

# COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT TO STEEP PARISH COUNCIL

**3 JULY 2018**

1. Joint HCC/SDNPA Pilot project on National Park BOATs agreed

On 31 May 2018 I chaired a meeting in Winchester of all those involved in the management of Byways open to all traffic (BOATs). The attendees included Cllr Rob Humby, Transport and Environment Portfolio Holder, Cllr Edward Heron, the new HCC Countryside Service Portfolio Holder, Margaret Paren, SDNPA Chair, Cllr Rob Mocatta and Cllr Roger Huxstep as well as Jonathan Wood from HCC Countryside Service and the key officers from the SDNPA: Andrew Lee and Andy Gattiker.

It was a productive meeting and a pilot collaboration project has been agreed, focussing on the Five Ways complex of Byways around East Meon and Butser Hill. The project aims to improve signage, communications, co-ordination with the local community and use of traffic regulation order powers where appropriate. We have been promised a report on progress in six months. We hope that successful approaches will be developed and these can then be applied to other Byways in the National Park.

2. Fly-tipping update

Hampshire's fly-tipping strategy is delivering results. Fly-tipping tonnage decreased by around 25% in East Hampshire in the year 2016/17, compared to the previous year. This reduction is predominantly down to successful partnership working with the Hampshire Constabulary, NFU, CPS, District Councils and Parishes. Also worth noting are the following:

- So far three joint night-time enforcement operations have been mounted. 230 vehicles have been stopped. Several drivers have been issued with fines. One person has been arrested and one vehicle was seized. These operations are having a strong deterrent effect.

- An Intelligence and Enforcement Working Group has been established and met for the first time on 27 April 2018. A Parish Council representative will feed back to and engage with HALC.
- A funding bid for covert CCTV cameras has been successful with £3,000 being awarded from the Rural Delivery Budget. HCC are holding the cameras centrally. A pilot project with the HCC Countryside Service is taking place currently in Yateley. If anyone knows a good location for covert camera action please email Gareth Roberts at [gareth.roberts@hants.gov.uk](mailto:gareth.roberts@hants.gov.uk)

### 3. Autism Ambassador scheme

After a full day of intensive training I am delighted to have qualified as an Autism Ambassador. The Autism Ambassador scheme is run by the Hampshire Autism Partnership Board with support from Hampshire County Council.

The role of an Autism Ambassador is to be a positive voice for people with autism, who are “differently abled” rather than disabled, and to raise awareness and understanding of autism amongst colleagues, friends and family so that we increase understanding of things a person with autism may find difficult or stressful.

Autism is a hidden condition which obscures its prevalence. Three in 100 people are thought to be living with autism whilst only one in 100 has a diagnosis. Many people on the autistic spectrum will struggle in social situations and may experience problems with relationships at home, school or work. All individuals are unique and autism can manifest in different ways. Most autistic people find processing information difficult and can be oversensitive to particular things such as smell, tastes, colour, sound and touch.

A key thing I took away from the training is that many autistic people can make a great contribution in the workplace, because they are often well organised, logical and have good attention to detail. However, in order to harness those talents it is often necessary for employers to make “reasonable adjustments”. The benefits of small changes can be enormous and they can enable people with autism to contribute to society and live more independently in the community.

If anyone is interested in undertaking Autism Ambassador training, please email Vanessa Cosby on [admin@ascambassador.org.uk](mailto:admin@ascambassador.org.uk)

#### 4. Consultation on changes to public transport subsidies and street lighting hours

Hampshire County Council is asking for residents' and stakeholders' views in a public consultation on options for applying budget reductions to subsidies for public transport and to street lighting. This is part of the Transformation to 2019 cost-saving process: we need to close the funding shortfall brought about by reduced funding for council services and rising demand for social care for both adults and children.

Our priority is to direct resources to where they are most needed, and the County Council's Cabinet agreed earlier this year to protect the community transport service which provides vital support for elderly and disabled residents in particular. Community Transport schemes, such as Dial-a-Ride, Call and Go, Taxishares and Minibus Group Hire Schemes are not included in these proposals.

Bus use in Hampshire is close to a 20 year high, and the vast majority (89%) of journeys are made on commercial services operating without any public subsidy at all. The County Council is seeking to make savings by making changes to financial support for some public transport services. Feedback from passengers will be carefully looked at, alongside data on passenger journeys and the cost of providing individual routes or services to inform final recommendations for consideration in the Autumn. People will be asked whether the discretionary discount for holders of older persons' bus passes on community transport should be continued.

The County Council is also asking residents their views on proposals to switch off some street lights for two or more hours during the night. This would mean that some areas of the county would have no street lighting for a period of the night time.

Further information and the online questionnaire is available online at

[www.hants.gov.uk/aboutthecouncil/haveyoursay/consultations](http://www.hants.gov.uk/aboutthecouncil/haveyoursay/consultations)

The consultation closes at midnight on 5 August 2018.

**RUSSELL OPPENHEIMER**

**County Councillor for Petersfield Hangers**