

County Elections

Following the County Council elections held on 4th May 2017 I am pleased to report that I was re-elected to represent the Hampshire County Council division of Winchester Southern Parishes with a poll of 3,011 votes and a majority of 2,215. The turnout was 36.26% and I should like to thank everyone who gave me their support.

The Winchester Southern Parishes division now includes Denmead and Southwick [including those residents who live on the Taylor Wimpey and Grainger estates at West of Waterlooville]; Boarhunt, Wickham, Knowle, Newtown and Soberton. Of the 78 seats on the County Council, the Conservatives won 56 seats, the Liberal Democrats won 19, Labour won 2, and the Community Campaign (Hart) won one. This compares with the results of the 2013 elections, when the political make-up of the County Council was 45 Conservatives, 17 Liberal Democrats, ten UK Independence Party, four Labour, one Independent, and one Community Campaign (Hart). The overall turnout for the 2017 County Council elections was 36% of the electorate.

I have been reappointed to the Cabinet and continue as Executive Member for Public Health, but in addition been given the responsibility for Troubled Families and also Emergency Planning for the County.

Hampshire School Starters

The County Council has processed more than 15,000 applications for school places in Year R this year. Just over 98% of parents have been offered a place for their child in one of their three preferred schools - with 90.86% being allocated a place at their first choice of school, up from 88.92% last year.

Of pupils transferring from Infant School to Junior School (Year 3), almost 99% received a place at one of their choices - with 97% obtaining a place at their first choice school. More information about the admissions process is available at: www.hants.gov.uk/admissions

Child Abuse – If you think it, Report it

In the past year, around 400,000 children in England have been supported by children's social services because someone noticed they needed help and took responsibility for reporting it. All children have a right to be safe and protected from all forms of abuse and neglect. Therefore, a national awareness campaign is underway to help everyone understand that reporting child abuse is everybody's responsibility, and to encourage more people to report a concern. You don't have to be absolutely certain about whether a child is being abused; if you have a feeling that something is not right, talk to Children's Services in Hampshire, who can look into it.

Another big worry people have is that someone will find out they have made a report. This is extremely unlikely to happen as calls can be made anonymously although, generally, most people do give their details. Some people don't report suspected abuse because they think it might just be a one-off - but, even if that is the case, it is better to be safe than sorry. For Children's Services in Hampshire, call 0300 555 1384 during the hours of 8.30 am and 5.00 pm. Outside of those hours, call 0300 555 1373

Health Update - Leaving Hospital

When leaving hospital tracking down the right type of support can be difficult. The good news is that help is now at hand in the form of a new website for the public, which is also being made available via 'smart tablets' and touch screens in the County's hospitals.

Connect to Support Hampshire [<https://connectsupport.hants.gov.uk/>] is a one stop shop for care and support services. The website brings together information about home care agencies, community activities and support groups, as well as information about residential care homes for those who need this type of long term support. The web pages can be filtered in a variety of ways, including by location, to make it easy for residents to search for the information they need about the support available to them in their local area.

Access to the information is now being made even easier for those currently in hospital, who need extra support to return home safely. Our hospital based discharge teams in Southampton General Hospital, Queen Alexandra Hospital (Portsmouth) and Frimley Park Hospital have been provided with 'smart tablets' that can be taken onto

wards to help patients identify appropriate support services that can be accessed, whether or not they are eligible for Council funded care.

The Southampton General Hospital scheme has been taken one step further, with a wall-mounted touch screen installed on site for the public to use. The mounted frame enables patients, as well as their families and health professionals, to make use of Connect to Support to help meet their needs when they leave hospital care. We hope to introduce the service in the County's other hospitals in the coming months.

Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS)

Residents may not be aware that the NHS offers confidential advice, support and information on health-related matters. PALS provide a point of contact for patients, their families and their Carers and you can find Officers from PALS in the local hospitals. Contact details for QA Hospital, Portsmouth are email: PHT.PALS@porthosp.nhs.uk or telephone 0800 917 6039. PALS provides help in many ways. For example, it can:

- help you with health-related questions
- help resolve concerns or problems when you're using the NHS
- tell you how to get more involved in your own healthcare
- give you information about the NHS
- explain the NHS complaints procedure, including how to get independent help if you want to make a complaint
- support groups outside the NHS

You can find your nearest PALS office on the NHS Choices website. You can also ask your GP surgery, hospital or telephone NHS 111 for details of your nearest PALS.

Loan of Tablet Computers

Hampshire County Council's Library Service are to launch a tablet computer lending service for disadvantaged people to help tackle social isolation and improve digital literacy, after being awarded nearly £250,000 from Arts Council England. Up to one hundred 3G enabled tablets will be purchased for the year-long project and will be available for eligible residents throughout Hampshire for a four week loan period. The tablets will be pre-loaded with relevant online library services, and useful applications linking to themes such as health and well-being, money management, and information about local communities and services. It is estimated that around 770 library customers and their families will benefit. Residents will need to join the library to take part, if they are not already members.

Family History Workshop

Hampshire Records Office are holding a family history workshop on 20th June 2.00 pm – 4.00. Wills and inventories will be discussed as part of this workshop and will identify which sources can help you uncover the secrets of your family and where to find them. The venue is Hampshire Records Office, Winchester, cost is £20 and advanced booking is required. The workshop can be booked by phoning 01962 846154 or emailing enquiries.archives@hants.gov.uk

Competition

To be in with a chance of winning a 90 minute, fully instructed, climbing taster session, for two people at Calshot Activities Centre answer this question: Where are the 2020 Olympics being hosted? To enter the competition visit [closing date is Friday 16 June 2017] -

<https://hampshire.firmstep.com/default.aspx/RenderForm/?F.Name=XBqCXGedVPY&HideToolbar=1> The prize is one 90 minutes climbing taster session, valid for two people. The minimum age for the climbing taster session is 12 years. Prize could be a combination of child and adult, or two adults. One winning entry will be picked at random after the closing date. The prize is not transferable and cannot be exchanged for cash. In the event of unforeseen circumstances, Hampshire County Council reserves the right to offer alternative prizes of equal or greater value. Your details will be used only to contact you, if you are a winner.

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