

Hampshire County Council Parish Council Report April 2021

From Cllr Andrew Gibson, Test Valley Central Division

Firstly I would like to thank all the Parish Councillor's and Parish Clerk's who have supported me during the last 12 years.

This is my final report as I step down as a County Councillor after 12 eventful years. My greatest success was the Country Parks Transformation strategy as the Portfolio Holder for Culture, Recreation & Countryside, which included a significant investment in the Country Parks which will now make them self sufficient for many years to come. Please visit the newly constructed Lepe Country Park pavilion to experience one of the many projects undertaken. Another of my responsibilities was for the HCC Farming estate which led to the following:

Hampshire County Council Farms Policy 2021-2050 Hampshire County Council has a 1,900-hectare farm estate. Holdings range from 1.8 hectares (4.45 acres) to 114 hectares (282 acres). These provide an affordable first step on the farming ladder for aspiring farmers and makes a significant contribution to the rural economy. The new policy for county farms in Hampshire sets out a clear direction for the management of these public assets in the coming decades.

The council's farm estate features a range of units that support dairy, arable, horticultural and livestock businesses. The new framework is published as the agricultural industry faces significant change following the exit from the EU, the Agriculture Act 2020 and Defra's publication of its Path to Sustainable Farming.

Key features of the new policy include:

- Continuing to support new entrants into farming to build sustainable businesses and offer progression opportunities for existing tenants where possible
- Delivering sustainable, high standard, land management and farming systems, to promote animal welfare and soil health, better air and water quality, a network of thriving wildlife habitats and contribute towards the county council's climate change targets. The authority declared a climate emergency in June 2019 and has pledged to bring carbon emissions in Hampshire down to net zero by 2050.

- Maintaining the scale and diversity of the County Farms estate - encouraging innovation and farm diversification where this brings benefits to the tenants and the surrounding rural communities.

Ticks and Lyme Disease

As spring approaches and more people are outdoors Hampshire residents are urged to be 'tick aware' especially when walking in wooded areas or long grass where ticks attach themselves to people or animals as they pass by. Further information is available here:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/20210401ticks>

HWRC - Book your Spring Recycling Slot

The HWRC booking system offers more than 50,000 booking slots each week and, from 1 April, sites will be open for longer: 9am – 6pm every day during the summer months.

A wide range of household items can be taken to one of Hampshire's 24 HWRCs for recycling or disposal and information about what can and cannot be deposited can be found online <https://www.hants.gov.uk/wasteandrecycling/recyclingcentres>

Bookings can be made online at www.hants.gov.uk or by telephone **0300 555 1389**.

Cancellations - Anyone who is unable to make their booking for whatever reason is asked to please use the link in the confirmation e-mail to cancel it, so it may be made available to another resident. Bookings can also be amended, in this way, to another time if needed.

Highways

The latest Highways report is attached. Over the next 3 weeks I will attempt to resolve the outstanding drainage and pothole issues.