**Hampshire County Councillor report – February 2024**

**Highways Information**

A red and white sign with black numbers

Description automatically generated

**20mph policy introduced by HCC**

Last month the Universal Services Select Committee scrutinised both the departmental budgets for next year and the proposals for a 20mph policy.

Their comments about the latter were helpful and it is agreed to there being a self assessment process created to help communities decide whether an application to introduce a 20mph limit would be right for their area, and also to ensure that we undertake a full review of the policy and its impact in a year's time.

The new policy confirms two things; firstly that we will continue to consider 20mph zones in areas where they are deemed appropriate and there is a proven safety need for them - outside of schools for example.

More importantly the decision will introduce a policy which allows communities to request the introduction of 20mph zones in their own area. There will be a number of criteria any community led application will need to meet:

Firstly, and most importantly, there must be clear evidence of community support. Too often we have seen the introduction of 20mph zones elsewhere in the country where there has been little support, resulting in conflict and division in communities. We are determined that should not happen in Hampshire.

Communities will need to fund the introduction of the schemes they request themselves. This should be possible through the use of Community Infrastructure Levy or other forms of developer contributions. You will no doubt have seen the posts elsewhere about the financial challenges facing the County Council. There is therefore no possibility of funding to help bring these schemes forward.

The introduction of 20mph zones would need to be accompanied by measures to reduce speed. The implementation of Speed Indicator Devices for example, those that show the speed a vehicle is going with a happy or angry face. The police have been clear that they do not have resources to enforce any new zones, so communities will need to find ways by which they can encourage compliance themselves.

There has been a vocal campaign by campaigners who want a blanket introduction of 20mph zones across the county, similar to that introduced recently in Wales. While there is a degree of sympathy with their argument, which highlights not only the safety benefits of lower speed limits, but also the impact on the environment and health budgets, there remain two issues impeding that consideration.

The first is finance, such a move would cost £20 million, that funding would need to come from highway repair budgets, reducing them by almost 50% for a year. The second being public support, it is clear from Wales, from other parts of England and from conversations that there is far from universal support for 20mph zones, consequently best that communities decide for themselves whether a zone is right for them.

Further details on how to move these schemes forward will be promulgated in early April

**Groundwater Flooding**

[Hampshire County Council](https://www.facebook.com/hantsconnect?__cft__%5B0%5D=AZUDDZa0e7bFuSFeUomURz44Y8V0c2immpR0ZwibYkxaxuYZXYPI7-ddg-iUoAnFiwTQ5QuVfGwgXJiW24vRNBD9_2ulEGn-U5rO-zrhCC0woU13nJYex8r5RyBaqpSHPjBs1lsGfgAIqo66k4nZ1EUXSgD66kWmne43t89FGLLy-Pt1dbkbWUV1hf2_JozasSY&__tn__=-%5DK-R) have provided a helpful update on ground water flooding across the County.

Diagram of a diagram of water

Description automatically generatedFlooding from groundwater is currently one of the highest risks across Hampshire. A wetter than usual summer and autumn has raised groundwater to significantly higher levels than the seasonal average in many areas.

Groundwater flooding occurs when the natural water level under the ground (the water table) rises to the surface. Flooding can be devastating and can cause damage to homes and other property, as well as roads and frequently overwhelms drainage and sewer networks. Underground rooms, such as cellars and basements, are particularly at risk. This type of flooding is more likely where there is chalk under the ground - it can also happen in places with sand and gravel, such as river valleys.

There are currently 10 Flood Warnings and 30 Flood Alerts in place across Hampshire covering both groundwater and river flood risks (correct as at 15.01.24).

This information is regularly updated at:

[https://check-for-flooding.service.gov.uk/alerts-and...](https://check-for-flooding.service.gov.uk/alerts-and-warnings?q=hampshire&fbclid=IwAR3j2eA2PdPsFFU1tDJ_RqImf-1Vwix2GqgFCmNwaYduDTlO1fKfzZAGMKw)

Finding the latest information:

You and your communities can sign up to receive Flood Alerts here:

Sign up for flood warnings - [https://www.gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings](https://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.gov.uk%2Fsign-up-for-flood-warnings%3Ffbclid%3DIwAR0hQEQwDckoDWK1whz8g9aJwfS8KZI6JRGfWbYL-Q_tiPEsYaPBxSlZGCY&h=AT1QZydUyj8GtwgPDgyFHjxTMwiAa9exz2u2Jl9TidOu2pA7OEoJ4IqyImtlNdLcC0_pafVzBP6X9jZluXGU_7xE-8rkNymHZfFXEwbxIwEYprJS4E58kUaqdWYNMqlxx0FF_9ritD07SKHMmykqAL0&__tn__=-UK-R&c%5B0%5D=AT21cgNzGn10S84njNy9kqr5v2s2yhPjYQ4xDFETFQ-G7rwUuD5AQpYgvz_C-ISYnk_6wFdPyHLBleqSHB0Z7vtjH2ubfsgRZSLu1VbyZSwWIc1_DZt0asSxDUMltaGkvsKiYipyXSLCvu-Zm6zEmwQcJeuvYjl2hCzVTI7GZE14DGYbt_pMtlHzbJh0U921tCCQ5s8a-C88)

Alternatively, sign up by calling Floodline; Telephone: 0345 988 1188 Textphone: 0345 602 6340 This is a 24-hour service with alerts sent by email, text or phone.

Reporting a flood

The Environment Agency is responsible for managing the risk of flooding from main rivers and the sea. Incidents can be reported to their hotline on 0800 80 70 90.

The County Council is responsible for managing the risk from surface water, groundwater and ordinary watercourses. Further information and how to report this type of flooding is available here:

[https://www.hants.gov.uk/.../flooding/reportingflooding](https://www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/environment/flooding/reportingflooding?fbclid=IwAR3mNAbl2uW5oBSfODS_yc6NH7eaAKOJDr-mE3UXhdDWELzvhc9qMDr-lj8)

It is always advisable for residents to take photos of any flood water affecting them in order to evidence the impacts for insurance and investigation purposes.

It is also important for flooding to be reported to the relevant body as swiftly as possible so that this information can be used to identify properties at risk, initiate investigations and also for evidence to identify and claim potential funding for future flood resilience or alleviation schemes. If we are not aware of the scale or impact of flooding then it significantly reduces any likelihood of actions being taken.

Sandbags

The County Council does not provide sandbags to properties impacted by flooding, unless the water is coming directly from the public highway.

Further information on the availability of sandbags, can be found here: [https://www.hants.gov.uk/.../environment/flooding/sandbags](https://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.hants.gov.uk%2Flandplanningandenvironment%2Fenvironment%2Fflooding%2Fsandbags%3Ffbclid%3DIwAR1AuW6PEFz1sXVddcUtOrBfUOoTlIe0GirJ3-d0tIr-77QY4UCb3P82YDU&h=AT2wMKRu8RM-V318wSRdQcz98OLMIkjqx1D9VsqLIkQJEBtca9wFUn-DImG94GrUNJwDlEfXDm4Uziz1M88NWdli4_cjVf6A7H8Kys4TKFZueaOrKTxUPMuS4Vg-7_04bM19LwSoH1nitcJGrdK_Qsg&__tn__=-UK-R&c%5B0%5D=AT21cgNzGn10S84njNy9kqr5v2s2yhPjYQ4xDFETFQ-G7rwUuD5AQpYgvz_C-ISYnk_6wFdPyHLBleqSHB0Z7vtjH2ubfsgRZSLu1VbyZSwWIc1_DZt0asSxDUMltaGkvsKiYipyXSLCvu-Zm6zEmwQcJeuvYjl2hCzVTI7GZE14DGYbt_pMtlHzbJh0U921tCCQ5s8a-C88)

Protecting property from flooding

It is the responsibility of homeowners to protect their property. While it is not always possible to completely protect a home or business against flooding, positive action can be taken to reduce the damage and the amount of water that gets in, and also the cost and time of cleaning up. Further information is available at:

[https://www.hants.gov.uk/.../env.../flooding/floodprevention](https://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.hants.gov.uk%2Flandplanningandenvironment%2Fenvironment%2Fflooding%2Ffloodprevention%3Ffbclid%3DIwAR12oHQVjPmz6euhx9Vupz_fGICM70F9siPVgT0Ktvb1oMsgLmzv7GEvQaM&h=AT19ct_reUUDD6wY-lKPQvKkNzsx27jU06nwAvAecOlkL1e4SVPiGsT_N08vBU12SwifMcr1bzVgIcdlF2xmUbAjCk2S-Bi5pcD7CQJjjiWvG_i1oYQ1ejwAZhdGIjsvUSnIi2MW8IPHUyqufAwz5Hc&__tn__=-UK-R&c%5B0%5D=AT21cgNzGn10S84njNy9kqr5v2s2yhPjYQ4xDFETFQ-G7rwUuD5AQpYgvz_C-ISYnk_6wFdPyHLBleqSHB0Z7vtjH2ubfsgRZSLu1VbyZSwWIc1_DZt0asSxDUMltaGkvsKiYipyXSLCvu-Zm6zEmwQcJeuvYjl2hCzVTI7GZE14DGYbt_pMtlHzbJh0U921tCCQ5s8a-C88)

Also refer to the further guidance below:

▪Protecting your property – [https://nationalfloodforum.org.uk/.../protecting-your.../](https://nationalfloodforum.org.uk/about-flooding/reducing-your-risk/protecting-your-property/?fbclid=IwAR3UhwggmSF6FdHk9Isw_8AXnmkXRUT6DZbvLMAZmgvo2ORNJygZL0scdA8)

▪Protecting property from flooding - [https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/.../protecting-your-property...](https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/warnings-and-advice/seasonal-advice/your-home/protecting-your-property-from-flooding?fbclid=IwAR12oHQVjPmz6euhx9Vupz_fGICM70F9siPVgT0Ktvb1oMsgLmzv7GEvQaM)

▪Prepare for flooding: [https://www.gov.uk/prepare-for.../protect-your-property](https://www.gov.uk/prepare-for-flooding/protect-your-property?fbclid=IwAR3j2eA2PdPsFFU1tDJ_RqImf-1Vwix2GqgFCmNwaYduDTlO1fKfzZAGMKw)

▪Adapting your home or business to the risk of flooding - [https://www.gov.uk/.../adapting-your-home-or-business-to...](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/adapting-your-home-or-business-to-the-risk-of-flooding?fbclid=IwAR2dM13Rsa1BkqcxqOrnCiBUbRM8mVTD9z-kSYIGgaHbymgQFpShKrgzpWs)

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