

## Update from Hampshire County Council – November 2022

### **£3 million Romsey Town Centre improvements win prestigious awards**

Planning, design and construction of an historic town's central space, by Hampshire County Council, has been recognised after a place making scheme was crowned Solent's best new public space by both judges and Hampshire residents.

Market Place in Romsey, Hampshire, won both the Judge's Award and People's Choice Award in the Partnership for South Hampshire's Solent Quality of Place Awards – the first time in the Awards' 10-year history that a scheme has achieved winning two accolades.

The design team for Market Place, comprised County Council Highways Engineers, Transport Planners and Landscape Architects, working closely with Test Valley Borough Council, who worked to produce the design proposals, in close consultation with the Romsey Steering Board, whose members were senior representatives from the County Council, Test Valley Borough Council and Romsey Town Council, as well as local community interest groups.

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/01112022RomseyMarketPlacePfSHawardtradePR>

### **Meals on Wheels – here to support this winter**

To coincide with national Meals on Wheels Week this autumn, Hampshire County Council is reminding local residents that Meals on Wheels are available to anyone with a long term health condition who may struggle to shop for or prepare food for themselves.

Meals on Wheels are designed for anyone over the age of 18 living with a health condition who has difficulty shopping or cooking for themselves.

Full details, including eligibility criteria, are available on the [County Council's Meals on Wheels web page](#).

Meals on Wheels are provided by [apetito](#) and currently cost £5.67 for a two course hot meal (a third course is £1 extra), with afternoon tea costing £3.25.

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/281022mealsonwheels>

### **Keeping Hampshire moving in all weathers – highways teams get winter-ready**

To keep Hampshire moving during the wetter and colder months of winter, Hampshire Highways are ready – with crews on standby 24/7, ready to salt the roads in snow and icy conditions, as well as deal with the impacts of high winds, heavy rain and flooding, such as those seen last weekend (22 and 23 October).

Since January, the service's year-round maintenance programme has seen the cleaning and clearance of over 107,500 roadside gullies and 22,500 metres of linear drainage, 10,076 catchpits (chambers near to the carriageway that act like gullies and from which silt has to be cleared) and nearly 16,000 intercepting ditches (known as grips which generally run between the road and adjacent ditch and help prevent surface water from pooling on the road), as well as the completion of 13 major drainage improvement schemes across the county.

For more information on the work carried out in the fight against flooding, and how residents can be prepared, see the [County Council's flooding advice webpage](#)

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/20221027HantsHighwaysWinterReady>

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### **Hampshire groups invited to apply to Leader's Community Grant Scheme to create warm hubs this winter**

Communities across Hampshire are being invited to apply to Hampshire County Council for support from the Leader's Community Grants Scheme in order to create a network of warm hubs this winter

Leader of Hampshire County Council, Councillor Rob Humby, said: "While households have been given a level of assurance that fuel bills will be contained to April 2023 for now, we know that many will still struggle significantly, facing exceptionally difficult choices about how budgets are spent this autumn and winter.

"As the colder months approach, we want to do what we can to support our local communities. We are therefore now inviting voluntary and community organisations to apply for a grant of up to £5,000 to develop and host warm hubs where people can gather together. This might be in the form of a regular coffee morning, or the provision of a shared activity, however we welcome creative ideas and concepts that will deliver support especially to our most vulnerable residents."

Applications are open for the financial year 2022/23. Those wishing to apply can find more information and guidance on [the Leader's Community Grants web page](#). Any organisation wishing to apply for a grant to deliver a warm hub will also need to confirm that they will register on the Warm Welcome website.

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/20221020LeadersGrants>

### **County Council sets out support package for pupils as cost rises force increase in school meal price**

Hampshire County Council has set out a financial support package to help schools cover school meal costs and contribute towards school uniform for vulnerable families this winter

This comes as the County Council calls for adequate Government funding for school meals as the costs of ingredients, energy and staff wages increase. To avoid significant losses, the County Council school meal provider, HC3S, is being forced to increase school meal prices by 20p per day from 31 October.

Nearly all of Hampshire's 426 primary schools and many of the special and secondary schools use HC3S to provide their school catering.

[Families can check if they are entitled for free school meals on the HC3S website.](#)

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/20221011SchoolWinterSupport>

Cllr David Drew

Test Valley Central Division, HCC