Headbourne Worthy Parish Council

Summer Newsletter 2026

Kings Barton Bus Improvements

HWPC is pleased to announce that since March of this year, when the new Kings Barton bus timetable and route came into being, passenger numbers on the KB1 bus have been steadily rising and continue to do so.

The Kings Barton bus is designed to give the community reliable, convenient links to both Winchester train station and bus station. The timetable was created so commuters can easily catch trains to London in the morning and return home by bus in the evening. At the same time, direct links to the bus station make it simple to reach Winchester's city centre. This service is a key part of Winchester City Council's and CALA's commitment to supporting sustainable, local travel.

Hampshire County Council which manages public transport, has secured funding to repaint the minibuses in a fresh new livery (as shown in the photo). The updated design will make the buses easier to spot and reflect, better, the service they provide. Look out for the newly painted buses rolling through Kings Barton very soon — and hop on board.

KB1 will also be part of the 2026 "**Kids Go Free" summer scheme, giving 5–15 year olds free bus travel** across England throughout August. It's a brilliant opportunity for families to explore, travel, and enjoy the summer without extra cost.

HCC has emphasised that this service is intended to be community led, and they noted that many similar developments don't have anything like this in place yet. The fact that Kings Barton does is thanks in large part to the leadership and determination of Councillor Antonio De Stefano, whose work ensured the project got off the ground.

Local Government Reorganisation

At the end of March, the Government confirmed its decision on the creation of new unitary authorities for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. Under these plans, the number of councils across the two areas will reduce from 15 to 5, bringing together services and responsibilities under fewer, larger authorities.

For Winchester, this means that WCC will become part of the new Mid Hants Unitary Authority, alongside Test Valley Borough Council, New Forest District Council, and East Hampshire District Council. This new authority will take on all the responsibilities currently split between borough and county councils.

Elections for the new Mid Hants Authority are scheduled for May 2027. After that, the new authority will operate in a "shadow" capacity for one year, working alongside the existing councils to ensure a smooth transition. In April 2028, it will assume full responsibility — and WCC will formally cease to exist.

Looking slightly further ahead, May 2028 will also see elections for the new Mayor of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. This will be a significant role, with responsibilities expected to include transport, policing, and potentially additional powers as the structure develops.

Winchester Community Governance Review

As part of Winchester City Council's Community Governance Review to create a new Parish Council for Winchester Town, residents in Kings Barton were also asked whether they wished to form their own parish, separate from Headbourne Worthy. 57% of Kings Barton residents agreed with becoming a standalone council.

However, the CGR process did not make it clear, and should have, that the boundary proposed by WCC would exclude Barton Meadows, which would remain within Headbourne Worthy. CALA has always stated that Barton Meadows is the ecological mitigation land for the Kings Barton development, and planning permission depended on that land being secured for this purpose. Because of this, members of the Kings Barton Committee are disappointed with WCC's decision: they feel the community is being separated from land that was part of what residents believed they were "buying into," and which they can only influence if it sits within their parish boundary.

The Headbourne Worthy Committee has also asked WCC to ensure that, as a much smaller parish, it will be financially sustainable in the long term, especially given that the upcoming move to unitary authorities may result in additional responsibilities being passed down to parish councils.

Courtney Road New Housing Development

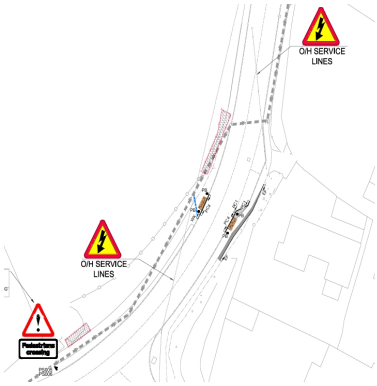
CALA has now submitted a planning application (26/01193/Screen) to WCC for the land next to Courtney Road and below Barton Meadows to be developed. They are proposing to deliver around 153 new homes on this allocated site (policy W4 of WCCs adopted Local Plan). It is expected that 35% of dwellings will be affordable housing. The plans include a mix of detached, semi-detached, and terraced homes.

The recreation strategy put forward includes new playgrounds and some walking routes, with links to the wider Right of Way network. However, the open space appears to be limited in size.

The proposal invites future residents to make use of the community facilities in Kings Barton. However, this development is due to fall within the new Winchester Town area.

Residents are encouraged to review the plans and submit comments via the WCC Planning Portal (see WCC website), using the application number above.

Loss of Henry Beaufort School Bus



Despite strong representations from parents and the Parish Council, Hampshire County Council has decided to withdraw the school bus that takes children from Kings Worthy and Headbourne Worthy to Henry Beaufort School. HCC has based its decision on a 1944 law stating that a County Council is only required to provide school transport when a child lives more than three miles from their school.

Despite HWPC's concerns about the overall safety and unsuitability of the route, under this ruling, HCC expects pupils to walk or for parents to arrange alternative transport.

To support this, HCC is proposing a new crossing on Wellhouse Lane so children can reach the pavement on the opposite side (as residents will know, the pavement does not run along both sides of the road). HWPC is concerned that HCC is not proposing any lighting for this crossing point. It is also possible that lights will need to be installed under the A34 bridge to improve safety along the route.

Open Space Developments

New Football Pitches on Manley Road

CALA is due to hand over the football pitches and sports pavilion to the Parish Council early next summer. Once transferred, the Parish Council will take responsibility for maintaining the pitches to a high standard so they can be enjoyed by local residents and hired by outside groups. The handover will also include the keep fit track and outdoor gym equipment.

HWPC has been approached by the well established Worthy's Youth FC, who are keen to work with us to build new community teams. Partnering with an FA accredited grassroots club means we can tap into their experience straight away — including their existing links with Barton Farm Academy. This gives us a real head start in forming teams for boys, girls, youth players (including a dedicated youth pitch), and hopefully for disabled players too.

ACCREDITED
PART OF ENGLAND FOOTBALL

If you're interested in getting involved — whether as a player, volunteer, coach, or supporter — we'd love to hear from you. Please contact either the Parish Clerk or Worthy's Youth FC to express your interest.

Looking ahead to Autumn, HWPC will begin the procurement process for a pitch maintenance contract. Maintenance will need to start as soon as the pitches are transferred next summer. If you have experience in maintaining grass sports pitches and would be willing to share your knowledge, please get in touch with the Clerk.

Land Transfers from CALA

Unfortunately, the transfer of Meadowside Park, Granadiers Road, to the HWPC, originally expected in March 2026, has been delayed due to a legal issue on CALA's side. While this technical matter is resolved, CALA has committed to continuing maintenance of the play area in the meantime.

Copper Beech Park and further open space are due to be transferred to HWPC this summer. This open space runs from the park along the back of the Right of Way path (often called the Ridgeway), stretching all the way to Andover Road and down towards the new buildings. In time, the entire Right of Way footpath will be transferred to the PC.

Once these areas are handed over, HWPC will take on responsibility for grass cutting and general maintenance, ensuring the spaces remain welcoming and well looked after for everyone who uses them.

Playparks - The Dell and Greenfields Park

Both The Dell and Greenfields Park playgrounds have recently begun to show the same issue — sections of the wooden equipment are starting to rot. After reviewing the situation, the two Council Committees (Kings Barton and Headbourne Worthy) have agreed on a long term solution: the affected wooden parts will be replaced with a durable plastic composite to ensure the equipment lasts for many years to come.

At The Dell, the platforms on the climbing frames will be replaced. At Greenfields Park, the rocking chickens have reached the end of their life, and will be replaced with two new spring riders, pictured.

These upgrades will help keep both playgrounds safe, attractive, and fun for local families.

Jackie's County Corner

Jackie.porter@hants.gov.uk

HCC Councillor Grant Scheme – Changes for 2026/27

Hampshire County Council has restarted its Councillor Grant Scheme from July, but with new conditions. Grants now range from £100 to £1,000, and this year they are not available to parish councils, although community groups without a bank account can ask for it to be paid into their parish council's account. Details and the application form are available here: https://www.hants.gov.uk/community/grants/grants-list/county-councillor .

EV Chargers Near Your Home or Village Centre?

Hampshire County Council has secured funding for 17,000 new EV chargers to support residents who cannot install charging at home. Residents, groups, and councils are invited to submit expressions of interest. More information: https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/20260506EVChargingScheme

HCC Settling Into Its New Rhythm

The County Council's political balance is now:

- Conservatives – 27 seats (holding the Cabinet, plus one Independent member)
- Liberal Democrats – 26 seats
- Reform – 20 seats, with several Scrutiny Committee chairmanships granted by the Cabinet

Judicial Review of Local Government Reorganisation

The Conservative Cabinet has submitted an application for a Judicial Review of the Local Government Reorganisation process. We expect to know by September whether the case will be heard. If it proceeds, it may alter the timeline of the reorganisation and could incur additional costs, currently estimated at £500,000. To put that into perspective, this equates to roughly 5,000 potholes or two years of a school bus service, based on figures previously presented.

TROs

There is still no confirmed news on the Traffic Regulation Orders. The Kings Barton TRO is likely to be decided in September; others remain to be confirmed. Updates will be shared as soon as they are available.

Bits and Pieces of News

The Headbourne Worthy Parish Council had **elections in May**. As only the 7 existing Councillors put themselves forward for election , there was no requirement to hold an election and all **7 Councillors were duly elected**. Unfortunately, Mr Watters had to resign due to re-location and therefore the Council will look to **co-opt a new Councillor** in September. The Headbourne Worthy Councillors will serve for 6 years as the parish council elections are brought in line with the new Unitary authority elections. Elections for the proposed Kings Barton Council will take place in May 2027. The PC is working to persuade CALA to make the **new pavilion available for the elections in May 2027**. Then members of the King Barton community can vote in their locality. The new **English Devolution and Empowerment Act 2026** encourages communities, parish councils, businesses and other stakeholders to get together in the form of **Neighbourhood Forums**. These Forums are being promoted as a means of communities coming together and working constructively solve problems such as bus services and medical provision. The Kings Barton Committee has undertaken a **walkaround the Kings Barton development with HCC** to help them understand some of the problems with the development layout. The **community building in Kings Barton** should receive planning permission very soon, occupation will be within 12 months of the build starting. The **Community Building CIO has** been working with the PC to identify all the necessary set up costs. CALA has confirmed that air conditioning will be provided.

Headbourne Worthy Parish Council

If you would like to contact the Parish Council, please contact the Clerk, Belinda Baker—clerk@headbourneworthy.org.uk