

Report to Clanfield Parish Council from District Cllr's Ken Moon and Arthur Agate January 2020

Tree warden scheme blooms

The district's trees and woodlands will be in safe hands after a meeting calling for volunteer tree wardens drew more than 100 people.

East Hampshire District Council and the Tree Council arranged a meeting in Petersfield to give local people the chance to sign up. Held in the Rose Room of Petersfield Festival Hall the evening included information on what the role entails and saw talks by experts, including gardening star Pippa Greenwood.

By the end, 38 would-be tree wardens had signed up for the scheme and a Tree Warden Steering Group was set up.

A Voluntary Coordinator, Tree Council Director, EHDC's Arboricultural Manager, will meet to discuss training events for tree wardens, and the new recruits will be introduced to their own parish or town council.

There's still a lot of work to do and EHDC are still calling for more volunteers, so if you are interested in working in your local community and being a voice for our trees then sign up to the scheme.

For more information about becoming a tree warden please get in touch with EHDC Arboricultural Officer Kevin Peters on Kevin.Peters@havant.gov.uk or 02392 446485.

Good causes can get lucky with new local lottery

Local projects, groups and organisations are invited to join our community of good causes

East Hampshire District Council is launching a new community lottery to raise money for local good causes and is looking for organisations keen to take part.

A 'Good Causes' launch event will be held on Monday 3rd February at EHDC Office, Penns Place, to explain how the lottery works and how they can benefit.

The first lottery draw is set for April 2020 with tickets going on sale at £1 each with 60p of every pound spent donated to local charities. Anyone who buys a ticket can choose where they would like their donation to go or they can add it to a central fund where it will be split between others.

A similar scheme run by Havant Borough Council has raised £63,000 for the 84 local good causes.

The lottery is being run with specialist operator Gatherwell who will receive 20 per cent of the takings while the remaining 20 per cent will make up the prize fund. Players stand to win a £25,000 jackpot, plus smaller prizes.

Council's investments will enhance the district

East Hampshire District Council is developing a framework so it can make purchases which could enhance towns and villages and make them even better places to live – as well as continuing its commercial investment strategy which provides financial returns.

Cabinet has agreed to create a new 'Place-making and Regeneration Investment Framework' which will enable it to invest in things like facilities which help nurture strong and thriving communities.

The new approach will be part of the council's Enhance East Hants plans where it will be working alongside parish and town councils as well as local community groups to improve each of the district's areas while maintaining their own distinct identity.

The plan draws on the place-making expertise gathered over the last 10 years of work transforming Whitehill & Bordon from a garrison town to a green, healthy and connected place.

In some areas of the district the framework, once developed, could be used for regeneration-style activities to help boost the economy and encourage businesses and investment into the area.

Once the framework is developed and agreed, a robust governance structure will be established and clear investment criteria will be set to ensure that the council achieves best value for money when it makes its investments – as well as delivering clearly defined outcomes for the community.

As part of this rigorous scrutinisation of potential investments, detailed business cases will be developed for each proposition – and this work will sit alongside the council's existing Commercial Property Investment Strategy (find out more about this).

As part of the framework, the council's Cabinet will consider each proposal before any purchase is made. And the potential purchase will need to deliver an economic, social or environmental return and must essentially be 'cost neutral' to the council over a five-year period.

The framework will enable the council to buy land or property which is in the district or adjoining its boundary. It will also enable it to make joint investments, directly develop sites or dispose of assets.

The Enhance East Hants strategy provides a framework for the council's current work around the district, including building two new sports and leisure centres and refurbishing a third, mitigating the effects of climate change and delivering the development and infrastructure our communities need.

The work will be collaborative and community-led and will include consultation through the council's Let's Talk programme.

A plan will be drawn up for each area, although they will share a focus on town centres, character and identity, infrastructure and housing growth.

Nominate a sporting hero!

Now's the time to nominate your sporting hero for an East Hampshire Sports Award.

Every year East Hampshire District Council recognises the achievements of coaches, players and administrators with its prestigious sports ceremony - and is now taking nominations for the next awards.

If you know a sportsman that has upped their game, a coach that has forged a winning team or a volunteer that gives everything to the sport they love then now is your chance to put them in for a prize.

Whether they are breaking records, overcoming adversity or giving up their time for others, the awards are there to honour all our sporting heroes.

You have until the end of February to nominate your local sporting hero for an award with the East Hampshire Sports Awards.

There are 12 award categories to pick from, with junior and senior sections, and nomination information can be found on East Hampshire District Council's website.

Nominations close Friday 28 February and the winners will be announced at the prestigious ceremony held at Old Thorns Hotel on Thursday 26 March, hosted by Olympian Roger Black.

For more information go to <https://www.easthants.gov.uk/east-hampshire-sports-awards-2020>

Plenty of time to register your vehicle for ongoing free access to Hampshire's Household Waste Recycling Centres

Over 150,000 Hampshire residents' vehicles have already been registered online over the last two weeks, ahead of the launch of a new permit system later this year by Hampshire County Council – giving Hampshire residents continued, automatic free access to Hampshire Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs)

The new system will be controlled by Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) and will ensure continued free access for Hampshire residents to any of Hampshire's 24 HWRCs to dispose of household waste, while access for non-Hampshire residents (excluding Dorset Council residents) will be for a fee of £5 per visit.

There is still plenty of time to register, and once Hampshire residents have done this, they will see no change when they next visit a Hampshire HWRC. The council are keen to find a way that provides effective and environmentally practicable options for residents who live

close to Hampshire's borders, to continue to access the HWRCs, but in a way that is fairer to Hampshire residents who pay for the cost of the service through their council tax.

Since some neighbouring authorities began to put in place plans to ban people not living in their administrative areas from using their HWRCs, and the knock-on effect this has had, discussions have taken place with authorities bordering Hampshire on how to ensure people can continue to use the HWRC most convenient to them.

Whilst the council advocated a position of maintaining access for all residents to their nearest HWRC, regardless of where they lived, it was not possible to come to an agreement in a way that recognised the costs borne by the council dealing with the waste, despite their best efforts. Other local authorities face similar financial challenges and so it's completely understandable how different councils have taken different approaches to meet local circumstances. A number of them have already implemented a ban on Hampshire residents using HWRCs in their areas, which is not the intention of Hampshire County Council; instead a charge of £5 per visit for non-Hampshire residents will be introduced from the spring to offset the £500,000 annual cost of dealing with waste from non-Hampshire residents visiting our sites. This will contribute to the drive to manage costs across all services to help bridge the shortfall in their budget due to reductions in funding from Government, rising costs and inflation, and growing demand for council services.

Hampshire residents who already hold a van or trailer permit do not need to re-register that particular vehicle.

For residents without internet access, please call 0300 555 1389 to register.

Help shape Hampshire's library service for the future Hampshire County Council is asking people who live, work and study in Hampshire to have their say on proposed changes to libraries

A 10-week public consultation opened on 9 January 2020 asking Hampshire residents for their views on:

- the emerging vision for Hampshire's Libraries to 2025;
- the level of need for library services in specific local communities;
- proposed changes to the Library Service and the potential impacts;
- and any alternatives that respondents may wish to propose.

The way people use library services is changing, and the council needs to make sure their services evolve to meet these needs.

At the same time, they're facing an anticipated budget shortfall of £80 million by April 2021 and are having to look across all of the County Council's services to find savings which can help to bridge this gap as demands for services rise, particularly in social care. The Library Service is required to identify £1.76 million towards the County Council's overall savings target.

Hampshire County Council remain absolutely committed to providing a high-quality library service, fit for the future, that responds to a new generation of library customers. Therefore, it's felt the right thing to do is focus the resources they have on where they will be of most benefit - to make the library service relevant in a way that will improve the literacy, life chances and wellbeing of Hampshire residents.

The council will be conducting a ten-week public consultation which looks at options for delivering savings from the Library Service budget. This represents 16% of the overall budget for the service. This still means that a budget of around £10 million would remain. The proposals in the consultation have been carefully thought through and offer a genuine choice, including options for the community to step in to run independent community-managed libraries. As well as increasing income and improving business efficiency, the consultation includes proposals for changes to the way services are delivered. This includes options to close up to 10 council-run libraries and reduce opening hours in others. It also considers exploring better ways to deliver library services in deprived communities.

The consultation is open until Wednesday 18 March 2020. Feedback received will inform decisions to be made by the Executive Member for Recreation and Heritage in summer 2020. No decisions will be made on any of these proposals, until people have had the opportunity to give their views.

To take part in the consultation please visit www.hants.gov.uk/library-consultation or fill in a printed copy from any Hampshire County Council library. Alternative formats are available on request.

Cllr Ken Moon and Cllr Arthur Agate
January 2020