

## Household DIY Waste Charges Ended

A reminder that as from 1st January 2024, residents using Hampshire County Council Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) will no longer be charged for disposing of their DIY waste - in line with the Government policy changes. Up to two 50-litre rubble bags, or one bulky item such as a sink or toilet pedestal, will be accepted for free, at a maximum frequency of four visits over four weeks. Anything more than this amount will be chargeable at current rates, as permitted by national legislation, to cover specialist disposal costs. DIY waste can be accepted at all HWRCs in Hampshire except New Alresford due to its restricted size. Customers must also be able to lift, carry and empty out their DIY waste.



The Council estimates that the removal of the charges could impose an additional cost to Hampshire council taxpayers of up to £2 million every year. This is because recycling or disposal of DIY waste, such as soil, rubble, asbestos and gypsum board, requires specialist processing and the fees we currently charge help to cover these expenses. This will need to be taken into account as part of the Council's savings proposals to help meet a £132 million budget shortfall faced by the local authority from April 2025. This will include a review of Hampshire's HWRCs.

## Fire and Rescue Authority Mid-Year Update

The Hampshire and Isle of Wight Fire & Rescue Service has published its mid-year update on their annual performance. This provides useful (and positive) insights as to the activities of the service and is well worth a look. The update can be seen at <https://www.hantsfire.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/HIWFRS-2023-24-Mid-Year-Performance-Update-Report.pdf>

## Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan consultation

The consultation on the updated plan started during the week beginning 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024 and will last for eight weeks. Details can be found at <https://www.hants.gov.uk/minerals-waste-update>

## Climate change and nature recovery

The Council has published its Climate Change Annual Progress Report - <https://democracy.hants.gov.uk/documents/s114962/Climate%20Change%20Annual%20Report%20-%20Appendix%201.pdf> - which highlights the progress of council backed community initiatives and its own efforts to tackle climate change. One example is the Solar Together scheme - over the past two years, 2,100 households have purchased competitively priced solar panels, resulting in the installation of 7,400kw of rooftop solar power, which has the capacity to save an estimated 46,000 tonnes of carbon emissions.

Separately, the Council is launching a survey asking residents where they would like to see improvements for nature recovery, their views on nature priorities and what action they may be taking locally to help nature in their area. Gathering this information is an important first step in the development of a Local Nature Recovery Strategy which aims to ensure Hampshire's natural environment is protected for today's and future generations. That strategy is intended to create a blueprint for the recovery of nature in Hampshire – outlining what we can do, where the opportunities for doing it are, and considering how it can be delivered alongside wider positive environmental outcomes for people and nature, such as reduced flood risk. It will provide organisations with a framework for developing nature recovery projects and help prioritise funding and investment in Hampshire's nature's recovery. See <https://lnrs-hampshireonline.hub.arcgis.com/pages/Leave>

## Roads

A final report for your perusal, this time the County Council's Highways Service Annual Review for 2023 - <https://documents.hants.gov.uk/highways/HampshireHighwaysAnnualReview-2022-2023.pdf> - which offers useful insights into the Highways team's activity over what has been an exceptionally busy and challenging period. You can access the review via the link. You will notice the continuing intensive focus on fixing potholes and other road defects following confirmation of the 3-year Stronger Roads Today campaign in July. This has enabled the deployment of significantly more repair teams and specialist equipment with the primary aim of making our roads better, fixing defects more quickly, and addressing the widespread deterioration from last winter's wet and freezing weather. You can find out more about the Stronger Roads Today programme [here](https://democracy.hants.gov.uk/documents/s114218/Report.pdf) - <https://democracy.hants.gov.uk/documents/s114218/Report.pdf>

## Report a Flooding or Drainage Problem

Flooding can be caused by the sheer volume of water or indicate a blockage or maintenance problem with the system. Any flooding or drainage issue should be reported so that it can be dealt with and the system checked for adequacy.

- **Flooding from a river**

If you believe the flooding is from a main river, contact the Environment Agency.

- **Flooding is from a burst or leaking water main or foul water sewer**

Please contact your water provider to report the issue.

- **How should I report my issue?**

To report a *highways emergency* that poses an **immediate risk to the public**, please call either: **0300 555 1388** (8:30 am to 5.00 pm, Monday to Friday)

- Outside of office hours **101**

If you are reporting an issue that is very likely to present an imminent threat to life, serious injury or serious damage to property, please report this as an emergency by calling 999. For general highways flooding, report online at <https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/flooding>

## Child Abuse

If you have any concerns because you think that a child is being abused or has been abused in the past, and you want someone to find out what is going on, contact the Children's Services Department.

- Monday to Thursday 8.30 am to 5.00 pm
- Friday 8.30 am to 4.30 pm, phone 0300 555 1384
- At all other times, contact the out-of-hours service, phone 0300 555 1373

Further information and support - there are a range of agencies you can contact for advice and support:

- Hampshire Police - for non emergencies phone 101
- NSPCC - phone 0808 800 5000
- Crimestoppers can be contacted anonymously with any information about crime - phone 0800 555 111
- Childline - phone 0800 1111

## Safeguarding Adults

If you, or another vulnerable adult you know is being harmed in any way by another person please do not ignore it.

If you have concerns or want to report abuse, phone Hampshire Adult Services on 0300 555 1386 (out of hours 0300 555 1373) or the police on 101. In an emergency, or if you suspect you or someone else is in immediate danger, phone 999.

## Adult Social Care Precept

Adult social care is one of the main services provided by Hampshire County Council. Councils nationwide are facing substantial cost pressures in providing adult social care services. This is due to:

- increasing numbers of people requiring care
- the rising cost of providing care
- Government funding for councils remaining constrained

To help fund these pressures, the Government expects councils responsible for providing adult social care services to have an adult social care precept (precept is a technical term for council tax). To see how much adult social care tax you pay [for your council tax band] visit - <https://www.hants.gov.uk/aboutthecouncil/budgetspendingandperformance/bands>

Patricia Stallard

Chairman

Hampshire County Council

Division: Winchester Southern Parishes

[Denmead, Newlands, Boarhunt, Southwick, Knowle, Wickham, Soberton, Newtown]