



Increased Booking Slots at Household Waste Recycling Centres

Now we have had a couple of weeks to see how the booking system is working at the HWRCs we are in a position to increase the number of slots each day to 5,000 in total across Hampshire's network of 24 sites. This will be done by allowing more people to book in during each half hour slot. We are also increasing the number of advance booking slots to allow people to book up to seven days in advance.

Bookings for HWRCs can be made online at: www.hants.gov.uk/wasteandrecycling/recyclingcentres/book-appointment A telephone booking line, primarily for those without access to the online system, can be made by calling 023 8017 9949. Anyone wishing to book a slot will need to provide their name, car registration and, for online bookings, an email address. Bookings are limited to one slot per household per week.

- There is no need to bring confirmation of the booking to the site, the site will have information on confirmed bookings;
- Site staff will check registration plates upon arrival – people will need to arrive in the vehicle specified in the booking;
- Anyone turning up without a confirmed booking will not be allowed entry to the site;
- As per government guidelines, residents in the specified vulnerable category (those who are clinically extremely vulnerable, people over 70 years and pregnant women) are strongly advised not to visit a site;
- New parking arrangements are in place with site staff guiding vehicles, from a safe distance, into spaces
- As far as possible, only one person per household should visit the HWRC.
- Due to social distancing measures, site staff will be unable to provide any assistance with unloading material or carrying material. Residents are asked to bring only the amount of waste they can comfortably carry and empty into containers
- Trailers are not permitted.
- Everyone must keep at least a two-metre distance from others at all times.
- Most waste materials will be accepted, except for chargeable waste – soil, rubble, asbestos and plasterboard.
- Reuse sales areas will remain closed. Where possible, please continue to store items of furniture which could be reused, donate to local furniture charities, or use online platforms (e.g. Freecycle / Facebook / Gumtree).

Training Opportunities

New training opportunities in construction are now available to people of all ages in Hampshire, thanks to an award of almost £1 million from the Department for Education and the Construction Industry Training Board. The money we have secured will provide basic training for those people who are looking to develop essential skills for a career in the construction industry. It will enable 750 more people to take advantage of this training. For further information visit www.hampshire.gov.uk/construction-skills

Supporting our Armed Forces – Veterans' Hubs

Over £20,000 has been secured by Hampshire County Council for Veterans' Hubs across Hampshire – helping provide valuable support to veterans and those transitioning to civilian life. Hampshire is home to one of the largest veteran populations in the UK, so these Hubs will provide a vital lifeline - ensuring access to advice, support and services under one roof, as well as opportunities for veterans to connect. Now more than ever, it's important they can easily access the support they need.

Groups awarded funding in Hampshire include:

- Hayling Island, Hayling Voluntary Services (Good Neighbours Network) - Hayling Voluntary Services' volunteers will be developing their existing group into a Veterans' Hub, ensuring improved access to services for veterans in the area.
- Wecock Farm / Veterans Outreach Support (VOS) – VOS will be establishing a new Veterans' Hub at the Acorn Community Centre, Wecock Farm.

To find out more visit <https://www.hants.gov.uk/community/armedforces>. To find your local Veterans' Hub, visit <https://www.asdic.org.uk/> and <https://www.afvbc.net/>

Short Break Activities Proposals

Hampshire County Council is seeking people's views on some proposed changes to its Short Break Activities Programme for children and young people who have disabilities. Residents' feedback is being invited on a range of proposals for how the Short Break Activities Programme could operate after 31st March 2021. Some of the proposals could help Through the Short Break Activities Programme, parents and carers of children and young people with disabilities can take a break from their caring responsibilities while their children attend an educational or leisure activity.

Anyone who would like to take part in the consultation will have until 11:59 pm on Sunday 12th July 2020 to make their views known. Before completing the response form, people are strongly encouraged to read the information pack which provides the background to, and details of, the proposals. Both the information pack and response form can be found online at www.hants.gov.uk/shortbreakconsultation.

Phased reopening of library services

All Hampshire libraries are currently closed. However, visitors who have booked a timed collection under the 'Ready Reads' scheme, may now visit at the allotted time. This is the first phase in our move to re-open libraries as safely as possible. See <https://www.hants.gov.uk/librariesandarchives/library/service-updates>

Ready Reads: We Select You Collect - this is a new book collection service, where staff select books according to your preferences for collection from your local branch. This is the first phase in our move to re-open libraries in Hampshire as safely as possible. Our libraries are operating new temporary opening hours for collection, with social distancing guidelines in place for everyone. Please do not visit one of our libraries unless you have been given a collection time for your Ready Reads books.

We have also relaunched our book reservations service, where you pay a small fee to reserve a book. This service can also be accessed by phone: 01962 454747. Fines for books that were due to be returned while our libraries are closed will be frozen until early August, to give everyone time to return their books safely.

Home Library Service

If you can't get to the library due to ill-health, disability or caring responsibilities the library can come to you. We can arrange for you to have your library books delivered to your home on a regular basis. We offer books in standard and large print and also have a wide range of audio books in different formats. If you would like to borrow a particular title from Hampshire's stock, we can get it for you. This service is free.

How it works - After you have completed the enquiry form [telephone 0300 555 1387] we will contact you by telephone or email to assess your eligibility. We deliver the service through our team of volunteers. We will match you with someone and make them aware of what you like to read. They will visit you and exchange the items you have borrowed usually at least once every 4 weeks.

County Councillor Grants

I have a small County Council budget each year which is set aside for helping groups to fund community projects. I cannot make grants to individuals. Each group must have a bank account and a named Treasurer. To find out more visit <https://www.hants.gov.uk/community/grants/grants-list/county-councillor> The Grant Fund is open for applications, but you must contact me first to discuss your project, prior to making an online application. Schools, Churches etc are all eligible to apply, as well as small community groups. I have recently given a parish council some funding towards a flashing "slow down" sign. Other grants have included funding for bench seats; lunch and social club funding for outings; equipment for a youth club and much more – so don't miss out!

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