

## Update from Hampshire County Council – April 2023

### Primary school place offers confirmed by Hampshire County Council

Parents in Hampshire who applied on time for a school place for children starting school in September 2023 – either in Reception Year or in Year 3 in a junior school – have been sent the outcome.

The County Council has processed more than 21,000 applications (21,193) for children to start school in Reception Year (Year R) and to move from infant to their first year of junior education (Year 3).

Over 98 per cent (98.77 per cent) of parents have been offered a reception year place for their child in one of their three preferred choice schools, with more than 93 per cent (93.02 per cent) allocated a place at their first choice of school.

Of pupils transferring from infant school to junior school (Year 3), more than 99 per cent (99.29 per cent) received a place at one of their three choices, and over 97 per cent (97.88 per cent) obtained a place at their first choice of school.

Pupils who did not secure a place at one of their preferred schools have been allocated a place at their catchment school or the next nearest school with a place available. In these cases, the County Council has advised parents, in their notification about the right to appeal and the arrangements for their preferred school's waiting list. Places can become available via the waiting list for various reasons including parents changing their mind, or families moving home.

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/20230417primaryofferday>

### Highways Information - Road repairs, elections and a general pothole update.

With the elections coming I am seeing lots of social media posts about road repairs, quite a few saying "Good to see repairs being undertaken in X or Y" and also quite a few saying "They're only fixing the roads because an election is coming."

As you know as your County Councillor, I have to accept responsibility for all the potholes. ☺ And whilst it's nice to see credit being given for more repairs being undertaken it is unfair to say this is linked to the elections.

You may have noticed the weather has improved. Less rain and higher road temperature. This means Hampshire Highways can do more in terms of patching and fixing.

From December to February the number of reports of potholes exceeded the number of repairs each week. Since then the trend has reversed and in the last three weeks considerably thanks to extra resources - both money (from HCC's budget and the £6 million given to us for pothole repairs in the budget) and staff (as we have been able to stand down those on gritter duty for example).

There remains much to do of course, and I suspect the comments to this note will fill with "but you've not fixed the dreadful pothole at X or Y". As you might imagine there needs to be a hierarchy for deciding priority.

We are prioritising repairs where there is a genuine safety concern above everything else (the arbiters of whether a safety concern is 'genuine' are our highway engineers who assess them).

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We then look to repair those with the greatest impact on traffic and road safety, so on 'A' roads and main routes, then minor routes and finally residential streets and side roads. It is of course generally much easier to avoid a road problem on a quiet side street or lane than on a busier route.

Finally, do please continue to report any road issues you come across. If they are already reported, not fixed yet, but getting worse then do update your report to say so or report them again.

You can find all the reporting tiles to do so here:-

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance>

Thanks so much for bearing with us. It's been the worst possible winter for road damage and there remains a huge amount still to do.

That's all I'm afraid for this month – the elections curtail anything that might be seen to influence the voting. Hopefully more subjects and information next month.

Cllr David Drew

Test Valley Central Division, HCC