



FOCUS

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The Community Newsletter from your Tadley and Baughurst Liberal Democrat Councillors

Was Your Money Well Spent? Road Re-surfacing in the Tadley Estates

Hampshire County Council, through its contractors, has recently had a number of roads on the Tadley estates re-surfaced under its 'Operation Resilience' project, reports Cllr Warwick Lovegrove. No one can doubt that these roads needed work but, as has been pointed out to Warwick by some residents, the standard of repair leaves something to be desired.

As can be seen in the pictures, the surface is already loose in Deanswood Road – how long will the new surface last if it is already peeling back? 'Operation Resilience' is intended for the long term. Opinion has it that the necessary preparatory work to the under surface wasn't done properly.

Having inspected a number of these roads we have also found considerable weed growth both at the edges and coming through the surface. Roads affected include Hartshill, Deanswood, Sandford, Whitedown and Huntsmoor roads. Previous resurfacing work in other parts of Tadley was to a higher standard. If you know of specific problems do please let Warwick know.



Top: Warwick inspects the broken surface in Deanswood Road
Above: Grass coming through the surface in Hartshill Road
Right: Weeds coming up in Deanswood Road

Operation Resilience is an investment in Hampshire's roads for the long term, and marks a significant shift away from reactive to planned maintenance. This is a much better way to maintain roads for the future as the work lasts longer and is more cost effective.

(Taken from the HCC website)



Potholes/Roads, Parking and Hedgerows update

Your LibDem Councillors report:

Potholes/Roads – You may be aware that Hampshire County Council has been given money by central government to assist its efforts to combat potholes. As Councillors we regularly notify Hampshire Highways of potholes that we notice and ones that are notified to us by residents. You can be our eyes and ears, so do tell us of problems you notice and we will do the rest.



The picture shows Mike Bound inspecting some broken and dislodged kerb stones that needed reporting. For those who feel able, you can report problems yourself on the HCC website.

Parking – In many areas parking is a continuing cause for concern and won't be changing for the better anytime soon. We are frequently approached by residents about this matter and the only thing we can hope is that residents with vehicles consider other people when making decisions about where to park.

Hedgerows – Lastly, after excellent growing weather, local hedges have grown out enormously. Where we can see problems with hedges that are in the ownership of the Borough, the County or the Parish Councils we notify these authorities to get them clipped back so that they don't overhang and cause problems for road users and pedestrians. Again, acting as our eyes and ears, if you notice a particular problem please tell us and we will endeavour to get something done. Hedges in private ownership should also be trimmed back so as not to be a hazard. Warwick Lovegrove is almost lost in the overgrown hedge pictured below.



We say these questions need answers

With such obvious sub-standard work questions need to be answered – does the fault lie with the Contractor or the County Council? Of course, ultimately the County Council is responsible.

Did the Contractor follow the specification; was the specification appropriate for the work needed?

Is the contractor coming back to rectify the problem or redo the work, and if so when?

Has payment been made? Will this contractor be used again?

Your Lib Dem Team works hard all year round to solve your problems

What can we do for YOU? Tell us what you think

If you have any comments on this Focus, or if you have a problem which you think we could help with, please get in touch with one of the team or email us on

✉ tandbllibdems@outlook.com

We'd also like to hear from you if you think you could help us – perhaps deliver some Focus leaflets



Licence to Sell Alcohol Approved

Local newsagent, Martins (McColls), planned to revamp their shop in the parade off Bishopswood Road. The changes included wanting to sell alcohol up to eleven o'clock at night, along with other goods.

Cllr Mike Bound was well aware of a certain amount of anti-social behaviour that occurred in the area, particularly around the Wigmore playing field, that could be blamed partly on alcohol consumption. He objected to the licence being granted by Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council Licensing authority.

'I would have preferred that no alcohol be sold from these premises at all because the area is largely residential and I didn't want the residents to suffer from the consequences of a small minority consuming alcohol in the locality,' said Mike. 'I was approached by many people round and about who didn't want alcohol to be sold here. When considering the matter though, unfortunately, the licensing committee granted the licence but with a shorter number of hours than originally asked for. I would like to thank the local PCSOs who went out of their way to provide me with information about local crimes in that area that could be attributed to alcohol consumption.'

The good news is that because of Mike Bound's objection the licence will only allow alcohol to be sold until 8.00 p.m. rather than until 11.00 p.m. as Martins (McColls) asked for originally.

Late Night Bus Service Starts

The long awaited late night bus service from Basingstoke on Friday and Saturday evenings is planned to start on Friday 1st August. The trial, to run for nine months, is subsidised by Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council.

The service will leave Basingstoke Bus Station at 22:55 for Woodlands Road, Baughurst via the railway station (to coincide with the train from Waterloo which arrives at 22:50), the hospital, Sherborne St John and Tadley.

Borough Councillor Mike Bound welcomes the start of this service for our area, for which he campaigned over many months.

Himalayan Balsam

Cllr Warwick Lovegrove noticed some Himalayan Balsam plants (shown here in the picture) had taken root in an area of Baughurst. This plant is not indigenous to the British Isles and is a notifiable plant and very invasive – it needs to be got rid of. Warwick contacted HCC and they arranged for it to be removed. The contractor responsible for the work was on-site during early July, however Warwick found that only the large plants had been removed, many smaller ones remained. One left on site to seed will mean the work will need to be repeated again next year. If the work is not done fully and all plants eradicated then it will take some years of intensive effort to be effective.



Jo's Summer Blog

Tadley Town Councillor Jo Slimin writes a regular blog for Focus

Late but great news. Due to the unexpected local by-election in May in Baughurst and Tadley North, I can only just report in *Focus* that in the ballot in April for the new youth centre 60% of those who voted were in favour. Planning permission application has now been submitted to BDBC and when achieved Tadley Town Council can ask for the loan. In the meantime the project team has been granted over £200,000 from the Borough's Community Infrastructure Levy and also been successful in getting a grant from Greenham Common Trust of £65,000. With other funding promised the funds for the centre are nearly there to begin the construction.

I went to the Treacle Fair in June and to a Saturday surgery in July with the Town Council's plans for the Youth Centre and we had very positive feedback



from local residents who agreed the need was there. I also asked people about Town Council play areas. As Chairman of Recreation and Leisure I wanted to know what residents feel about them and any suggestions for improvements. The results were discussed by the Committee on 14 July – will visit all the play areas over the summer to determine next steps. At Barlow's Park Management Association AGM held on 17 June I was re-elected as Chairman. A new foot-path just been completed to make the senior pitch fully accessible – with a grant from Barlow's Plantation Environmental Trust. Good feedback from users but we need to improve our access road and try to get more pitches.

Street Lighting – New for Old

New street lighting has been installed around our area in line with a PFI contract between Hampshire County Council and Southern Electricity. The old lamps had been in position for many decades and were expensive to run and maintain; the new lamps are much cheaper to run and look after. Giving a white light, rather than orange, and on slightly taller posts, these new lamps may possibly be in an altered position on the road if they had to be relocated because of overhanging trees or to make sure they are on council land.

Generally, the feelings Cllr Mike Bound and Cllr Warwick Lovegrove have heard expressed have been positive, but some people have said that they would like hoods fitted to some lamps Locations where the light is more prominent at night, such that it now disturbs sleep for instance, where



there had not been a previous problem, cause some concern. When we have heard these views expressed then we have passed them on to HCC. Within 6 months the lights will dim down at midnight and then come back to 75% power at dawn as an energy saving measure. The lights can also be monitored individually from a central point so it will be known when a light needs repair.

Your Tadley & Baughurst Lib Dem Focus Team

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Wind-farm Applications Defeated

Basingstoke & Deane Planning Committee recently voted to reject a proposal from EDF Energy for some wind turbines on BDBC land near to Bullington Cross. At the same time, Test Valley Planning Committee and Winchester City Planning Committee also voted to reject turbines on adjacent pieces of land in their respective areas.

Basingstoke & Deane Council's vote was 7 to 4 in favour of rejection which was in-line with a council officer's recommendation to refuse, mainly on the grounds of harm to the setting and landscape.

A few days later, Basingstoke & Deane Council had to decide a smaller application at Woodmancote; the officer recommendation was again to refuse the application. After four hours of input and debate the committee voted 8 to 4 to turn down the application. Cllr Michael Bound is a member of the Planning committee and took part in the decision making, on both occasions voting for the applications to be accepted.

Whilst the countryside would have looked different with, what would have been, undoubtedly, large turbines visible from quite large distances, Hampshire as a whole uses far more energy than is generated within the county. The turbines on the two wind-farms, in total, would have generated enough electricity to provide for the needs of upwards of 30,000 homes in Hampshire. They would have greatly reduced the amount of burnt fossil fuels needed to provide that electricity and at the same time would have reduced the amount of carbon dioxide being pumped into the atmosphere. Surely, we now have to think more about the bigger picture of climate change and the legacy we are leaving our children and grandchildren.

For more information on the North West Hampshire Liberal Democrats visit:

<http://nwhantslibdems.org.uk>