

Hampshire County Councillor Report: April 2024

Invitation by Hampshire County Council to bid for funding to plant disease resistant elms

Communities across Hampshire are being invited to apply for funding to plant disease resistant elm trees. The English countryside was once dominated by elms, but since the 1960s these trees have been ravaged by Dutch elm disease that was accidentally introduced to Europe in the early 20th century. The disease has killed nearly all the mature elms in Britain, an estimated toll of 60-100 million trees. Our planting initiative will be a great opportunity to enhance local spaces and provide essential habitats for wildlife including species of moth and butterfly.

The Hampshire Forest Partnership has already supported 1,205 disease resistant elm trees to be planted across Hampshire's green spaces by farmers, landowners, and local communities. Enquiries are open now for the 2024/25 tree planting season which starts from the autumn. Organisations such as town and parish councils, local groups and landowners can find out more information including how to apply for disease resistant elms by contacting the Hampshire Forest Partnership on treeplanting@hants.gov.uk

Bus Services

Hampshire's £7.2 million share of the Department for Transport's (DfT) Bus Service Improvement Plan Plus money and has been awarded to protect existing commercial services (that might otherwise see reduced timetables) and to fund more frequent services from May.

In Winchester the **Bluestar 1** service between Winchester and Southampton will have an additional evening weekday services and new late-night services in each direction on Friday and Saturday evenings.

Service 66 between Romsey and Winchester will improve to every 30 minutes, Monday to Saturday daytime.

D-Day 80th Anniversary Family Event 8th June 2024

Lepe Beach (now Hampshire County Council's Lepe Country Park) played a major role in the D-Day operations code named Operation Overlord as the site that troops, vehicles and supplies embarked from, bound for the beaches of Normandy on 5th June 1944. For more information visit Lepe Country Park on Facebook or www.hants.gov.uk/thingstodo/countryparks/lepe

Cllr Jan Warwick
Hampshire County Councillor
Winchester Downlands
07717 104236 or jan.warwick@hants.gov.uk