

### **Helping Families in Need**

The County Council has awarded several Community Grants - through its connect4communities programme - to projects that ensure vulnerable households do not go without necessities, such as food, fuel and warmth this winter. The County Council, has worked with partners, including voluntary and charity groups, to coordinate a range of measures that support families facing hardship. Funding is provided to local authorities by the Department for Work and Pensions from its Household Support Fund.



The County Council has allocated £1.75 million to community grants to help organisations develop initiatives tailored to local needs. The type of projects awarded funding, include:

- Community groups that provide food parcels and recipe cards to local families with children and the elderly.
- Cook and eat sessions where whole families learn how to make healthy and affordable meals and how to reduce food waste.
- Mobile larders that provide low-cost food, especially in remote rural areas across Hampshire.
- A ‘grow and eat’ programme at a community allotment, which will bring together schoolchildren, community volunteers and local allotment association to grow produce and supply the community pantry for local families to enjoy.
- A community café run by volunteers that provides wraparound support services and offers opportunities in hospitality to young people.

Emergency funds have also been disbursed through schools and other organisations for families with children suffering extreme hardship. For example, in households where they find themselves without cooking facilities or white goods or need extra bedding and warm clothes as they move from a shelter into their own accommodation. Applications for Community Grants are still open. Organisations wanting to apply should go to [connect4communities.org](https://www.hants.gov.uk/socialcareandhealth/childrenandfamilies/connectforcommunities) -

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### **Carbon Neutral Bollards**

Introducing carbon neutral bollards Hampshire County Council are committed to doing all it can to tackle climate change. In a first for the UK, the Council are trialling low-carbon bollards. These traffic bollards installed by Hampshire Highways are made from a plant-based biopolymer, derived from sugar cane. This makes them lighter, easier to install, and because they replace concrete, they reduce the carbon costs of manufacture. We’re determined to play our part on the critical issue of climate change and carbon reduction and lead the way in sustainable construction.

### **New Schools in Hampshire**

Ten new schools will be built and opened by September 2025 in a bid to meet the ever-increasing demand for school places. It is estimated that more than 22,000 new school places will be needed by then – and while some will come from the expansion of pre-existing schools, the County Council has a duty to ensure every child has a seat in the classroom. Three schools will open their doors to pupils in the next academic year with the main pressure on school places coming from new housing developments.

Currently the Department for Education is working on the assumption that every new school built will be an academy or free school. Therefore, once the County Council has built these schools, they will be handed out on 125-year leases, although the Council will retain the freehold of the land.

### **24-hour Detox Centre will provide intensive support to those with drug and alcohol addictions.**

The Dame Carol Detoxification Service, in Kings Road, Fareham, will give help to those people with life-threatening addictions from across the south of England. People from as far as Kent, Buckinghamshire and Reading can be referred to the service, which will serve 20 local authorities in total. The nine-bed unit will provide specialist harm reduction and recovery and will also offer crucial on-the-job experience and training for medical and nursing trainees in the field of addictions. Funding for the Centre came from Public Health England, which gave Hampshire County Council £1,220,837 for the project.

## **Household Waste Recycling Centres**

The system of booking to visit Hampshire's household waste recycling centres (HWRCs) is to be made permanent following feedback from users who overwhelmingly supported the approach. It was introduced in June 2020 in response to the pandemic but also helped smooth visits and reduce queuing. The ability to book multiple trips will remain.

## **Walking, Cycling and Bus Priority Improvements**

Proposals to upgrade the A27 Delme roundabout in Fareham and widen Park Road South in Havant, as part of the wider regeneration of South East Hampshire are to be considered. Both schemes have been designed in line with the Government's ambition for people to transition to more active and sustainable forms of travel and reduce reliance on the car. This includes supporting greater use of local bus services as signalled by the national Bus Back Better strategy. In addition, they will also contribute to a reduction in carbon emissions in line with Hampshire County Council's Climate Change Strategy.

The two schemes meet the key ambitions set out in Hampshire County Council draft Local Transport Plan 4 - <https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/20220214DrflTP4> - which aims to reduce the overall need to travel, reduce dependency on the private car and provide a transport system that puts people first and enables high quality prosperous places to live. The draft plan is due to be consulted on publicly this Spring.

## **Hampshire's Kitchen Heroes**

In Food Waste Action Week last March, a new website - Hampshire Kitchen Heroes – was launched by Hampshire County Council with the aim of helping residents to save money and the planet with incentives and rewards, for reducing household food waste. The website features over 20 different food waste saving actions. People can earn 'Green Points' by taking steps like checking their fridge before they shop, keeping a food diary of what's being wasted and sharing their favourite recipes using leftovers. These points feed into leader boards allowing people to compete with other residents across the County to be the ultimate Kitchen Hero.

The resident who earns the most 'Green Points' for their actions each month, will win a £20 voucher from a choice of Hampshire-based experiences, Marks and Spencer, Love2Shop or for a donation to be made to a local food bank.

Hampshire Kitchen Heroes is open to all residents in the Hampshire County Council local authority area - sign up at: [hampshirekitchenheroes.co.uk](http://hampshirekitchenheroes.co.uk)

## **Choice of Secondary School**

More than 98 per cent of parents in Hampshire have been offered a place for their child, at one of their three preferred choices for a secondary school in September 2022. Of those who applied for a Year 7 place (for September 2022) by the application deadline, more than 92 per cent have been offered a place at their first choice school. The County Council received 14,982 on-time applications this year – an increase of 499 applications compared with the number received for places in September 2021 (14,483).

The Admissions Team is now busy processing primary school applications with school place offers due to go out to parents on 19th April 2022

## **Standing Down**

The Leader of Hampshire County Council has announced his decision to stand down from that role as from May this year, although he will continue to work as a County Councillor until the next County elections in May 2025.

Patricia Stallard, Hampshire County Councillor, Winchester Southern Parishes  
[Denmead, Newlands, Boarhunt, Southwick, Wickham, Knowle, Soberton, Newtown]

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