**Hampshire County Councillor report**

**January 2022**

1. **Roads update**

Highway operations are continuing as normal during the Plan B restrictions.

Statistics have been published by Hampshire Highways for last November. In that month 406 emergencies were attended, 21,173 square metres of carriageway were resurfaced, 18,436 gullies and other drainage were cleared and 7,295 potholes were fixed. In addition, they also coped with Storms Arwen and Barra, keeping the roads clear of fallen trees and other vegetation, debris and excess water.

General road problems should be reported online at http://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems. Emergency issues on the highway can be reported outside of office hours by calling 101. In any emergency where there is a danger to life, call 999.

Going forward, Hampshire County Council has agreed to put extra “recurring” funding into highway maintenance, equating to about £7 million per year, from April this year.

1. **Severe weather**

At the time of writing, we have had some very cold weather and so road gritting is my mind at the moment. When we do have freezing temperatures forecast, the Hampshire Highways' fleet of salting lorries head, focusing on the main roads first. If you're driving behind a gritter please keep well back and be patient - as they do their job to help keep you on the move. You can see the priority salting routes at [https://maps.hants.gov.uk/highwayssaltroutes/](https://maps.hants.gov.uk/highwayssaltroutes/?fbclid=IwAR1jElkNG3AI2naU9MgADrHvVsMf_b6ExPWmBE9Epi0WC2PMuuyivqJkZc4)

Many of our roads and lanes are not on the priority routes but you will be aware of the blue grit bins provided by HCC across the area. These are filled with salt for community use throughout winter. They're particularly useful for smaller roads or on the pavements. A small amount of salt from these can make a big impact on frozen and icy surfaces. One tablespoon of salt (20 grams) is sufficient to treat one square metre of road or pavement surface.

If you spot grit bins are empty or running low, do contact Hampshire County Council for replenishing. This can be done either online at <https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance> or by emailing roads@hants.gov.uk. Parishes are in any event advised to check these.

1. **Support for vulnerable households**

Hampshire County Council has received £7.124m from the Government’s Household Support Fund to support households in need with food, energy and water bills, as well as wider essential costs and housing costs. The county proposes to deploy this funding (which must be spent by 31 March 2022) through its “connect4communities” programme.

The programme includes support for free school meals in holidays and half terms, support with utility bills, community pantries giving access to discounted food and community grants, which could be used for example to assist unpaid carers.

Details can be found at [connect4communities.org](https://www.hants.gov.uk/socialcareandhealth/childrenandfamilies/connectforcommunities) where it is possible to apply for community grants, and at HCC’s online directory ([connect4communities | Family Information and Services Hub (hants.gov.uk)](https://fish.hants.gov.uk/kb5/hampshire/directory/family.page?familychannel=2-6) which will also be a useful resource for families and individuals in need of food and fuel support.

Residents can also apply for half term support for food and activities at https://www.hants.gov.uk/socialcareandhealth/childrenandfamilies/connectforcommunities/holidayactivities/holiday-activities-hants

1. **New Year resolutions**

A new 12-week weight management programme has been funded by Hampshire County Council for residents who want to achieve a healthier weight. Offering free professional support either in-person, through regular online meetings or via a mobile app, [Shapeup4life Hampshire](https://www.shapeup4lifehampshire.co.uk/) is available to anyone with a body mass index (BMI) of 30 or above and combines exercise and food choices to make positive lifestyle changes rather than a prescriptive diet. To find out more, check your BMI and to self-refer, go to [www.shapeup4lifehampshire.co.uk](https://www.shapeup4lifehampshire.co.uk/).

Links to report road issues are here:

Potholes: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/potholes>

Tree/hedge problems: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/treehedge>

Flooding/drainage issues: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/flooding>

Pavement problems: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/paving>

Problems with rights of way:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/rightsofway/reportaproblem>

**When reporting an issue, you’ll be sent an email confirming a reference number for the report. If you would like me to follow this up for you then do please forward that message to me and I will add a comment as County Councillor, which should hopefully bump it up the priority list.**

