

**COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT  
TO  
ALL PARISH COUNCILS  
IN PETERSFIELD HANGERS**

**3 OCTOBER 2022**

1. Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II



September was a month of mourning for our late Queen “of blessed and glorious memory”. For most of us Queen Elizabeth was the constant in our lives. A source of inspiration, providing comfort in times of strife and signifying unity in times of division.

Here in Hampshire, we felt Her Majesty's loss all the more keenly. Hampshire was always close to Her Majesty's heart: Hampshire was the place where she spent her honeymoon and the County to which she came most often to visit Her Armed Forces. All Hampshire County Council announcements were put on hold in September which naturally means that this report is a bit shorter than normal.

I attended the Proclamation of the King in Winchester on Sunday 11 September read by the High Sheriff of Hampshire Lady Edwina Grosvenor. Behind the High Sheriff is the King's representative: the Lord Lieutenant of Hampshire Nigel Atkinson (who is a resident of Petersfield Hangers Division). On the right is HCC Leader Cllr Rob Humby. We all sang God Save the King for the first time.



The proclamation was a memorable occasion and I know that several Parishes carried out their own proclamations which I am sure will also live long in the memory – as will the joyful Platinum Jubilee celebrations held by Parishes during the Summer.

2. HCC adds £200 top-up to Homes for Ukraine hosts

I am pleased to report that Hampshire County Council has announced that it will be paying an extra £200 per month to Hampshire residents hosting Ukrainian guests as part of the Government's Homes for Ukraine Scheme.

The Government has set host payments at £350 per accommodation (tax free). We want to go higher than this to reflect both the important contribution Hampshire hosts are making to this significant humanitarian effort, as well as the current challenges many may be facing, in terms of cost-of-living pressures. We feel this is the fair and right thing to do, particularly over the winter months.

The county of Hampshire has welcomed the third highest number of Ukrainian nationals in England with over 1,100 families now settled here under the national scheme.

3. SDNPA set to discuss BOATs

The SDNPA will discuss Byways Open to All Traffic at its meeting on Thursday 20 October 2022. The Decision Paper will be published on the southdowns.gov.uk website around 10 days before that meeting. Many Parish Councils in Petersfield Hangers have already written powerfully to the Chairman of the SDNPA. A further communication in the build-up to the meeting could be worth considering.

In this very special part of the South Downs National Park, our tranquillity, biodiversity, air quality, safety and basic access to byways are routinely compromised by sports bikers and 4x4 drivers who are damaging the green infrastructure of our park.

I am no longer a member of the SDNPA and I will not attend the meeting as I do not wish to create any appearance of conflict with my HCC responsibilities as Executive Member for Countryside, Culture and Communities. I sincerely hope that the Authority will decide to get involved in this issue and bring their expertise to bear on finding long-term solutions.

**RUSSELL OPPENHEIMER**  
**County Councillor for Petersfield Hangers**