

Consultations in progress

Winchester's Community Governance Review www.winchester.gov.uk/CGR

Residents in parishes outside the current 5 town wards will receive a letter/postcard to their home inviting them to comment on this first consultation but all residents in the District are invited to respond if they wish.

This consultation runs from 3 November to 23:59 on the 22nd December 2025

The TRO process for Winchester Avenue/Andover Road will go live on the 7th November, running for three weeks until 23.59 on the 28th November 2025.

This TRO covers parking restrictions, speeds, bus stops and crossings, and gives an indication of the road layouts on Kings Barton as well as the 'no traffic' sections of the Andover Road.

The final decision will not be for several months, likely to be Summer 2026. As I write, I do not have the link yet, but please go to www.hants.gov.uk & search consultations

Consultation on School Transport Policy -until 7 Dec 2025

Proposed changes are:-

- Proposal one: For the County Council to stop the Spare Capacity Seats scheme (*scheme would be withdrawn by July 2026*)
- Proposal two: to update information in HCC's Policy to more clearly explain how the Policy is applied and how the service is currently delivered.

The outcome of this consultation particularly affects children in a rural area going to a chosen school out of preference or convenience

Consultation on Hampshire's post 16 Transport Policy for 26/27

Seeking views non the post -16 transport policy for the 26-27 academic year.

The County Council proposes to make adjustments to the wording to '*make it clearer and easier to understand*'

Proposed changes include:

- Introducing a quick guide section to summarise eligibility criteria
- Making changes to the wording explaining the appeal process

CONSULTATION ENDED: TRO proposals for South wonston, Micheldever and East Stratton. We await the outcome.

The County Councillor's Grant scheme has re-opened but for £5K per councillor, not £8k as before. Deadline is end Feb 2026, ideally process to complete by mid Feb.

Other new criteria:

- Open for grants of up to £1000
- Not for repeats of any grant requested in the last two years
- It must be relevant for citizens in our divisions

I will advertise in December and January County Corners.

Road closures

Following several difficult situations for residents and bus companies, I have raised this with HCC. I received an apology for one closure, but hopefully HCC are more aware of the implications of closing bus routes on rural roads now.

Autism/Neurodiversity and SEND 'Every Pair Tells a Story'

I attended the local event with parents of children who were missing school because their EHCP wasn't delivering the help their children needed. This was a local event as part of a co-ordinated nationwide opportunity to speak to parents of children who weren't in full time education. I was sad that neither the Deputy Chief Exec (also head of Children's Services) nor the Leader of HCC didn't come out to speak to the parents, despite an invitation. The number of children not in full time education for this reason is rising: 'experts recognise that this needs a whole system change -a change which hasn't materialised despite promises over the years.

The recent HCC Children's Scrutiny of Autism and ADHD assessments and treatment run by the NHS was depressing, and for the young lives represented today, the poor performance of this sector of the NHS is catastrophic.



Minerals and Waste Plan

You may recall that I reported that I had responded to the HCC M&W Plan regarding the impact of heavy vehicles travelling through rural areas, made worse by the tacit agreement with policy support that 'once a waste site, always a waste site'.

Over the summer, the Examination Inspector called me for a session on the loss of amenity /failure to deliver the HCC walking/cycling transport policy LTP4, and the implication of a CLU based on historic records on sites. I was challenging the use of historic vehicle data to defend a CLU, which allows much larger HGV's to operate from the site. I have been told that this is now going forward as a Modification in the Plan. This may not help the two below but it will support residents in future applications when the new M&W plan is finally approved.

Ecogen and the Materials Recycling Site at Three Maids Hill

These were approved at committee despite all of our fears on highways grounds, but with apparent support of the Highways department's consultation response.

Subsequently, the S278 team for both of these sites failed to agree satisfactory highway plans, and so HCC haven't yet signed them off.

Having raised this with the relevant Exec Member, she is now aware and conscious this is a failure of 'the system' and is determined to change it. I have asked for a review of actions with the HCC Exec. Member in four weeks' time.

As a result of these cases,

- The Three Maids Hill site will be seeking agreement from the 'Departure for Standards board' to have a reduced sight line. I will be looking to see if/how this can be challenged.
- The Ecogen application details of the highway changes will be put out to public consultation- *for the highways detail only.*

Date of this consultation tbc but I will let all parishes know as soon as I know.

Cycle barriers

These are being removed on request- but please be warned- it takes months to implement (often requiring road closure) , so please think ahead if you can!

Blue Badge applications

These are currently taking 16 weeks, so please encourage residents with mobility issues to plan ahead.

