

Hampshire County Councillor Update 51

Dear All

Here's my monthly report for August/September. I hope you enjoyed your summer – it's good to be getting back to normal after the holidays, although the weather flipping from glorious summer to typically autumn in just a few days has been a bit of a shock.

Here's the latest update.

Highways Information

Road Closure Notice: Causeway Resurfacing - The Causeway

A heads up that one of the most popular walking routes in Romsey will be closed from 1 September to 26 September (or until the work is finished).

HCC will be resurfacing the causeway on Romsey Extra footpaths 705 and 706. During this time, this section will be closed to all users.

Key details:

Footpaths closed: Romsey Extra 705 & 706

Closure period: 01.09.2025 – 26.09.2025 (or until completion)

Alternative routes: none available in this section

Access: reasonable facilities will be in place for adjacent properties

I know many of you love this stretch and use it daily, so I apologise for any inconvenience.

Thank you for your patience while we make these improvements!

Who Looks After Our Roads? A Quick Guide for Hampshire, Southampton & Portsmouth Residents

Whether it's potholes, flooding, broken streetlights or overgrown hedges — knowing who to contact makes all the difference.

Here's a breakdown of who's responsible for roads in our area, and how to report issues quickly and effectively:



TEMPORARY CLOSURE PART OF ROMSEY EXTRA FOOTPATHS 705 AND 706

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Hampshire County Council has made an Order under Section 14 (1)a of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, to allow for works in connection with the resurfacing of the causeway as follows:

ROAD TO BE CLOSED: PART OF ROMSEY EXTRA FOOTPATHS 705 & 706

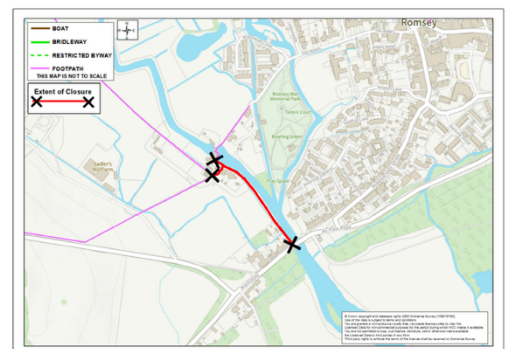
ALTERNATIVE ROUTE: NO ALTERNATIVE ROUTES AVAILABLE

PERIOD OF CLOSURE: From 01.09.2025 until 26.09.2025 or until completion of the works, whichever is sooner.

Reasonable facilities will be provided to allow access to adjacent premises while the work is being carried out.

For information visit www.hants.gov.uk/publicnotices, contact the Countryside Access Team on 0300 555 1391 or email countryside@hants.gov.uk

JONATHAN WOODS, Countryside Strategic Manager, The Castle, Winchester, SO23 8UD



www.hants.gov.uk

Hampshire County Council

Responsible for most roads across Hampshire (excluding motorways and trunk roads).

 Report issues like potholes, drainage, trees, or street lighting:

 Hampshire Highways Reporting Portal: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/highways>

Southampton City Council

Manages roads within the Southampton boundary.

 Report road defects, street furniture issues, or traffic signals:

 Southampton Highways Reporting: <https://www.southampton.gov.uk/.../report-road-defect/>

Portsmouth City Council

Responsible for roads, footpaths, cycleways and coastal paths in Portsmouth.

 Report maintenance concerns or view their strategy:

 Portsmouth Highways Maintenance Hub: <https://www.portsmouth.gov.uk/.../local-highways.../>

National Highways

Handles motorways and major trunk roads like the M3, M27, M271, M275, A303, A36, A34, A3 and A31 west of Cadnam.

 Report issues on these roads:

 National Highways Contact Centre: <https://report.nationalhighways.co.uk/>

Let's keep our roads safe, accessible and well-maintained — and make sure concerns reach the right hands. Feel free to share this post to help others know where to turn.

Reporting Highway Problems

Links to report road issues are here:

Potholes: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/highways/report-a-problem/potholes>

Tree/hedge problems: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/highways/report-a-problem/treehedge>

Flooding/drainage issues: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/highways/report-a-problem/flooding>

Pavement problems: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/highways/report-a-problem/paving>

Broken or missing signs: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/highways/report-a-problem/brokensigns>

Faulty street lights: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/highways/report-a-problem/streetlight>

Faded or missing road markings: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/highways/report-a-problem/road-markings>

Problems with rights of way:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/rightsofway/report-a-problem>

When reporting an issue, you'll be sent an email confirming a reference number for the report. If you would like me to follow this up for you then do please forward that message to me and I will chase for you.

Hampshire Faces Major Funding Cuts Under Government's 'Fair' Funding Review

I mentioned last previously the risk to Hampshire from the Government's review of local government funding. Essentially this takes money from rural areas in the South and passes it to urban councils, particularly those in the North and Midlands.

So, despite the really great work we are doing to improve our finances the Government's transfer of funding to the cities and the north will just undo all the good we are doing.

Hampshire County Council has now responded to the Government's Fair Funding Review 2.0—and we're sounding the alarm. The proposed changes to how councils are funded could leave Hampshire significantly worse off, with many councils across the county facing real-terms cuts.



What's happening? The new formula underestimates Hampshire's needs and overestimates how much we can raise through council tax. It risks deepening our financial deficit and reducing vital services.



The numbers speak for themselves:

Hampshire County Council: funding drops from £338.9m in 2025/26 to £291.1m in 2028/29—a loss of £47.8m.

East Hampshire: down £1.3m

Eastleigh: down £1.6m

Hart: down £1.4m

Test Valley: down £4.4m

Winchester: down £2.1m

Even councils seeing small increases—like Fareham (+£2.1m) or Havant (+£1.3m)—won't escape the pressure, as overall resources shrink and demand grows.



We're calling for:

Fairer service formulas that reflect real demand, especially in rural areas.

Use of actual council tax levels—not national averages—when calculating funding.

Reform of the New Homes Bonus to support infrastructure for growing communities.

A funding floor that protects councils from falling below sustainable levels, indexed to inflation and population.

 Why it matters: Without urgent changes, Hampshire's councils could struggle to deliver essential services—especially for vulnerable residents. We're urging the Government to rethink and deliver a formula that's truly fair for all.

Council	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	Gain / (Loss) 25/26 to 28/29
HCC	338.9	323.0	307.0	291.1	(47.8)
Basingstoke	8.2	8.6	9.1	9.5	1.3
East Hampshire	7.1	6.6	6.2	5.8	(1.3)
Eastleigh	8.7	8.2	7.6	7.1	(1.6)
Fareham	3.9	4.6	5.3	6.0	2.1
Gosport	5.6	5.7	5.8	6.0	0.4
Hart	4.6	4.2	3.7	3.2	(1.4)
Havant	7.9	8.3	8.8	9.2	1.3
New Forest	10.3	10.3	10.2	10.2	(0.1)
Rushmoor	6.7	7.0	7.3	7.5	0.8
Test Valley	12.3	10.8	9.3	7.9	(4.4)
Winchester	10.1	9.4	8.7	8.0	(2.1)
HCC + Districts Total	424.3	406.7	389.0	371.5	(52.8)
Portsmouth	129.1	133.1	137.0	140.9	11.8
Southampton	149.9	153.9	157.9	161.9	12.0
HCC + Districts + Cities Total	703.3	693.7	683.9	674.3	(29.0)
Isle of Wight	89.8	87.0	84.3	81.5	(8.3)
Hampshire & Solent Total	793.1	780.7	768.2	755.8	(37.3)

Test Valley's Local Plan

It was great to be at the meeting held in Lockerley last month, where residents of East Dean were asked to contribute to a community response to the inclusion of a site for 50 homes on Holbury Lane in the 2042 Local Plan Regulation 18 consultation currently underway.

Our Local MP, [Caroline Nokes](#) encouraged residents to oppose the inclusion of the site in the plan, which would see the size of East Dean increase by almost 50%. As a borough councillor I am unable to comment as to do so would prejudice my ability to vote when the Local Plan comes before the Council, but I was able to explain why we are in the position in which we find ourselves.

Test Valley Borough Council is consulting on its Draft Local Plan 2042 (Revised Regulation 18) until 5 September 2025. This plan will set development policies for housing, employment, infrastructure, and green spaces across our borough up to 2042. It's the statutory stage where you can shape where new homes go, how much infrastructure is delivered alongside, and how we protect our heritage and environment.

Why an Updated Local Plan Is Crucial

In December our housing requirement has jumped from 524 to 934 homes per year – a 78 percent increase – in response to the Government’s revised National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). That means Test Valley must allocate space for at least 15,878 homes between 2025 and 2042. Without an up-to-date Local Plan, the Council cannot demonstrate a five-year housing land supply, leaving us exposed to speculative proposals that may come forward anywhere in the borough.

Government Targets and Speculative Applications

The Government’s pledge to build 1.5 million new homes nationally by 2029, combined with the immediate uplift in local housing numbers, came with no transition period.

As a result, all planning applications—even those outside proposed Local Plan sites—must be assessed primarily against the NPPF’s presumption in favour of sustainable development. In practice, unless an application breaches specific NPPF policies (for example, on landscape or highways), it is likely to be approved, irrespective of whether it’s in the Local Plan or not.

Spotlight on Application 25/01839/OUTS

A speculative outline application—25/01839/OUTS—has been submitted for the Choice Plants site on Stockbridge Road, Timsbury (SO51 0NB). It proposes up to 60 dwellings and reserves all matters except access.

Because this site lies outside the current draft plan allocations, the only grounds for objection are those contained within the NPPF (such as unsustainable location, inadequate infrastructure, or harm to heritage assets). “Not in the plan” is not a valid reason for refusal under the new rules.

However, this is a good example of why having your say on the Local Plan is so important. As speculative applications are made on sites outside the Plan, the total housing included within them means they can be considered 'windfall' sites, meaning an argument can be made that sites providing an equivalent number of homes should be removed from the Plan as the housing is being provided elsewhere already.

How You Can Help Shape Test Valley’s Future

- Visit the consultation portal at: <https://testvalley.gov.uk/localplan2042>
- Tell us which sites you support or oppose, and why
- Highlight infrastructure priorities: schools, healthcare, transport, and open space
- Raise concerns over environmental or heritage impacts
- Share your responses by 5 September 2025

You can also email planningpolicy@testvalley.gov.uk

Your input now will inform the Regulation 19 draft (final public consultation) and ensure our communities guide development—rather than leaving decisions to speculative bids.

Let’s plan Test Valley’s future together, not just permit development by default.

Winter Fuel Payments – No Need to Apply!

 [#NoNeedToApply](#)

I've seen reports from Hampshire Police about scammers posing as officials trying to "help" people access their Winter Fuel Payment. Let's set the record straight:

 If you're eligible, the payment is AUTOMATIC

 No one needs to contact you, and you don't need to give out any info

 Check the official details here: gov.uk/winter-fuel-payment

Be scam-savvy:  Learn about current scams: BBC Article | Watch the video  If you've shared financial info, call your bank on 159  Forward suspicious texts to 7726 and emails to report@phishing.gov.uk

Need support?  Victim Care Hub – free, confidential help: hampshireiowvictimcare.co.uk /  0808 178 1641

 Report anonymously: crimestoppers-uk.org /  0800 555 111

 In emergency: call 999

Even if this doesn't affect you — please share to protect someone who might be vulnerable.



Honouring Merchant Navy Day – Wednesday 3rd September

Test Valley Borough Council joins a nationwide tribute led by Seafarers UK and the Merchant Navy Association to mark Merchant Navy Day — a moment to recognise the vital role our seafarers play in keeping the UK running.

As an island nation, 95% of our imports — including half the food we eat — arrive by sea. Our ports industry is the largest in Europe, and 75% of our exports (by volume) leave through UK ports. To honour this contribution:

 The official Merchant Navy flag will be flown on public buildings and landmark flagstaffs across Test Valley

 At 10am, ports supporting the campaign will encourage visiting ships to sound their horns as flags are raised

Let's take a moment to reflect on the dedication of our Merchant Navy crews — past and present — who keep our shelves stocked, our economy moving, and our connection to the world alive.

Demfest at Sir Harold Hillier Gardens

I was privileged to be asked to attend [Romdag's](#) brilliant DemFest at [Sir Harold Hillier Arboretum and Gardens](#) on Sunday.

It was great to meet so many of the businesses, public sector and voluntary organisations who support those with dementia in and around Romsey.

We should be rightly proud that our town benefits from such an amazing organisation which not only provides vital support to those who have dementia related illnesses and those who care for them. Their work is rightly held up widely as exemplary and has been copied in many other communities across Hampshire.

Thanks too to Gilberts Nursery who regularly support the charity through the donations given by those who visit their amazing dahlia fields in Sherfield English. They are open once again now and I'd thoroughly recommend a visit.



Getting About

Not many parish council meetings last month, I spoke at public meetings in Lockerley, Brockenhurst, Boldre, West End and Shirrell Heath.

Contact

Do please get in touch if I can ever be of any help. For those of you using social media, I post very regular updates on many local issues including roadworks and planning applications on my Facebook page here: facebook.com/nickadamsking

Contact me:

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 facebook.com/nickadamsking

CLLR NICK ADAMS-KING
Caring for Romsey Rural



General Updates from HCC:

Savings agreed to safeguard essential services

[Savings agreed to safeguard essential services | Hampshire County Council](#)

Helping your child start the school year with confidence

[Helping your child start the school year with confidence | Hampshire County Council](#)

Celebrating success and looking forward: Hampshire's college and sixth form students to receive 2025 exam results

[Celebrating success and looking forward: Hampshire's college and sixth form students to receive 2025 exam results | Hampshire County Council](#)

Hampshire's GCSE students shine: Celebrating success and supporting futures

[Hampshire's GCSE students shine: Celebrating success and supporting futures | Hampshire County Council](#)

Travel alert: Overnight works on A334/A3051 Junction, Botley

[Travel alert: Overnight works on A334/A3051 Junction, Botley | Hampshire County Council](#)