HWRC in Hampshire.

Innovation for Road Repair

- Hampshire's highways teams are now using a pioneering mobile asphalt production unit across the County which could see a 30% reduction in the amount of wasted material because it can be mixed on site and used straight away for road repairs.
- The new mobile unit has been developed by Hampshire County Council's Highways contractor, Amey, along with RSL Engineering. It can mix aggregates and bitumen - the key ingredients of road surfaces - on site. Removing the need to head to a plant for a supply of material each time it is needed, this method of 'self-delivery' leads to much greater productivity as crews are able to work on a greater number of jobs in a single day. Amey are the first highways maintenance operators in the UK using this technology in this way and it is proving to be a far better method of asphalt production - less wasteful, cheaper and much more reliable.

Blitz Weeds

- Extra highways gangs have been out across Hampshire from Monday 11th July to tackle the excessive vegetation growth brought on by recent warm, wet weather. Overgrown vegetation affecting sight lines and safety on the roads is always dealt with as an emergency and residents are urged to report this to us as soon as they can. While weeds growing elsewhere on roads and footways are not dangerous, they are certainly unsightly but extra highway crews are out now until the end of the growing season to get this under control.
- Weeds are treated using a non-residual glyphosphate based herbicide. This is more friendly to the environment and prevents growth. This treatment normally takes place over the summer months along footways and kerbs in towns and villages, and weed spray treatment requires dry weather to be fully effective. Hampshire County Council has a record of known growth sites of injurious and invasive weeds. Japanese Knotweed, Giant Hogweed and Marestalk are treated three times a year. Ragwort is controlled through a combination of hand pulling and cutting. To report overgrown vegetation online visit <http://www3.hants.gov.uk/roadproblems>.

Oral Health

Successive oral surveys have shown that child and adult oral health in Hampshire has been improving over the past 30 years but the prevalence of tooth decay among five year olds varies geographically between and within Districts. In 2015 higher levels of tooth decay were seen among five year olds in Rushmoor [24.2%], New Forest [18.7%] Gosport [17.6%] and Havant [17.4%].

- Tooth decay is the top cause of childhood hospital admissions amongst five to 9 year olds in Hampshire.
- Whilst more adults are now keeping their teeth for life, many still suffer from periodontal disease and tooth decay, with the number of adults aged 65 years with no teeth being higher than some other European countries.
- The incidence of oral cancer is rising, accounting for approximately 800 deaths per year in Hampshire.

Good oral health is an essential component of active ageing, ensuring that older people can participate in social life free from embarrassment or pain and can continue to eat and enjoy a balanced and nutritious diet. Hampshire County Council is undertaking an oral health survey of older people aged 65 years and over and its findings will inform our future oral health strategy. We are also working with NHS England to identify trends in dental attendances and treatment across Hampshire in order to further identify oral health needs and opportunities for further oral health improvement.

Patricia Stallard

County Councillor for Winchester Southern Parishes

[Denmead, Boarhunt, Southwick, Wickham, Knowle, Whiteley]

pgstallard@aol.com 02392 251484