



DRAFT MINUTES

West Meon Parish Council
3rd Sept 2024; 7.30pm; West Meon Village Hall

PRESENT:

Cllr Trenchard (Chair); Cllr Edwards; Cllr Waller; Cllr Gedye; Cllr Thomson; Cllr Burke; & Cllr Davies.

In Attendance:

Mrs Joanna Tester (Clerk); Cllr Bolton (WCC; left 8.14pm); Cllr Pett (WCC; left 8.14pm); & Cllr Wallace (HCC; left 8.14pm)

Meeting started at 7.30pm

Item No.	Item	Discussion & Decision	Action
2794	Acknowledgements	Councillors paused and remembered in silence the contributions of all villagers who have passed away since the last meeting.	
2795	Apologies	Apologies received and accepted from Cllr Silk.	
2796	Disclosable pecuniary interests	None declared.	
2797	Requests for dispensations	None received.	
2798	Public questions & comments	Standing orders suspended for maximum 10 mins. No members of the public in attendance.	
2799	Resume standing orders	Agreed.	
2800	District councillor's report & questions arising	Report received (Appendix A).	

2801	County councillor's report & questions arising	<p>Report received (Appendix B). Discussions were held regarding the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HCC funding cuts - every dept being asked to drop funding down to the legal requirements only. All 13 points proposed have been identified as things HCC not legally obliged to do. Grants - County Cllr grant not under threat. Three main issues - 18% cut in real terms funding; adult services costs have increased; & special needs children costs have increased (due to changes in policy etc). • Cllr Rob Humby has resigned from HCC. Likely to be a bi-election in Bishops Waltham division. • Children's Services - outstanding Ofsted report. • Result of bus consultation - due Oct 14th. Committee meeting Sept 13th. Can go along and speak but must register in advance. • Cllr commented that significant funds do seem to have been spent on road repairs etc. • A32 road repair works schedule - Cllr Wallace to look it up. • Trees blocking byway - HPC cllr reported to HH and was then told that work had been completed, but appears not to have been. • Planning - allocations 2015 - 15 houses over 15 years (?). May have met complete number. North Fields was a specific area ear-marked for development. Village settlement boundary moved to accommodate this. This may have been an additional quota to the 15 houses. Cllr Pett to check 2019 Plan. • HPC cllr commented that regarding the SDNP consultation, there are two highly pertinent points: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Importance of 13-25 age group engagement • Survey itself needs to be completed by Planning WG or 2/3 cllrs, not just one. • Second round of WCC Local Plan consultation has just started. 	
2802	Flood Action Group	<p>No report received. Update as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSE grant applied for - £15k to cover all hydrologist costs. • 'Model B' is altered base model - to know what the flow looks like to reduce risk to an acceptable level. • Discussion held with Hydrock. Suggestion that cap is applied of £3.5k. This is on top of what has already been agreed. • Where do we go from here? Option to keep going. May risk not being awarded all of the money from the grant. Clerk to ask for advice from SSE, and to find out when the PC might expect a decision. • PC to write to landowners along the stretch of the River Meon in question, reminding them of work that needs doing in advance of the flood season. Cllr Edwards to provide Clerk with landowner names; Cllr Gedye to draft a letter. 	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk/ Cllrs Edwards & Gedye</p>
2803	Mins of previous meetings (02/07/24)	Agreed as a true record.	

2805	Q1 2024/25 Financial Report & Statement	Resolved: that the PC has approved the Q1 2024/25 Financial Report & Statement.	Clerk
2806	Conclusion of audit	Resolved: that the PC has approved the annual return, including the external auditor certificate for y/e 31/03/24.	
2807	Grant request - West Meon Village Hall	Resolved: that the PC has approved the grant request from West Meon Village Hall for £500.00 to enable the replacement of the Burco Water Boiler in the Village Hall kitchen.	Clerk
2808	Grant request - Citizens Advise Winchester District	Resolved: that the PC has approved the grant request from Citizens Advise Winchester District for £200.00 to assist with the funding of core services.	Clerk
2809	Bank account	Bank account balance as of 28 Aug 2024 - £80,611.36 (£29,044.25 current account; £51,567.11 savings account). (Cllrs have been provided with bank statements nos 172, 173, 11 and 12.)	Clerk
2810	Payment of accounts	<p>Mrs J C Tester Clerk's salary & mileage claim (July 2024) £609.35 NEST Clerk's pension (July 2024) £60.32 Mrs J C Tester Clerk's salary & mileage claim (Aug 2024) £609.35 NEST Clerk's pension (Aug 2024) £60.32 Mrs J C Tester Clerk's expenses - travel to/from WM for meeting 28/08/24 £7.11 Mrs J C Tester Clerk's expenses - printer cartridge £24.15 HugoFox Monthly website charge - July 2024 £11.99 HugoFox Monthly website charge - Aug 2024 £11.99 BDO LLP External audit for 2023/24 £252.00 J. Gordon Forestry & Arboriculture Ltd Field maple tree work on Rec Ground Mar 2024 £102.00 Reformed Plastics Picnic table for Rec Ground £942.00 Studio 6 Design & Print Walks booklets x300 £437.00 WCC Dog bin emptying Q1 2024/25 £130.00 Hydrock Consultants Ltd Desktop Study - water environment work £1,860.00 Geosphere Ltd Parish Online subscription for 2024/25 £75.60</p>	Clerk

2811	Planning applications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SDNP/24/03257/FUL - Stoney Dean Farm, Chicken Shed, Marlands Lane, West Meon, Hampshire, GU32 1JY. Retrospective planning for a replacement barn, timber decking and change of existing ground levels adjacent to existing mobile home. [STRONG OBJECTION. Cllr Burke & Clerk to liaise over final submission to Planning Authority.] • SDNP/24/03065/TCA - The Old Forge, Warnford Road, West Meon, Hampshire, GU32 1JL. T1 maple tree to be reduced overall by around 25-30%, finished height 7m and width 4m. create a uniform and balanced canopy, works to maintain the size of the canopy for its location. T2 maple tree to be reduced overall by around 25-30%, finished height 7m and width 4m. create a uniform and balanced canopy, works to maintain the size of the canopy for its location. [NO COMMENTS.] • SDNP/24/02698/CND - Brooklyn, Lynch Lane, West Meon, GU32 1LT. Variation of Conditions 2, 7, 8, 10 and 11 of planning application SDNP/19/06058/FUL to enable private access to Plot 1, at Brooklyn, Lynch Lane, West Meon, GU32 1LT. <p>[Under delegated powers, the Planning WG/Clerk submitted the following response: <i>West Meon Parish Council OBJECTS to this application on the following grounds:</i></p> <p><i>a) Road safety: the proposal for an additional two parking spaces directly off Lynch Lane will create additional reversing and forward moving traffic on the lane, which at this site is single track, on a steep slope, with no pavement, and on a blind bend. In the PC's view this will be unsafe for other road users, particularly more vulnerable users such as pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders.</i></p> <p><i>b) Overdevelopment of the site: the proposed additional car park directly off Lynch Lane will negatively alter its appearance, and be overdevelopment and overcrowding of the site.</i></p> <p><i>c) Flood risk: the house is uphill of a high flood risk zone at the bottom of Lynch Lane and, whilst we note that a permeable gravel surface is proposed, we would welcome views from the Environment Agency/local flood as to any increased risk from the additional car park area. We also note that the drive for House 1 has already been built but block paving has been laid rather than gravel as set out in the planning application.]</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SDNP/24/02817/TCA - 1 The Cross, West Meon, Hampshire, GU32 1LG. T1 large spruce tree to be removed to ground level due to severe lean towards neighbouring property, tree is too large for its location and close to property. T2 lime tree with metal or otherwise restricting/damaging main stem to be removed to ground level to all adjacent lime tree to thrive. [THE PC DOESN'T USUALLY COMMENT ON TCA APPS SO NO FURTHER ACTION REQUIRED.] 	Clerk
2812	Planning apps received after 28/08/24	None received.	

2813	Planning decisions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SDNP/24/02044/HOUS - Westbury Cottage, Heathfield Lane, West Meon, Hampshire, GU32 1NE. Replace dilapidated garden pool room. Approved. • SDNP/24/01255/TCA; West Meon House, Station Road, West Meon, Hampshire, GU32 1JG. G1 group of 8 Sycamore trees to be felled to ground level due to recent damage to the neighbouring property, all are large and within reach of the adjacent properties causing a danger to life and property. Once felled stumps are to be left for regeneration. Raise no objection. • SDNP/24/02698/CND - Brooklyn, Lynch Lane, West Meon, GU32 1LT. Variation of Conditions 2, 7, 8, 10 and 11 of planning application SDNP/19/06058/FUL to enable private access to Plot 1, at Brooklyn, Lynch Lane, West Meon, GU32 1LT. Approved. 	
2814	Planning WG	<p>No written report. The following point was raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clerk to put in planning app for trimming Holm Oak at The Cross. Cllr Waller to send Clerk details of previous app. 	Cllr Waller/ Clerk
2815	Community, Housing & Recreation WG	<p>No written report. The following updates were noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parish News topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bus service • Lengthsman & minor grounds works (e.g. strimming) • Parking in Rec Ground car park • A-frame/banner policy - reminder • Grants - money still available • Speeding/traffic - new flashing signs now in place • SDNP LP Consultation for 18-35 age group 	Cllr Waller
2816	Woodlands Entrance Signs	Resolved: that the PC authorises the Clerk to order from JK Engineering 3 cast aluminium entrance signs at a cost of circa £1000 per sign, and to proceed with the HCC CFI application (£270). The overall cost must remain within a budget of £4k and signs must be delivered and installed (on oak backing boards and legs) within a 6-month timescale.	Clerk
2817	Woodlands Fingerpost Sign	Resolved: that the PC postpones the decision on materials used for the Woodlands fingerpost sign until clarification has been received from HCC.	Clerk
2818	Licence for WM School's Use of the Recreation Ground	Resolved: that the PC has approved the draft licence for the LEA with regard to WM School usage of the Recreation Ground. The map addended to the licence requires exclusion of the tennis courts area (separate agreement with the Sports Club).	Clerk
2819	Vehicles on the Recreation Ground	Resolved: that the PC has revoked the resolution made under item 2759 at the 04/06/24 PC meeting and approves instead that under NO circumstances - other than for maintenance work, deliveries to the Pavilion, and emergency access - should vehicles be permitted to drive/park on the West Meon Recreation Ground. [Vehicles making deliveries must be returned immediately afterwards to the Rec Ground carpark.] [Voted 6 for; 2 against.]	

2820	Recreation Ground Policy & Risk Assessment	<p>Resolved: that the PC has approved the draft Recreational Ground Use Policy & Risk Assessment, with the following amendments:</p> <p><u>Recreational Ground Use Policy</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Removal of any reference to overflow parking (all pink text in the draft aside from bullet point 6 under Recreation Ground Car Park Usage). • Add ‘stationary vehicles’ (e.g. to accommodate catering vans etc.)’ to the exceptions to the ruling on no vehicles permitted to drive/park on the Ground (‘Organised Events’/‘Event Organiser/User Responsibilities’/bullet point 9). There must be strict supervision by the Event Organiser and no movement of these vehicles from half an hour before the start of the event and half an hour after it has finished (or longer if pedestrians are still using the Ground). • Add in change to code on padlock every 3 months. Details provided only to PC, & appropriate Sports Club members - who will agree not to share. (Insert into 'Recreation Ground Car Park Usage' section.) <p><u>Risk Assessment</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Removal of any reference to overflow parking • Update of risk levels (following detailing of current controls) <p>[Voted 4 for; 2 against; 1 abstention]</p> <p>Further action:</p> <p>Clerk to write letter to resident regarding request for a new fence between their property and the Recreation Ground. Cllr Trenchard to give details to Clerk.</p>	Clerk
2821	Finance & Administration WG	No report received.	
2822	Reports & Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South Downs Local Plan Review - 8 July to 16 September; participation stage on the Local Plan Review - inviting feedback on the scope of the review and how people would like to be involved in preparing the new Local Plan. https://sdnplocalplanreview.commonplace.is/ 	
2823	Date/time of next meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tues 01 October 2024 at West Meon VH; 7.30pm. • For next meeting - Christmas lights; car park extension 	Clerk
2824	Confidential matters	No confidential matters were discussed.	

The meeting closed at 9.43pm

Signed:

Cllr Trenchard (Chair)

Dated:

Signed:

Joanna Tester (Clerk)

Dated:

APPENDIX A Planning

WCC Councillors' Sept 2024 Report

The second draft of the new Winchester District Local Plan was unanimously approved, by a Full Council meeting on 28 August, to be put on immediate public circulation for comment over a statutory 6-week period. Comments received will then be reviewed prior to a further revision being submitted for formal scrutiny by a Planning Inspector in the first half of next year. The documents out for consultation are on the Winchester Local Plan website here: <https://www.localplan.winchester.gov.uk>

Of course, the vast majority of the Upper Meon Valley ward lies outside the scope of this work as the South National Park Authority (SDNPA) is the Local Planning Authority (LPA) for the area of the Park. The SDNPA is conducting its own Local Plan Review, although it is 'out of synch' and some way behind the Winchester work. This is not at all unusual as LPAs do not have to align with any central government timeline. The current SDNPA consultation is for the scope of its Review. It runs until 16 September and can be accessed here: <https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/planning-policy/south-downs-local-plan-review/>

The Winchester LPR process was stopped during the pre-Election period and, if the District is not to be left 'in limbo' without a plan during the new Government's review of the planning process, there is now some urgency: the LPR has to be moved forward so that its 'examination in public' by a Planning Inspector is conducted under the current rules and the extant housing targets. If delayed there would be a risk that the District was left without a current Plan, resulting in 'Planning by Appeal' while the new legislative framework and targets were agreed.

The Government is currently consulting on its proposed changes to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), including changes to the way housing targets are calculated. It is highly likely that the Winchester District target will be significantly increased. It is an inconsistency that the housing target will be placed on the whole of the Winchester District administrative area, rather than just that part, outside the Park boundary, for which it is the LPA. Winchester will be contesting this point in its own response to the Government's consultation. Moreover, Winchester planners have a legal obligation to cooperate with their neighbouring authorities, some of which may find it impossible to accommodate all of their own target.

Meanwhile, the new Government has confirmed that the status of the National Park as a 'protected landscape' under the 1949 National Parks Act will continue to protect the Park from any centrally imposed housing target. The SDNPA does, however, have a statutory duty to deliver sufficient housing to meet the needs of its own population.

There is therefore an inevitable tension between the two LPAs, WCC and the SDNPA, since WCC would, not unnaturally, look to that part of the Park within its administrative boundary to take some of the additional housing load. The SDNPA, by contrast, is working to a "Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessment" (HEDNA) (available here: <https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/planning-policy/south-downs-local-plan-review/housing-and-economic-development-needs-assessment-2023/>) that has calculated its housing need, *across the whole Park*, as 350 homes per year. This contrasts with the WCC current target of 676 per year.

Parishes will be aware that, in the current SDNPA Local Plan Cheriton, Owslebury, West Meon and Corhampton & Meonstoke all have settlement boundaries within which there is a presumption of consent for new developments; some also have an individual housing target. Some, but not all, of these allocations have already been 'builtout'. Outside these settlement boundaries all the remaining area of the UMV Ward within the Park is regarded as 'countryside', in which development is severely restricted. Some additional allocation areas are currently under consideration by the Park planners and these, when agreed by the full Authority, will form part of its own draft plan consultation (known as the Reg 18 consultation in the jargon) early next year. It is unlikely, however, that these allocations will deliver a significantly increased number of new homes, given the Authority's focus will be firmly on the provision of "affordable housing", or that they will have a significant effect on the UMV ward.

WCC have concluded a 'Statement of Common Ground' with the SDNPA over the treatment of any element of the Winchester housing target that it believes could be met within the Park part of its area. This includes an 'agreement to differ' on how this might be resolved. Under the obligation to cooperate there is, of course, a possibility that the Park might wish to ask WCC to accept some of its own HEDNA target. The two planning teams will be taking this work forward bilaterally during the Autumn with a target to achieve agreement prior to the issue of the SDNPA's Reg 18 draft.

There is a further issue that the SDNPA is, in the jargon, a Level 2 LPA and therefore sees itself as having the obligation to consult directly with Parishes (the Level 3 authorities) in the same way as WCC does for its own planning process. It does this through bi-annual workshops for Town and Parish Councils in each of its three counties, the next of which for the Hampshire parishes will be in October 2024. There is an argument put forward by some that WCC should, as a democratically elected authority, be able to take a direct view on whether some of the WCC housing target should be imposed on that area of the District within the Park. This would, of course, require the SDNPA to accept further allocation areas within, or even outside, the villages into its draft Plan.

Finally, we can confirm that there are no housing allocation areas in the WCC Reg 19 plan that fall within that part of the UMV Ward outside the Park boundary.

If you have read this far you will understand that this is a complex, heavily nuanced issue with no simple answers. We are very happy to discuss further in Parish meetings – we are both capable of open-ended

discussion on the topic! But we would also strongly encourage all Parishes to engage in the consultation processes as they move forward.

Neil Bolton & Jerry Pett

Winchester City Council Ward Members for Upper Meon Valley

APPENDIX B

HCC Councillor's Sept 2024 Report

Cllr Malcolm Wallace (malcolm.wallace@hants.gov.uk)

Solar Together – HCC's Group Buy Scheme for Solar Energy

The solar energy group-buying scheme enables residents to invest in solar panels for their homes, fitted by pre-vetted installers, to reduce reliance on the national grid and lower their energy bills, as well as boost local renewable energy generation. Through Solar Together, over 28,400 solar panels have already been installed in Hampshire – it is estimated that these installations alone will reduce carbon emissions by 59,205 tonnes over 25 years – equivalent to taking over 32,600 cars off the road during the same period. Those interested need to register online at www.hants.gov.uk/solartogether by 18 October for a free and without obligation quote.

Life's Better by Bike

To help encourage people to get around on two wheels, the County Council has created a one-stop-shop website with everything you've ever wanted to know about cycling in Hampshire. The new website (www.hants.gov.uk/socialcareandhealth/publichealth/lifesbetterbybike) has lots of useful content for seasoned cyclists as well as anyone new to cycling, with information on:

- journey planning,
- bikeability courses – to help develop your confidence to ride on the road,
- dedicated cycling routes in the countryside,
- access to cycling groups, where you can meet likeminded people,
- inclusive cycling options for people with disabilities, and
- top tips to help new cyclists get started.

Outstanding Rating Continues for Hampshire's Children's Services

Children in Hampshire continue to benefit from strong and effective services that make a positive difference to their lives. This is one of the key headline findings from Hampshire County Council's latest full Ofsted the second consecutive time since 2019. In a consistently positive report, Ofsted has described the timely and robust practice of social workers and other practitioners who ensure that children are kept safe and that they and their families receive appropriate and effective support to meet their individual needs. The news comes following a recent outstanding Ofsted rating for Swanwick Lodge, the County Council's secure children's home which provides safe and specialist support for the most vulnerable children and young people.

Make attendance top of the 'back to school' checklist for 2024/25

Rates of school attendance have continued to improve in Hampshire but as with other local authority areas across the country, they remain below the levels typically seen before the Covid-19 pandemic. Latest figures show that 93.4% of sessions were attended by Hampshire pupils in the 2023/24 school year compared to 95.5% in 2018/19, the last full school year before the Covid-19 pandemic. Educational specialists advise that attending school every day, unless unwell, is best for children to ensure that the solid foundations for their future education and employment can be laid. It is also one of the best ways of supporting a child's mental and physical health.

Hampshire's Country Parks win prestigious Green Flag Awards once again

Lepe, River Hamble, Royal Victoria, Queen Elizabeth, and Staunton Country Parks have all once again regained Green Flag status for their excellent facilities and amazing outdoor spaces. The Green Flag Award scheme, managed by environmental charity Keep Britain Tidy under licence from the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, recognises and rewards well-managed parks and green spaces, setting the benchmark standard for the management of green spaces across the United Kingdom and around the world. Each of Hampshire's five country parks offers something unique:

- Lepe Country Park on the coast of the New Forest offers a café and visitor centre boasting views of the Solent and Isle of Wight, a sensory garden and fantastic coastal and countryside walks.
- Queen Elizabeth Country Park, near Petersfield, is Hampshire's biggest Country Park with more than 2,000 acres of woodland and downland – it has an emphasis on outdoor pursuits, offering a range of attractions

for cyclists. The park's visitor centre has been recently transformed to include a bigger restaurant, more welcoming entrance, and outdoor sheltered area.

- Royal Victoria Country Park sits on the shores of Southampton Water, near Netley. The refurbishment of its historic Chapel, the only remaining part of what was once the world's largest military hospital of its time, provides a popular historic attraction for visitors. The park also now also boasts a restaurant serving hand-made pizzas, in an historic restored building.
- River Hamble Country Park, near Bursledon, offers a wide range of walking, cycling and horse-riding routes in the woods and along the banks of the River Hamble. The Barn visitor hub includes a café, outdoor play for all ages and trails for families.
- Staunton Country Park, near Havant, offers the perfect venue for keen walkers, cyclists and anglers. The Country Park has a visitor centre where you can discover all about the history of the Country Park and a tearoom in the Victorian Coachhouse. The Regency landscape has been restored with follies, exotic trees and shrubs, and a beautiful walled garden.

HCC's Latest Figures show 37% Increase in Annual Road Repairs

An unprecedented number of potholes and road defects have been fixed across a 12-month period, according to the latest figures from Hampshire County Council. From April 2023 to April 2024, 180,909 repairs were delivered, marking a 37 per cent increase.

Councillor Lulu Bowerman, the County Council's Cabinet Member for Highways and Waste said: "We understand that potholes remain a significant concern for Hampshire's residents, impacting daily journeys and overall satisfaction whether travelling to work, school, running a business or enjoying all our county has to offer.

"One year ago, we allocated an additional £22.5 million to tackle this issue and make our roads stronger. This two-year investment is enabling us to deploy more resources dedicated to promptly fixing potholes, addressing the damage caused by cycles of wet and freezing winter weather. Our latest figures show that repairs have increased by 37 per cent, compared to the previous 12 months*, demonstrating that this investment is paying dividends.

"With unprecedented volumes of potholes being reported to us, Hampshire isn't alone in facing the challenge of keeping local roads in a good condition. The impact of colder, wetter winters takes a heavy toll on the roads, and higher costs due to inflation means that every year we must make our budget stretch further – for example, it now costs the taxpayer around 44% more to repair a pothole.

"Over the summer months, our highways teams will continue to make the most of the money we have available, and the generally drier, warmer days to support our priority focus on fixing large numbers of potholes, applying surface treatments to smooth our highways, and undertaking road maintenance on larger stretches of road across the county."

Road defects and potholes can be reported to the County Council's highways team [online](#) or by using the OurHants app, downloadable from a mobile phone's app store.

Funding for Completion of Botley Bypass Agreed

In July, Hampshire County Council's Cabinet agreed to increase the scheme budget by more than £16 million. The [additional funding](#) is needed to meet the significant rise in construction and materials costs due to inflation as well as to allow for further adjustments to be made to the final scheme design to address challenging ground conditions that were discovered during the preparation stage

The final phase creates a new road from Winchester Street (eastwards), crossing the River Hamble to a new roundabout at the A334/A3051 junction. New and improved footways and cycleways will be provided as part of the project. Construction is expected to begin in spring 2025 and be completed in 2027.

Next Step for Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan

At its meeting on 18 July the full County Council approved the submission of Hampshire's Minerals and Waste Plan's Partial Update to the Government Planning Inspectorate for scrutiny.

Examination of the Plan is the final stage of the plan making process. The Planning Inspectorate's examination will include public hearings to discuss the issues raised, through representations. This can involve people participating through written representation or appearing at the hearing(s).

Why a Minerals and Waste Plan is needed for Hampshire

Having an up-to-date Plan in place is the best way to ensure that minerals and waste operations fully consider the character and special qualities of Hampshire and will not adversely impact communities or the local environment. Not having an up-to-date Plan in place would make Hampshire vulnerable to having sites imposed by Government planning inspectors, losing the opportunity to ensure locally relevant matters are considered when sites come forward for minerals or waste development.

The Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan is evidence-based and is in line with national planning policy. The local policies contained within the Plan guide the decisions that each of the five minerals and waste planning authorities make when determining planning applications for minerals extraction or waste infrastructure and operations.

Identified sites are subject to local planning permission scrutiny

Any site identified in the final Plan still requires operators to apply for permission in the usual way, taking account of all the environmental considerations and assessing the impact on the local community and area, including undertaking consultation with stakeholders. Land identified would be released only if it is needed, and the planning application fully satisfies the stringent criteria and other tests set out in the Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan.

Grant Opportunities

Several grant opportunities have just re-opened:

• [Leader's Community Grants](#)

o The purpose of the scheme is to fund one-off, time limited projects which provide community benefit and help local communities thrive; and help local organisations become financially self-supporting and not reliant on public sector funding.

o Applications can be made for over £1,000 up to a maximum of £25,000 and may be for activity costs, a specific project and/or capital costs.

o Scheme is NOT open to parish/town councils or commercial organisations.

• [Rural Communities Fund](#)

o The Fund provides support under the following four areas:

- Climate Change Resilience (to include Flood Alleviation)
- Countryside
- Rural Economy and Business (to include Rural Retailers)
- Other – we are keen to support other projects or initiatives that will help build community resilience and/or encourage self-help in rural areas

o Typically fund up to a maximum of £5,000 as part of a match-funded scheme.

• [Parish and Town Council Investment Fund](#)

o The priority of this fund is to support partnerships between local communities and the County Council. It will provide pump priming investments to pilot new schemes which respond to local needs and the growing pressure on County Council Services.

o There are three primary areas available for investments:

- Capital Funding: £1,000 to £30,000 for schemes which enhance existing or provide new infrastructure and equipment to support a local community, including energy efficiency grants
- Meeting local needs: Usually for investments of £1,000 to £30,000 in schemes that enable local communities to be more resilient. For example, schemes which encourage 'neighbourliness' in tackling social isolation or in the management of community assets.
- Training: Investments up to £10,000 provide appropriate training in the local community.

• [County Councillor Grants](#)

o Groups and organisations can apply for funding for both revenue (one-off) and minor capital projects. Revenue grants should generally be used to support short term project related costs.

o It is expected that the grants will benefit a wide range of groups/activities: for example, vulnerable children or adults, young people, facilities for older people, community facilities, parish councils (but only for specific projects), schools' minor traffic or safety works, local environment projects, and community safety.

o The 2023/24 County Councillor grant scheme is open until 29 February 2024.

More details about each of these grants is available on the County Council website.