

M27 Funding

Hampshire County Council has secured national funding to radically improve the M27 Junction 9 bottleneck and the Parkway South Roundabout in Whiteley. This means that Hampshire County Council can go ahead with the scheme to provide an additional traffic lane on both M27 Junction 9 motorway off-slip roads; on the westbound on-slip road, and on the Whiteley Way approach.

The funding for this scheme is comprised of £9.9 million Highways England Growth and Housing Fund, £6.6 million from Hampshire County Council, and £3 million Highways England Congestion Relief Fund. This scheme is critical in ensuring that the £14 million being invested by the Solent Local Enterprise Partnership to widen Whiteley Way and the £150 million being invested by Highways England in the M27 Smart Motorway Scheme will be a success in improving the way traffic flows in this area.

Balancing the Budget

This autumn, Hampshire County Council will consider steps to help address an anticipated budget shortfall of £140 million by April 2019. Proposals to deliver this latest round of anticipated savings will be considered by the County Council's Cabinet on 16th October – informed by feedback from Hampshire residents' responses to the *Balancing the Budget* public consultation, held over the summer. A final decision will then be made on 2nd November by the full County Council.

Helping Families

Not many residents know that the County Council has a Family Information and Services Hub where they will find information and details on how to access services, organisations and activities in Hampshire, and get support and advice. Visit <https://fish.hants.gov.uk/kb5/hampshire/directory/home.page> and browse the categories - Childcare and Early Years Education – Family Support – Activities, Leisure and Play – Young People – Employment, Training and Learning.

Just ask Alexa

Teaming up with Amazon to help people live independently in their homes for longer, Hampshire County Council has become the first ever Local Authority to pilot new Amazon Echo technology to support older people needing care. The Amazon Echo is a voice-activated home speaker with Wi-Fi and Bluetooth connectivity, powered by the Alexa software. Echo users can add new 'skills' to the device and then simply "ask Alexa" to remind them to have a drink, take medication or check when their carer is due to arrive.

Ageing – Facts

- An 85 year old Hampshire male can expect to live 11 months longer, and a Hampshire female 10 months longer, compared with ten years ago
- There are 280,600 people aged 65 years and older in Hampshire and this is projected to increase by 34,000 over the next five years
- The number of people aged 85 years and over is likely to increase by 21% to almost 50,000
- By 2030 for every 2 people working in Hampshire there will be 1 person of pensionable age
- Hospitalisation and social care for hip fractures [caused by falling] is estimated to be £50 million per annum for Hampshire
- A significant proportion of blindness in older age is preventable if detected and treated in time. Sight loss due to age related macular degeneration is significantly higher in Hampshire when compared with the national average [158.8 cases per 100,000 in Hampshire compared with 118.1 cases per 100,000 for England].

Health & Care for Adults

Do you know someone who might need help now that the winter months are approaching, but they don't know who to ask, or whether or not they would qualify? Why not suggest they ring 0300 555 1386 or email adult.services@hants.gov.uk and find out more.

Flooding

As the summer gives way to Autumn, highways and drains get blocked with falling leaves, branches, trimmings and other debris. As well as gullies on the roadsides, ditches on private land also need to be clear for water to run off the roads, particularly during periods of heavy and intense rainfall. That's why HCC are asking all residents to make sure ditches on their land are clear in order to help prevent localised flooding this winter. For more information on flood management and prevention visit <http://documents.hants.gov.uk/flood-water-management/HCCFloodRiskManagement-Landowners.pdf>
To report a flooding or drainage problem visit <https://roadenquiries.hants.gov.uk/roadproblems/highwaydefect/otherdrainage.aspx>

Driver Skills Scheme 60+

This HCC scheme is for Hampshire residents aged 60 years and over and will help them to:

- update their skills and knowledge
- gain confidence

An experienced assessor will:

- check your licence and your driver vision
- sit with you whilst you drive on roads in your locality
- offer advice, where necessary, on how current safety levels can be enhanced
- fill in a confidential and comprehensive report

The appraisal takes place from the person's home, using their own car on roads they know. Costs £35 and lasts around one and a half hours. To request a driving appraisal, please call 01962 846100 or email road.safety@hants.gov.uk Residents can also pay online for an appraisal [visit <https://www.hants.gov.uk/shop/home.php?cat=270>] and the Road Safety Team will contact you to book the date and time.

Become a Countryside Champion?

The County Council is looking for volunteers to become a champion of a specific site or area. Volunteers will walk sites, parks and rights of ways carrying out small scale maintenance and reporting and recording issues found to the site staff. This role could include a wide variety of activities eg carrying out wildlife surveys such as butterfly or hedgerow surveys; inspecting and waymarking rights of way routes; small scale path clearance, reporting and recording, etc. To find out more visit <https://hampshire.firmstep.com/default.aspx>

Funds for the Community

I have a small budget for funding community related projects across the Division. For example, I have funded Lunch Clubs; Parish Council projects; Church groups; trim trail for a school; music stands and theatre equipment for a school, playgroups; youth groups; Christmas party for village children; trips to the theatre for Golden Years; trips to the pantomime for young people, etc. The group must have a Treasurer and a bank account. To find out more visit <http://www3.hants.gov.uk/grants/county-councillor-grants.htm> and discuss the idea with me before making an application. Only one application per year per group. I look forward to hearing from groups in Soberton and Newtown.

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