

Update from Hampshire County Council

April 2023

From 1st April 2023 **Parking and Traffic** management services reverted from WCC to HCC. Requests for new parking controls such as yellow lines, disabled parking bays and access protection markings will henceforth be handled directly by the County Council. Yellow lines and other waiting restrictions can be requested at: traffic.management@hants.gov.uk.

I would like to ask all Parish Councils to ensure that you copy all such email requests for new controls to me please. I can then maintain awareness of volumes and chase things up should it become appropriate.

Pothole Repairs Hampshire received an additional £5.954m (ringfenced for this purpose) in the recent budget to repair potholes.

The primary focus will be to deploy more patching teams to focus on fixing potholes and other localised defects across our road network, including the use of the existing 'Dragon Patchers' and other established repair techniques. The extra money – which comes on top of the existing block funding budget allocation from the Department for Transport – will enable HCC to repair up to 40,000 more potholes with work expected to start during April. The Highways team is currently assessing the road condition data, which includes online reports received, to prioritise and plan the repair programme, which will remain dynamic as reports of new road defects appear. HCC's highways contractor partner, Milestone, has already started dialogue with their primary supply chain to increase the number of patching teams on Hampshire's roads.

Create a Local Nature Reserve On 20 March 2023 DEFRA and Natural England updated the guidance on declaring a Local Nature Reserve. It is now much easier for Parish Councils to make a declaration. This is a great opportunity for Parish Councils to contribute to Nature Recovery whilst engaging members of the community of all ages in a worthwhile project which leaves a legacy for generations to come.

How to declare a local nature reserve

To declare your site as a LNR, first you should contact Natural England by email: consultations@naturalengland.org.uk or telephone: 0300 060 3900.

You'll be asked to formally declare your LNR by sending a draft declaration document - you can use this [declaration document template](#) (MS Word Document, 26 KB). It must be signed by the relevant local planning authority, have a map showing the boundary and a management plan detailing:

- ownership of the land
- any agreements or partnerships
- why the LNR site was chosen
- aims and objectives
- biodiversity management and environmental education
- community participation, access and visitor management
- costs and funding arrangements

Following the consultation, you will be asked to send the final declaration document to Natural England, signed by the relevant local authority committees.

To read the guidance in full please click on this link:

www.gov.uk/guidance/create-and-manage-local-nature-reserves

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