

**Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of Burghclere Parish Council held on
8th January 2024 at 7pm in the Portal Hall Clubroom**

Present: Cllrs R Carrow (Chairman), A Crowley (Vice-Chairman), J Parkes, A Patrick-Smith, S Whiting, I Collins, A Harvey and G Morton.

J Letsome (Clerk)

Borough Cllrs Harvey and Konieczko (item 193 only)

3 x Parishioners

Harry Dove – Sports Club representative

191. Apologies

Received from Borough Cllr Izett.

192. Declaration of members' interests for this meeting

There were no pecuniary interests declared.

193. Local Plan Update

Cllr Carrow welcomed Borough Cllrs Harvey and Konieczko to the meeting, who were in attendance to present an overview of the Local Plan Update. He noted the specific planning issues relevant to Burghclere, along with the benefits of maintaining positive relationships with other bodies and neighbouring parish and town councils. He expressed gratitude to local residents who engaged with the Neighbourhood Planning process as well as appreciation to officers in the Planning Policy Team.

Prior to answering questions, Cllr Harvey and Konieczko delivered a presentation covering:

- A recap of the previous 12 months, including the difficulties caused by a delay in the publication of the amended NPPF.
- The areas considered when preparing the draft Local Plan Update, including:
 - Policies:
 - Net Zero
 - Water Quality
 - Liveability
 - Community Facilities
 - Housing numbers

A stepped trajectory was planned, using numbers from a lower level than mandated by the Standard Method in the first five years of the new Local Plan to a higher number thereafter.

They hoped that the 6-week Regulation 18 consultation would be launched shortly, however this was subject to it being approved by cabinet on 9th January.

Cllrs welcomed confirmation that the new framework only required demonstration of a four-year housing land supply once Regulation 18 consultation on the Local Plan Update was under way.

194. Confirm minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 4th December 2023

The draft minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 4th December 2023 were proposed for acceptance for signing by Cllr Harvey seconded by Cllr Crowley and agreed by all.

195. Review Progress of actions from meeting held on 4th December 2023

There was an update shared on progress of the actions, as follows:

Item No:	Action	Due by	Progress	Owner
164	Upload 6 th November 2023 meeting minutes to website		Actioned	Clerk
101 (b/f)	Arrange fob for Cllr Harvey <i>As reported in earlier Pinder meeting – new laptop purchased enabling new fobs to be programmed.</i>		In progress	Cllr Crowley
101 (b/f)	Research alternative email providers		Carry forward	Cllr Crowley
172	Consider speakers for Annual Assembly Add Annual Assembly to January agenda		Actioned	All Clerk
173	Respond to planning application.		Actioned	Chair/Clerk
174	Add s106 funding/Millennium Garden path to January agenda		Actioned	Clerk
175	Add Sports Club to January agenda		Actioned	Clerk
175	Consider and comment on draft survey in advance of January meeting		Actioned	All
176	Circulate alternative logos for consideration and agreement in January meeting.		Actioned	Cllr Harvey

176	Prepare first “Burghclere Bulletin”		Actioned	Clerk
178	Advise Clerk of interest in participation in Emergency Planning & Resilience Focus Group		Actioned	All
179	Progress EV charger installation and share information as it becomes available.		Agenda item	Cllr Crowley/ Clerk
181	Make enquiries to establish options for replacing the swing gate		Actioned	Cllr Carrow
182	Progress quote and work to Oak Tree Progress Insurance Claim		Agenda item	Cllr Morton/ Clerk
184	Arrange for removal of old email address from booking calendar on website.		Carry forward	Cllr Crowley
185	Update approved documents and add to agenda. Check Litter Picker’s procedure for sharps/needs disposal		Actioned Actioned	Clerk Clerk
186	Obtain quotes to replace Breachfield noticeboard		Actioned	Clerk
187	Progress playground repairs		In progress	Chair
188	Progress payments		Actioned	Clerk
189	Update draft budget as required and add Precept approval to January agenda		Actioned	Clerk

196. To receive minutes of Pinder Recreation Trust meeting held 6th November 2023

Cllr Whiting proposed that the minutes of the Pinder Recreation Trust meeting held on 6th November 2023 were accepted as a report to the Parish Council, this was seconded by Cllr Carrow and agreed by all. These are attached at Appendix A.

197. County Councillor Report

County Cllr Tom Thacker was not present but had submitted a report as attached at Appendix B. Cllr Carrow noted the report contained useful information that should be widely shared, including within a dedicated “Burghclere Bulletin”.

198. Borough Councillor Report

Borough Cllr Izett was not present.

199. Sports Club

Harry Dove was in attendance as a representative of the Sports Club to further discuss the club's future plans, the involvement of the Parish Council and community consultation.

On discussion it was agreed that:

- The Parish Council (as Trustee of Pinder Recreation Trust) would be willing to be the lead body in the project with the Sports Club providing the detailed work in bringing it to fruition, subject to a memorandum of understanding and organisation chart being developed.
- supportive public face for some aspects of areas such as fundraising and consultation.
- Cllr Carrow would write a scene setting article for the monthly news.
- The Sports Club would arrange a community engagement session alongside sharing the survey and with a view to generating interest for the formation of a working group. It was noted this session could potentially take place during the Annual Parish Assembly.

200. Parishioners' open time

Nothing raised.

201. Chairman's Comments

Nothing raised.

202. Planning applications and appeal notifications received since 4th December 2023

The following applications and appeals were discussed:

23/02999/HSE Ridgeview Barn Well Street Burghclere RG20 9HS
Erection of a detached garage with room in roof.

Response: On discussion it was agreed to submit a comment stating there were no objections in principle to the construction of a garage, however noting concerns on the proximity to a listed building and requesting a condition be placed restricting future use as a living space.

To note:

- **Planning Applications requiring response before 8th January**

23/00794/REVPP Farnborough Airport
This application had been considered by all cllrs via email. As no objections or comments were raised the Clerk has submitted a response under the delegated powers arrangement.

- **Decisions recorded by B&DBC since previous meeting:**

T/00465/23/TPO Southernwood House Harts Lane Burghclere
Application withdrawn

23/02157/OUT Workshop Tothill Burghclere Hampshire
Application withdrawn

23/02254/FUL Norman Farm Well Street Burghclere RG20 9HS
Granted

22/03327/FUL 6 Weir Vale Cottages Sydmonton Road Old Burghclere RG20
9NR
Refused

Ongoing planning issues:

22/01162/LDED - Annexe At Froyle House Harts Lane Burghclere RG20 9JN
There was noted to be no further information, therefore Cllr Carrow would
contact B&DBC for an update.

203. Planning Update

Cllr Carrow gave an update on:

- Issue of government’s Dec 23 NPPF and implications arising.
- Launch of B&DBC’s Regulation 18 Local Plan and associated paperwork
Both of the above items had mostly been covered under item 193, however
Cllr Carrow drew Cllrs attention to the latest SHELAA, noting it remained
unchanged.
- The potential development South of Woodbine Lane.
- Neighbourhood Plan Monitoring Report – The final document was noted as
received.
- Millennium Garden improvements – He noted this was not a Local Green
Space. A site visit would be arranged prior to obtaining quotes and seeking
s106 funding.

204. Community Engagement

- Cllr Harvey had presented a selection of draft logos for consideration. On
discussion it was agreed to choose this:



as Burghclere Parish Council’s official logo.

- The clerk had circulated a draft of the first edition of the “Burghclere Bulletin”,
it was agreed to proceed with circulation during the week commencing 15th
January, subject to inclusion of the new logo and content amendments,

205. Renewable Energy and Climate Change

Chairman Signature:Date: 5th February 2024

Cllrs noted:

- an opportunity to attend an upcoming e-bike business presentation on 10th January.
- moves to enable listed buildings to take advantage of energy micro-generation, which could open opportunities for the Portal Hall.

206. Electric Vehicle Chargers

Cllr Crowley reported that he had received an update from B&DBC on the draft licence, however no further information on the s106 funding had been received.

207. Road matters

- Cllrs considered the proposed Extinguishment of Highway Rights - Land adjacent to Sydmonton Road, Burghclere, RG20 9LJ. Reference – 21672914. No objections were raised.
- Cllr Carrow gave an update on flooding at Harts Hollow, noting that in 2023 11 incidents were reported and 4 more were recorded but not reported. He awaited an update from Thames Water but proposed raising this further to highlight the lack of progress.
- Cllr Carrow reported on his proposed response to an email received from a Parishioner who had queried guidance given on ditch clearance in a recent monthly news article.

208. Footpaths Report

Cllr Carrow reported:

- that Hants CC were now requiring landowners to fund the cost of repairs/replacement gates themselves; this included the cost of repairing the boardwalk in the western part of The Alders, which was estimated to be £5k, He would continue with the stile survey but acquiring funding for any replacements would become challenging.
- he was required to update his First Aid qualification in order to ensure he continued to be covered by insurance for footpath work. Several options had been explored, with a course offered by Basingstoke Voluntary Action being the cheapest at £75. It was agreed this could be funded by the PC.

209. Tree report

- Cllrs considered quotes for undertaking the work required to the Oak on the path from Sports Club to School. On discussion it was agreed to accept the quote from EJM for £600 (ex VAT). The Clerk would submit an insurance claim when all the information was available.

- The Clerk confirmed that £1000 had been received as a result of the insurance claim made for the recent removal of the Ash Tree.

210. Playground

Cllrs considered a quote received for the required repairs to playground equipment, on discussion it was agreed not to seek further quotes as the work was deemed to require prompt attention, it was therefore agreed to proceed with the quote supplied by Sovereign Play Equipment for £942.60 (ex VAT).

211. Training

Cllr Carrow would be attending:

- HCC Resilience meeting, Winchester, 9th January
- B&DBC Code of Conduct Training, Highclere Village Hall 25th January – this was noted to be a useful training and networking opportunity for all Cllrs.

212. Website & IT

Nothing further to report.

213. Coronation and CIL Funding

Cllrs considered three quotes for the cost of a replacement noticeboard for the one located on the corner of Breachfield. On discussion it was agreed to proceed with accepting the quote provided by GEViews for 1,378.55 (ex VAT). This would be funded by the unspent balance of £170 from the Coronation grant, with the remainder to be met from the £1985 Community Infrastructure Levy. It was noted that there would be an additional installation cost.

214. S106 contributions

Cllrs noted a received request for information received regarding future projects requiring S106 contributions, however this would include the Millennium Garden path and fencing in the adult equipment area. This would be given further consideration in advance of agreeing a response in the February meeting.

215. Accounts

The following payments were noted as having been paid since the previous meeting:

Budget Section	Date	Details	Cheque	Amount
Expenditure		To approve		
Grass Cutting	09/01/2024	Pinder re grass cutting	BACS	£970.00

The following payments were approved:

Budget Section	Date	Details	Cheque	Amount
Expenditure		Approved & Paid		
Admin/Courses	20/12/2023	Clerk's expenses	BACS	£69.44
Salary/PAYE	20/12/2023	Clerk's Salary	BACS	£842.55
Salary/PAYE	31/12/2023	Litter Picker Salary	SO	£468.40
Salary/PAYE	20/12/2023	Nest December Pension	DD	£92.72
Salary/PAYE	20/12/2023	HMRC PAYE & NI	BACS	£139.60
Other op exps	08/12/2023	R Carrow - Xmas Tree and copying	BACS	£35.30
				£1,648.01

The Clerk reported that:

- The bank balance at 31st December 2023 was £18536.31
- The balance in the Business Bank Instant Account stood at £8376.44
- The balance in the Newbury Building Society account stood at £19,710.36
- There had been an error resulting in the Nest pension contribution being too high for December. She would ensure it would be rectified when making the January payment.

Cllrs considered the amended draft budget circulated by the Clerk which had included provision for possible insurance claims relating to tree work. On discussion it was agreed not to include insurance as income and to therefore approve v2 of the budget as circulated to the meeting held on 4th December.

Cllr Morton proposed the Precept request be submitted for £21775, this was seconded by Cllr Patrick-Smith and agreed by all. The Clerk prepared the submission form for signature in the meeting.

216. Clerk's Report

The Clerk had circulated a report which had mostly been covered under earlier agenda items.

217. Next Meetings

The schedule of ordinary meetings for 2024 was agreed as follows:

- Monday 5th February 2024
- Monday 4th March 2024
- Monday 8th April 2024 (1st April is a bank holiday)
- Monday 13th May 2024 (6th May is a bank holiday)
- Monday 3rd June 2024
- Monday 1st July 2024
- Monday 2nd September 2024
- Monday 7th October 2024
- Monday 4th November 2024
- Monday 2nd December 2024

Chairman Signature:Date: 5th February 2024

Annual Assembly

- It was agreed this would be held on Monday 20th May 2024 and that potential guest speakers included:
 - Borough Cllrs Harvey and Konieczko
 - Alison Zarecky, Climate Emergency Project Officer, B&DBC
 - Sparsholt College

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 10 pm.

Actions from January meeting

Item No:	Action	Due by	Progress	Owner
194	Upload 4 th December 2023 meeting minutes to website		Actioned	Clerk
195 (c/f)	Research alternative email providers			Cllr Crowley
199	Write article for monthly news re sports club.		Actioned	Cllr Carrow
202	Respond to planning application.		Actioned	Chair/Clerk
202	Request update re Froyle House		Actioned	Chair
203	Arrange site visit re Millennium Garden path			Chair
204	Update final logo as agreed		Actioned	Cllr Harvey
204	Update and circulate Burghclere Bulletin			Clerk
208	Accept quote and progress work Progress insurance claim			Cllr Morton Clerk
209	Accept playground repair quote		Actioned	Cllr Carrow
212	Accept noticeboard quote and arrange installation (subject to quote)			Clerk

Chairman Signature:Date: 5th February 2024

213	Add S106 information request to February agenda			Clerk
214	Progress payments.			Clerk
214	Submit Precept request			Clerk
216	Progress Annual Assembly speaker			Chair

Appendix A

Minutes for the meeting of the Pinder Recreational Trust Management Committee
held on 6th November 2023 at 9.15pm in the Portal Hall Clubroom

Present: Andrew Crowley (AC) (Chairman), Richard Carrow (RC), Alex Patrick-Smith (APS), Sandra Whiting (SW), Julian Parkes (JP), Ian Collins (IC), Amanda Harvey (AH) and Geoff Morton (GM)

J Letsome (JL) - minutes.

1. Apologies

None received.

2. Approval of the minutes of the meeting held on 2nd October 2023.

AC proposed the minutes be accepted as an accurate record; this was agreed by all.

3. Review of Actions and Matters arising from previous minutes

Item No:	Action	Due by	Progress	Owner
4	Progress meeting with Pre-School		Later agenda item	AC
	Sort fobs			AC
5	Undertake enquiries re cleaning		Carry forward	SW
5	Progress quotes re work to roof.		Later agenda item	APS
11	Progress Investment Review		Carry forward	AC
11	Obtain further information on Instant Access account		Actioned	JL

Chairman Signature:Date: 5th February 2024

11	Send Annual Return to Charity Commission		Actioned	JL
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4. Pre-School Update

AC noted that he needed to progress the meeting with them and arrange fobs.

5. Portal Hall – Future Bookings, Management & Maintenance, Portal Cottage

Bookings

SW reported that bookings and enquiries remained busy. Concerns had been raised by the cottage tenants on noise levels when live bands were playing.

On discussion it was agreed there was no obligation to provide prior notice, however the possibility of occasional noise disturbance should be made clearer to future tenants.

Maintenance and Management issues raised

- APS reported that he had lost contact with the original contractor but was in touch with another who would consider and provide a quote. On discussion it was agreed to consider undertaking all the outstanding roof work at the same time rather than patching it up as and when required. There was noted to be benefits to completing work required to the guttering alongside any forthcoming roof work.
- IC was thanked for installing the new lights.
- AC confirmed the fans were now working but needed a controller to regulate speeds.
- Ian Moby had undertaken the work to level the drain.
- Work to the pre school shed was noted to be outstanding. Their request to paint markings on the playground would be discussed with them.
- APS confirmed the 2 smaller windows were scheduled to be completed during the Easter 2024 break. RC would contact Ian Norman to establish progress on the planning application for the variation to the larger windows.
- APS reported that the prosperity fund was open for applications – quotes and supporting information needed to be obtained in order to access the available grants

Portal Cottage

It was agreed that a schedule of work should be completed after Ian Norman had returned to the cottage to undertake measurements. This could be used to identify tasks that could be completed quickly and other which would take longer, possibly requiring planning applications. This would lead to a better estimate of how long the cottage would need to remain empty for and enable an agreement to be reached with the tenants.

6. Sports Club Update

Discussed in the earlier Parish Council meeting.

7. Priority Works List

Nothing further to report.

8. Playground update

JL confirmed the weekly inspections had taken place with no findings reported.

9. SSE substation

Nothing further to report.

10. IT/Website Update

Nothing further to report.

11. Accounts

Update on current finances

JL had previously circulated the latest accounts containing the figures to 31st October 2023. The bank balance as of that date stood at £71,262.98.

She had shared information on savings accounts that were available with NatWest. On discussion the interest rates were noted to be low and it was agreed she would investigate other accounts as a comparison.

12. Date of Next Meeting

Monday 4th December 2023 after the Parish Council meeting.

13. Any Other Business

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 10pm.

Appendix B

**Hampshire County Councillor update
January 2024**

1. The Future Services Consultation

The consultation runs from 8 January to 31 March 2024, and signals the next stage in the County Council's plans to ensure it can focus key support to the most vulnerable people in Hampshire – such as protecting children from harm, social care for older people, and supporting adults and children with disabilities and additional needs - while meeting its legal duty to deliver a balanced budget in 2025/26.

Hampshire is in a better position than many other councils, but in the absence of a national funding solution to address the higher costs and demand pressures facing the whole of local government, tougher decisions and deeper savings are needed in Hampshire to ensure the local authority can keep providing critical services after April 2025 for those people who need its help the most.

Covering various local services, the consultation sets out 13 detailed options to help lower costs in future – by doing things differently and moving towards providing only those services that the County Council is legally required to deliver.

The consultation also provides the opportunity for working more innovatively to maximise, for example, environmental benefits such as encouraging people to reduce their waste through the creation of a more sustainable Household Waste Recycling Centre network and lowering Hampshire’s carbon footprint by a more intelligent use of streetlights.

The 13 options within the consultation are listed below:

Adult social care charges: Proposals to change the way contributions towards non-residential social care costs are calculated, so that the amount someone pays towards their non-residential care and support increases from 95% to 100% of any assessable income remaining once standard outgoings are paid for and an allowance is made for general living costs such as food, utility bills and clothing.

Adult social care grant schemes: To withdraw funding for three Adult Social Care grant programmes that assist voluntary, community, and social enterprise organisations in Hampshire, namely the Council for Voluntary Services Infrastructure Grant, the Citizens Advice Infrastructure Grant and the Local Solutions Grant.

Competitive (one-off) grant schemes: To withdraw three competitive grant schemes which provide one-off grants to a range of community groups and organisations; namely the Leader’s Community Grants, the Rural Communities Fund (including country shows) and the Parish and Town Council Investment Fund.

Hampshire Cultural Trust grant: To reduce the amount of grant given to Hampshire Cultural Trust to manage and deliver arts and museums services.

Highways maintenance: To reduce planned highways maintenance activities, incorporating larger-scale structural repairs, surface treatments on roads, and drainage improvements.

Highways winter service: To comprehensively review and revise the criteria used to determine which roads should be treated as part of the Priority One network to better align with current national guidance and reflect changes in travelling and commuting patterns, and to update the routes accordingly.

Homelessness Support Services: To stop funding services that the County Council does not have a legal requirement to provide, that support people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs): To provide a sustainable, cost-effective and fit for purpose Household Waste Recycling service within a reduced budget. This might involve introducing charging for discretionary services, implementing alternative delivery models, reducing opening days and/or hours or reducing the number of HWRCs.

Library stock: To reduce how much is spent on new library stock, such as books and digital resources, each year.

Passenger transport: To reduce the amount of money spent on passenger transport by withdrawing all remaining funding that the County Council is not legally required to provide. This includes funding for community transport services (incorporating Dial-a-Ride, Call and Go, Taxi Shares, Group Hire Services, and Wheels to Work), subsidies for bus routes that are not commercially viable, additional funding to extend the Concessionary Travel Scheme (older and disabled persons bus passes) and a review of the potential impact of reductions on the school transport service and social care budgets

Rural countryside parking: To introduce car parking charges at rural countryside car parks (such as nature reserves and conservation sites) that the County Council manages, where it is expected that doing so would be commercially viable.

School Crossing Patrols: To review the School Crossing Patrols (SCP) service by looking at each SCP site to decide if alternative safety measures exist or could be put in place that would enable the SCP to be safely withdrawn or be funded by other organisations.

Street lighting: To reduce the brightness of streetlights further and to extend the periods that streetlights are switched off during the night (by 2 hours) – where it is considered safe and appropriate to do so.

How to have your say

The consultation runs from midday on 8 January to 11:59pm on 31 March 2024.

Views can be provided on some, or all of the 13 service change proposals presented in the consultation.

Complete the consultation online

We would like to hear from as many people in Hampshire as possible – from residents, to businesses, schools, universities, community and voluntary groups, and our partners, to help us understand and consider the potential impact of any changes proposed.

Feedback can be provided by using the consultation Response Form, available online via the consultation webpage: www.hants.gov.uk/future-services-consultation

Responses can also be emailed directly to Hampshire County Council via: insight@hants.gov.uk or write to Freepost HAMPSHIRE. (Please also write PandO, IEU, FM09 on the back of the envelope).

Copies of the information packs and the consultation Response Form, along with Easy Read versions of these documents, will be available to view, download and print on the consultation webpage from midday today: www.hants.gov.uk/future-services-consultation

Additionally, each Hampshire library holds a standard reference copy of the Information Packs and a number of paper Response Forms.

We are encouraging people to consider completing the consultation Response Form online, where possible, as this will help save money, both in postage and in staff time in manually entering responses into the consultation.

For any queries about the consultation or if residents do need to request a paper copy of the Information Pack or the Response Form, or a copy in another language or format (such as audio, large print, or Braille) please contact: insight@hants.gov.uk, or call: 0300 555 1375

The responses submitted through this consultation will be collated and used to shape final savings proposals that will be considered by the County Council's individual Executive Members later this year.

2. Household DIY waste charges ended

From 1 January 2024, residents using Hampshire County Council Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) will no longer be charged for disposing of their DIY waste - in line with the Government policy changes.

Up to two 50-litre rubble bags, or one bulky item such as a sink or toilet pedestal, will be accepted for free, at a maximum frequency of four visits over four weeks.

Anything more than this amount will be chargeable at current rates, as permitted by national legislation, to cover specialist disposal costs. DIY waste can be accepted at all HWRCs in Hampshire except New Alresford due to its restricted size. Customers must also be able to lift, carry and empty out their DIY waste.

The Council estimates that the removal of the charges could impose an additional cost to Hampshire council taxpayers of up to £2 million every year. This is because recycling or disposal of DIY waste, such as soil, rubble, asbestos and gypsum board, requires specialist processing and the fees we currently charge help to cover these expenses. This will need to be taken into account as part of the Council's savings proposals to help meet a £132 million budget shortfall faced by the local authority from April 2025. This will include a review of Hampshire's HWRCs.

3. Schools

Parents with children due to start school or move to a junior school in September 2024 are reminded that they have until **Monday 15 January 2024** to submit their

primary school applications. Parents will have the best chance of being offered a place at one of their preferred schools by applying on time and naming three preferences on their applications.

A recent survey across secondary schools and colleges in Hampshire shows a large increase in the percentage of young people both experimenting with, and using vapes. The survey shows that experimentation with vapes increases from 4% in year 7 to 53% in year 13. Similarly, vape use increases from 7% in year 10, to 18% in year 13. The Council is therefore continuing its clampdown on shops selling vapes illegally to underage buyers. Test purchase operations took place in December 2023, with visits to 17 different premises with teenage volunteers helping officers by going into the businesses to attempt to buy a vape, also known as an e-cigarette. Since September 2023, Trading Standards has prevented the sale of over £200,000 of illegal vapes and e-cigarettes by removing them from shops across Hampshire.

4. Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan consultation

The consultation on the updated plan is expected to start during the week beginning **8 January 2024** and to last for eight weeks. Details can be found at <https://www.hants.gov.uk/minerals-waste-update>

5. Climate change and nature recovery

The Council has published its Climate Change Annual Progress Report, which highlights the progress of council backed community initiatives and its own efforts to tackle climate change.

<https://democracy.hants.gov.uk/documents/s114962/Climate%20Change%20Annual%20Report%20-%20Appendix%201.pdf>

One example is the Solar Together scheme - over the past two years, 2,100 households have purchased competitively priced solar panels, resulting in the installation of 7,400kw of rooftop solar power, which has the capacity to save an estimated 46,000 tonnes of carbon emissions.

Separately, the Council is launching a survey asking residents where they would like to see improvements for nature recovery, their views on nature priorities and what action they may be taking locally to help nature in their area. Gathering this information is an important first step in the development of a Local Nature Recovery Strategy which aims to ensure Hampshire's natural environment is protected for today's and future generations. That strategy is intended to create a blueprint for the recovery of nature in Hampshire – outlining what we can do, where the opportunities for doing it are, and considering how it can be delivered alongside wider positive environmental outcomes for people and nature, such as reduced flood risk. It will provide organisations with a framework for developing nature recovery projects and help prioritise funding and investment in Hampshire's nature's recovery.

Here is a link to the online survey.

<https://lnrs-hampshireonline.hub.arcgis.com/pages/Leave%20a%20comment%20on%20the%20map?preview=true>

6. Roads

A final report for your perusal, this time the County Council's Highways Service Annual Review for 2022/23 which offers useful insights into the Highways team's activity over what has been an exceptionally busy and challenging period. You can access the review via the link.

<https://documents.hants.gov.uk/highways/HampshireHighwaysAnnualReview-2022-2023.pdf>

You will notice the continuing intensive focus on fixing potholes and other road defects following confirmation of the 3-year Stronger Roads Today campaign in July. This has enabled the deployment of significantly more repair teams and specialist equipment with the primary aim of making our roads better, fixing defects more quickly, and addressing the widespread deterioration from last winter's wet and freezing weather. You can find out more about the Stronger Roads Today programme here.

<https://democracy.hants.gov.uk/documents/s114218/Report.pdf>

Tom Thacker
Hampshire County Councillor
Whitchurch and the Cleres Division