

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL report to Soberton & Newtown Parish Council – Tuesday 21st May 2019

Primary Admission Figures

Figures recently released show that of the 14,585 Year R applications received from Hampshire residents, 98.4 per cent (14,350) have been offered a place at one of their three school choices. For Year 3 admissions, there was a 98.7 per cent success rate (7,777 out of 7,883).

For Year R admissions, 92.1 per cent (13,444) have been offered their top choice of school, rising to 97.1 per cent (7,656) for Year 3 admissions.

As anticipated, there has been particularly high demand in some areas this year so the County Council has worked with schools to increase their capacity, including a planned programme of school expansions. This has ensured that every Hampshire child has a school place, with the vast majority of children attending their local school.

Join the Space Chase

Volunteer to help Hampshire's young readers rocket to success. Hampshire County Council's Library Service is encouraging people aged 14 and over to volunteer to support the Reading Agency's Summer Reading Challenge, from mid-July to mid-September. This year's Summer Reading Challenge theme – Space Chase – will celebrate adventure and exploration. Typical volunteer tasks during the Summer Reading Challenge include helping sign children up, logging their progress and recommending their next book. Prospective volunteers can sign up by visiting www.hants.gov.uk/librariesandarchives/library/aboutus/volunteering or by asking in branch. An induction session will take place before volunteers start.

A Fresh Slice of Success

Hampshire County Council's award-winning catering service, HC3S, has received national recognition for producing fresh, high quality food to thousands of customers, with a Food For Life Served Here (Bronze) Award. HC3S has been recognised by the Soil Association for the second year running for their use of fresh, locally sourced ingredients to produce nutritious food, which benefits pupils at 480 primary schools in Hampshire and 20 secondary schools.

HC3S, which celebrates its 30th anniversary this year, has a strong track record in developing and sustaining relationships with local suppliers, allowing customers to access food which is competitively priced and has travelled the shortest distance possible.

School Minibus Programme wins National Award

Hampshire County Council's innovative Spend to Save scheme, which provides schools with minibuses as part of ensuring that eligible children have a safe home to school transport service, has won a Bronze Award against stiff competition from across the UK. The scheme won the Bronze Award in the 'Working Together' category of the Public Sector Transformation Awards, organised by the Improvement and Efficiency Social Enterprise (iESE).

Judges were impressed with the Spend to Save programme, which provides schools with fully-funded new minibuses for their daily use in exchange for transporting pupils who are eligible for local authority funded home to school transport. The take up rate has increased as a result and a range of options has been developed to suit the needs of different schools and colleges.

With 35 minibuses in the fleet, children in education settings benefit from their school using the minibus for school organised activities, such as school trips and other extra-curricular activities. Having the minibus based on their premises available for use in this way provides much needed flexibility and reduces pressure on the school or college's budget.

20,000 People Benefit from Care Technology

The County Council is set to invest up to £67 million in care technology over the next ten years to support the growing number of elderly people and younger adults with disabilities in Hampshire. Through a new

contract the Council expects the number of adults using technology to help them to live more independently to grow significantly over the next decade, with some 20,000 new people set to benefit over the next five years alone.

As part of the new contract, a ‘private pay’ service will also be pursued. This will enable adults who do not qualify for adult social care support to purchase the wide range of proven care technology now available to the County Council’s social care clients. Third parties, including other local authorities and NHS partners, will also be able to buy the services from Hampshire.

£19 million transformation of Hampshire's Country Parks

Focused investment in country parks around the County is successfully increasing visitor numbers and ensuring the parks are on track to become financially self-sufficient in the future. Work is now under way to improve facilities at Queen Elizabeth Country Park, Staunton Country Park, River Hamble Country Park, Manor Farm and Titchfield Haven Nature Reserve.

Improvements to the country parks include refurbished buildings, improved play equipment, new trails and new catering facilities. New Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) systems at the parks has also seen payment compliance for parking increase to nearly 100%. This ensures a fair system for everyone and enables funding to go back into maintaining the parks.

Waste Prevention Community Grant Fund 2019

With the cost of dealing with Hampshire’s household waste now regularly topping the £100 million a year mark, Hampshire County Council is offering grants of up to £5,000 to help kick start or expand projects, products and services which prevent waste at home

We are looking for projects that reduce or prevent ‘household waste’– this is different to recycling as it involves taking action before a product or material becomes waste, so we mean the rubbish you might put in your waste bin at home or take to your local Household Waste Recycling Centre for disposal. Interested groups are encouraged to discuss potential projects with the County Council’s team prior to applying. Please contact the team via email: waste.prevention@hants.gov.uk to arrange an informal discussion.

For full eligibility criteria and more information on the Grant, including how to apply and videos of some of last year’s successful projects, visit: www.hants.gov.uk/waste-prevention-community

Who can apply?

- Community, neighbourhood or voluntary groups
- Registered Charities
- Schools, colleges and universities
- Not-for-profit organisations (including social enterprises)
- Businesses with fewer than 250 employees, i.e. small and medium sized enterprises
- Faith groups delivering community work
- Parish Councils

Councillor Grants

The Councillor Grant schemes should be opening up again in early June and I welcome applications from local community groups. The group must have a named Treasurer and bank account. Applications must be made online via www.hants.gov.uk – Councillor Grants – but please discuss with me prior to putting in an application.

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