HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL UPDATES

June 2026

Andover West | Cllr Chris Donnelly

Please find below an outline of current programmes of work and public information from Hampshire County Council. I hope that this is useful.

If you have any further questions, then please don't hesitate to contact me at cllrc.donnelly@hants.gov.uk

Kind regards,

Chris

Election Results

Firstly, may I say how pleased I am to be back! I appreciate all the support which I received across the division. For those who voted for me – thank you! For those who did not, I will do my very best to represent you and your interests regardless.

Turnout across the division was up 10%, which is a reflection of the difficult times in which we live and underlining the importance of finding solutions to the issues which our residents and neighbours face.

My committee work will once again involve Chairing the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education, as well as taking a seat on the Heath & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee, which deals with Adult Social Care, our biggest budget spend. In addition, I will represent Hampshire County Council on the Hampshire Cultural Trust, which manages our museums and historic sites.

My view is that the remaining two years of HCC must be devoted to ensuring the smooth and stable transfer of services to the Hampshire Combined Authority and the Mid Hampshire Council, with as little disruption as possible for service users. All elected members should work together to achieve this, because regardless of political affiliation, all of us want high quality public services and to improve life in Hampshire.

Electric Charging Points

Hampshire County Council has announced plans for a major expansion of electric vehicle charging across the county.

Around 17,000 new community EV charging sockets are planned, focused particularly on areas where residents do not have access to off-street parking, such as a driveway or garage.

That matters because, for many people, the biggest barrier to switching to an electric vehicle is not the vehicle itself — it is having somewhere practical and reliable to charge it. The scheme is being supported by £6.662 million of Government funding, which has helped unlock up to £90 million of private investment from charge point operator Believ. Importantly, this means the programme can be delivered at no cost to Hampshire County Council.

Installations are expected to begin later this year, with around 500 charge points planned in the first year. Residents are also being asked to suggest locations where charge points would be useful, so the rollout can be targeted where demand and need are greatest. This is a practical step towards making EV charging more accessible across Hampshire, particularly for those who cannot charge at home. You can read more and suggest a location here:
https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/20260506EVChargingScheme

A342 Group

The new Cabinet Member for Highways is Steve Forster, who represents Fleet. Steve and I have worked together quite closely when he was at Education, to deliver the two new SEN classrooms at Harrow Way. I know that he has some ideas to change how road schemes are prioritised, which I support. Whilst I did not know his predecessor that well, Steve is a capable and competent man with considerable experience and a listening ear.

With Hampshire Highways now admitting that they do need to consider the A342 Transport Corridor, it is essential that they work with the parishes rather than in parallel. I will therefore be arranging a roundtable with Steve and a Highways officer at Winchester, to which all members are invited. This is likely to be at the end of the summer.

I also visited the traffic island at Weyhill with Caroline Nokes MP, whilst we were out campaigning, and who is now aware of the campaign and is supportive of our engagement.

Appleshaw Walk Around

I joined Appleshaw Parish Council and Road Safety Group to walk around the village with a Traffic Safety Officer from Highways, to help advise and discuss their application for a 20mph limit. There were some interesting discussions and I found it very helpful.

Despite challenging the officer on the cost of a Road Traffic Order, I remain unconvinced at the costs involved and will be requesting a more detailed breakdown.

I also met with Thruxton to discuss a possible submission, which was helpful. Thank you to both councils for their hard work on the evidence for submission. Hampshire County Council confirms funding for 100+ bus shelter upgrades Hampshire County Council has confirmed more than £554,000 of funding to help parish councils improve local bus shelters, with 41 parish councils awarded grants to refurbish or replace 137 shelters across the county.

This funding comes through Hampshire's Bus Service Improvement Plan, supported by Government bus grant funding. It will help with practical improvements such as replacing ageing shelters, upgrading structures, and adding features such as better seating and lighting.

These may seem like small improvements, but they matter. Clean, safe and welcoming shelters help make buses a more realistic and attractive option for everyday journeys — particularly in rural communities where public transport links are so important.

This sits alongside wider work to improve bus services in Hampshire, including better stops and interchanges, real-time passenger information, bus priority measures, community transport support and fare initiatives.

Bus use in Hampshire is moving in the right direction, with 26.6 million journeys made in 2024/25 — up 1.7 million on the previous year. The new, on-demand bus which links the villages to Andover is proving popular. There is still much more to do, but investment like this is part of making public transport more reliable, accessible and attractive for residents.

Support for Hampshire care leavers praised in latest Ofsted Report

I'm really pleased to share some positive news about Hampshire's support for young people leaving care.

Following a recent inspection, Ofsted has praised Hampshire County Council for providing "high-quality, responsive support" to care leavers, recognising the strong and trusted relationships built between young people and their Personal Advisers, and the tailored help available as they move into adulthood.

Leaving care can be one of the most challenging periods in a young person's life. Support with housing, education, employment, wellbeing and independence can make an enormous difference, and it is encouraging to see inspectors recognise the dedication of the staff working alongside some of Hampshire's most vulnerable young people. Ofsted particularly highlighted the way young people's voices and aspirations help shape the support they receive.

You can read the full OfSTED report here:
https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/provider/44/80472

Reporting Highway Problems Links to report road issues are here: Missing or damaged signs:
https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/brokensigns

Potholes:
https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/potholes

Tree/hedge problems:
https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/treehedge

Flooding/drainage issues:
https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/flooding

Pavement problems:
https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/paving

Problems with rights of way:
https://www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/rightsofway/reportaproblem

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.