

### **LGR Update- which authorities will make up 'our' Unitary ?**

Cabinet confirmed the outcome of September's Full Council vote, at which the Conservative and Labour councillors at the County Council confirmed their LGR preference for the option of three mainland authorities broadly based around Southampton, Portsmouth and the third authority - which proposes Winchester goes to into a Unitary Authority with Basingstoke, Hart, Rushmoor & East Hants.

#### **I objected to this, for three main reasons:**

- I believe Winchester has a rural nature which is more closely aligned with the districts with rural towns and villages, linked by chalk streams: namely East Hants (Meon) & the Test Valley.
- The size of this Unitary would be very large indeed, and the sizes would be disproportionate.
- There is no evidence to suggest that using the current County Council operation (with its huge deficit) as the basis for the administration of this authority would have any advantage at all.

Other authorities are looking to form 4 mainland unitaries and a fifth; the Isle of Wight, as their preferred option. All 'bids' were submitted by Friday 26<sup>th</sup> September and will be reviewed by DCLG for a consultation to go out to the public. You can see more of the County's debate within this recording: <https://democracy.hants.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=197&MId=13465> or the details of the Cabinet meeting: <https://democracy.hants.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=134&MId=13318>

### **Other General matters at HCC**

#### ***A surprise change of heart as the Councillors' Grant was restored at the last minute.***

But be quick: this year's grant programme starts on 21 October and ends in February.

But from now on, it is for a total of £5K not £8K as before, to a maximum of £1000 (previously £2000) and all requests must be for 'new reasons': no repeat requests year on year.

#### ***The Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) process seems to have speeded up since my last question at Council.***

I have been told to expect the DRAFT village TRO's to be published this month. From the responses, the County officers will refine the final TRO as it goes to publication, so it is important that residents and businesses comment if they so wish. I'll keep you informed as I hear more.

I have also been working on the TRO's for Winchester Avenue/Andover Road, Kings Barton, also Wellhouse Lane, Headbourne Worthy, and Sun Lane in Alresford as well as New Farm Road.

***The County Council is selling property.*** Counties have permission to sell to put money into Revenue. Most items are confidential to the councillor for that division. So far, none has come up in the Itchen Valley division.

### **Planning Matters**

#### ***Planning for 3million square feet of commercial space between the A303 and the A33.***

I attended the Planning consultation at Basingstoke Golf Club, Dummer to examine more closely the proposals for 3 million square feet of commercial space, an array of solar panels, some sports facilities and non-motorised connections to Blackwood. It had a road network connecting to it of course, but surprisingly to the A33. I met residents there and will endeavour to represent their views as best I can, bearing in mind it is a Basingstoke planning matter.

***4 Padel Courts in a barn like structure near the Golf Club at Three Maids Hill (on the Golfing site extension car park.)*** I also attended this presentation by Meyrick Estates. The proposal was generally met with enthusiasm- by Padel players! The site owners reported to me that he understands that the car visits to the site are already reaching 100,000 per year.