

## **HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL report to Boarhunt Parish Council – 4<sup>th</sup> November 2020**

### **Families in Need**

Hampshire County Council has worked with partner organisations to distribute £150,000 of funding to support food banks and charities that are helping support the most vulnerable families in Hampshire. In addition, I have donated £2,000 of my Councillor grant budget towards helping local families who need support with buying food and other essentials during these very difficult times. Any vulnerable family in need of support with food at this time can visit the Hampshire County Council webpages - [www.hants.gov.uk](http://www.hants.gov.uk) - where they will find local contact details for their nearest source of support.



### **Kickstart Scheme**

Hampshire County Council has committed to actively support the national Kickstart scheme with plans to offer a minimum of 30 job placements across the organisation for young people aged 16 to 24 years. From this month until June 2022, the County Council's Kickstart programme will offer six-month job placements of 25 hours a week across the organisation. Young people will be supported with work-related training and helped to develop their employability skills, while receiving the National Minimum Wage. To reach those young people who will benefit most from these placements, the County Council's Skills and Participation Team will be working closely with Department for Work and Pension (DWP) Work Coaches. Any business, no matter how small, can get involved. If you would like more information about how to participate please email: [kickstart@hants.gov.uk](mailto:kickstart@hants.gov.uk)

### **Active future for Hampshire**

The County Council welcomed 130 delegates to an online summit to help shape the County's green and healthy recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. Representatives from district, parish and town councils, local enterprise partnerships, walking groups, cycling groups, access forums, town and transport planners and many others with an interest in how Hampshire's streets work for people walking and cycling attended the summit to share ideas and expertise.

The summit followed a county-wide survey of the public's opinions on active travel, to which nearly 3,000 people responded. The survey gathered views and experiences from Hampshire residents on what it is like to walk, scoot, cycle, use a wheelchair, mobility scooter or a pushchair for day-to-day journeys to work, school or the shops. Evidence and feedback from the summit and the survey will be used to inform the County Council's Local Transport Plan which will guide future investment and decision making within the County Council in relation to transport.

### **Amongst the World's best Green Spaces**

Three of the County Council's country parks are officially among the best in the world, with each of them awarded the internationally recognised Green Flag for 2020. The international quality mark is a sign to the public that Lepe, Queen Elizabeth and Royal Victoria country parks boast the highest possible environmental standards, are beautifully maintained, and have excellent visitor facilities. Royal Victoria Country Park, which the County Council manages in partnership with the Forestry Commission, has also received the much-coveted Green Heritage Site Accreditation for the management of its historic features. The Green Flag Award scheme, managed by environmental charity Keep Britain Tidy under licence from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, recognises and rewards well-managed parks and green spaces, setting the benchmark standard for their management across the United Kingdom and around the world.

The County Council is investing extensively in its Country Parks to make them even more enjoyable, with projects that have collectively attracted nearly £7 million in external funding, as part of a £19.5 million total spend. Significant improvements have already been made to facilities and historical features at Lepe, Royal Victoria and Queen Elizabeth country parks and transformation work at Staunton and River Hamble country parks, such as providing new and improved visitor centres, is well underway. The County Council did not submit Staunton and River Hamble country parks for this year's Green Flag Awards due to the development works taking place.

### **National recognition for Environmental Sustainability**

Hampshire Highways' commitment to reduce carbon emissions and mitigate against the impact of climate change has been recognised in the 2020 shortlist for Highways Magazine's Environmental Sustainability Award. It comes as Hampshire's highways service launches a four-year Carbon Strategy outlining how carbon emissions will be reduced in all highways operations

The Strategy sets out what adaptations are needed to the highway network as changes in the climate bring more intense, heavy rainfall and periods of hot weather. It details how Hampshire Highways will reduce carbon emissions in all day-to-day operations including maintenance works, energy use in buildings and depots, vehicles and fuel – all with regular and robust measurement.

### **Consultation on Special Educational Needs Funding**

An eight-week consultation has opened on Hampshire County Council's proposed Special Educational Needs (SEN) banding framework for children and young people who have Education, Health and Care plans (EHCPs) in mainstream schools. The proposal aims to improve provision for children with an EHCP. It is not intended, or expected, to lead to a reduction in the budget used to fund support identified in Education, Health and Care plans, to be delivered in mainstream schools, or to generate savings for the County Council.

We want to find out what people think about the introduction of a banding framework for schools which allows funding to be tailored to the type and severity of need that a child has. It could help to ensure the right support is put in place, by schools, for children and young people with SEN, as identified through their EHC assessment and set out in their EHCP. More details can be found at - <https://www.hants.gov.uk/sen-banding>. This web page includes an information pack that provides more detail about the proposal and background. People are asked to read this before giving their views using the online response form that can also be found on the page. People have until 23.59 hours on Monday 6th December 2020 to submit their responses to the consultation.

### **Money Worries**

Find out where to get help and support on rent arrears, debt and budgeting in Hampshire during the coronavirus. See Connect to Support – the Money Worries section – visit <https://connecttosupporthampshire.org.uk/coronavirus>

### **Want a printout?**

Printing a document at your local library is now even easier with Hampshire Libraries' new email-to-print service. You don't need to be a library member or log on to a library computer – simply email your document from any computer or smartphone and print it off within 72 hours using your unique five-digit code at a participating library.

To use the service, anyone can email a document they would like to print to [library.print@hants.gov.uk](mailto:library.print@hants.gov.uk) to receive an automated email response with a five-digit code. Printing can be collected at any participating branch by entering the print job code into a library printer and paying the correct change into the printer's coin collector. Printing is available in A3 and A4 formats and charges range from 10p - 80p per sheet depending on paper size and printing colour. This service is available at most Hampshire Libraries, except for the Blackfield, Fair Oak, Horndean, Overton and West End branches.

Further information about printing documents at the library from any computer or mobile device is available at [hants.gov.uk/librariesandarchives/library/printing-documents](https://hants.gov.uk/librariesandarchives/library/printing-documents). To find your nearest library and check opening hours, visit [hants.gov.uk/librariesandarchives/library/libraryfinder](https://hants.gov.uk/librariesandarchives/library/libraryfinder)

### **Useful Contact Information**

The Silver Line – a free, confidential helpline providing information, friendship and advice to older people. Open 24 hours a day, every day of the year. Call Freephone 0800 470 8090

Mental Health and Dementia Support – Andover Mind is a local mental charity offering mental health, one-to-one support and counselling. Also offers Dementia Advice and Carers Support. Contact their referral and enquiries team on 01264 332297 and select option 3 or ring 0300 5000907.

Drugs – Talk to FRANK for information, support and live chat. Telephone 0300 1236600. If you are affected by someone else's alcohol or drug use contact Parent Support Link on 0238039 9764

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