Cllr Chris Dorn July Report

A round-up of various issues affecting the Odiham Ward (HDC) and Odiham & Hook Division (HCC)

Contents

1. Hart District Council 2
1.1. Military Covenant Gold Award 2
1.2. New £440k fund to support Hart communities 2
1.3. Extension to Dog Fouling PSPO - Consultation now OPEN 2
1.4. Community Asset Transfer 3
2. Hampshire County Council 4
2.1. County Cllr Grants 4
2.2. Local Government Reorganisation: Hampshire begins Judicial Review 4
2.3. M3, Junction 9 Summer Closures 5
2.4. Reporting Highway Problems 5
2.5. Combined Authority O&S Role 6
2.6. Free summer holiday activities now open to book in Hampshire 6
2.7. Lakes and water safety 6
2.8. Hosepipe Ban 6
2.9. ASB Driving Around Hook 7
2.10. Dimanche Rally Process 7
3. Details 8

1. Hart District Council

1.1. Military Covenant Gold Award

Hart District Council has officially achieved the Gold Level in the Ministry of Defence's Armed Forces Covenant Employer Recognition Scheme (ERS).

This is a massive achievement, and we want to say a huge well done to everyone involved, and the hard-working council officers who drove this initiative forward, making Hart a truly supportive home for those who serve and have served

The ERS Gold Award is the highest accolade a local authority can achieve, recognising employers who actively support and advocate for the Defence community. To achieve Gold, the council had to demonstrate:

- Proactive, forces-friendly policies that support veterans and service families.
- Supportive workplace adjustments, including paid leave for reservists.
- Active advocacy for the wider Armed Forces community.

1.2. New £440k fund to support Hart communities

Hart District Council has launched a new Here for Hart Community Grants scheme with £440,000 available to community and voluntary organisations across the district.

The grants are designed to leave a lasting legacy and reflects the Council's long-term commitment to working alongside community-based partners to strengthen local support and facilities.

The scheme will focus on initiatives that help residents stay well, promote inclusion and community connection and support people facing challenges. Priority will be given to projects that demonstrate strong value for money, long-term sustainability and a clear, lasting impact for local communities.

The grants will be divided into two funds, one for smaller projects up to a maximum of £5,000 and one for larger projects up to a maximum of £50,000. At least £40,000 of the funding will be dedicated to projects supporting young people.

To apply and find out more information, please visit www.hart.gov.uk/community/here-hart-community-grants ***by 10th Aug***.

1.3. Extension to Dog Fouling PSPO - Consultation now OPEN

The consultation for the extension of the district wide Dog Fouling PSPO is now open and we would like to invite your responses as Councillors and residents, as well as that of your ward residents. Please see link below:

Share your views on dog fouling in Hart | Hart District Council

By 11.59pm on Sunday 16 August.

1.4. Community Asset Transfer

I've been asked about Community Asset Transfer (CAT), whereby assets are transferred to the community ahead of LGR.

Agenda for Cabinet on Thursday 2 July 2026, 7.00 pm | Hart District Council item 19.

Main points:-

- Establishes a **transparent, consistent process** for CAT requests over 3 stages, ensuring decisions are robust and aligned with community benefit and Hart Corporate Plan objectives.
- Confirms CATs are **discretionary**, require service-area consultation, and may be affected by **Section 24 Directions** during Local Government Reorganisation, potentially requiring Shadow Authority approval.
- Overview & Scrutiny raised concerns about **resources, asset visibility, tenant communication, and alignment of criteria**, with officers confirming existing staff will manage the process and that asset information will be shared responsively rather than via a full public register. There will be no list of assets. It seems most of the other O&S concerns have also been over-looked.
- Legal and governance considerations emphasise compliance with **s123 LGA 1972**, subsidy control, equality impacts, and the need for case-specific legal advice, while financial implications require Cabinet to review full cost and value details for each proposal.

I saw nothing about any planned comms or timescales. So will be asking Daryl about that.

Parishes may wish to look carefully at any suitable and potential local assets. An enquiry is free and would ensure the process is started.

2. Hampshire County Council

2.1. County Cllr Grants

Hampshire County Council's County Councillor Grants Scheme reopened on 1 July. Each County Councillor has an annual budget of £5,000 to support worthwhile projects in their division, with grants generally available from £100 to £1,000.

The scheme can support not-for-profit organisations and community groups, including youth and sports activities, village halls, social-support projects, environmental and outdoor initiatives and equipment such as defibrillators.

I would encourage organisations in Romsey Rural with a suitable project to review the guidance and contact me. Applications will be considered against the scheme criteria and the benefit they can provide to local residents.

Full details and the application form: Hampshire County Councillor Grants Scheme

2.2. Local Government Reorganisation: Hampshire begins Judicial Review

On 9 June, Hampshire County Council's Cabinet agreed that the Council should pursue a Judicial Review of the Government's decision on Local Government Reorganisation. Formal proceedings were commenced later in the month.

This is not an attempt to preserve the existing system. Hampshire County Council and the district and borough councils are due to be abolished under reorganisation. The issue is whether the replacement structure has been chosen lawfully, transparently and with proper regard to long-term financial sustainability.

The Government selected a five-unitary model which would divide communities across the Hampshire and Solent area and transfer valuable development opportunities and business-rate income into new authorities centred on Southampton and Portsmouth. Hampshire's concern is that the decision was taken without the underlying financial evidence and modelling being made available, despite repeated requests.

The structures being created will serve more than two million residents and could last for decades. If they are financially unsustainable, the consequences would be measured not simply in boundary lines but in poorer services, higher costs and potentially tens, if not hundreds, of millions of pounds over the next decade. Judicial Review is the only mechanism available to obtain answers and test whether the decision-making process was lawful.

Read the County Council's update: County Council begins legal challenge over Government's LGR decision

2.3. M3, Junction 9 Summer Closures

The M3 Junction 9 improvement project is moving into another significant phase, with closures likely to create wider disruption around Winchester, the A34, A33 and surrounding villages.

- 6 to 30 July, Monday to Friday nights from 8pm to 6am: M3 northbound closed between Junctions 10 and 9.
- 9pm Friday 31 July to 6am Monday 3 August: full weekend closure of the Junction 9 roundabout and its connecting slip roads and local approaches.
- Further full-weekend closures are planned for 21 to 24 August and 11 to 14 September.
- The Junction 9 northbound entry slip road is expected to remain closed from 31 July until winter 2027.

During closures, please follow the official signed diversions rather than satnav directions, which may attempt to send vehicles through unsuitable local roads or back towards closed sections.

Project information and updates: M3 Junction 9 improvements

2.4. Reporting Highway Problems

Links to report road issues are here:

- Potholes: https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/highways/report-a-problem/potholes
- Tree/hedge problems: https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/highways/report-aproblem/treehedge
- Flooding/drainage issues: https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/highways/report-aproblem/flooding
- Pavement problems: https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/highways/report-a-problem/paving
- Broken or missing signs: https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/highways/report-aproblem/brokensigns
- Faulty street lights: https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/highways/report-aproblem/streetlight
- Faded or missing road markings: https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/highways/report-aproblem/road-markings
- Problems with rights of way: https://www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/rightsofway/reportaproblem

When reporting an issue, you'll be sent an email confirming a reference number for the report. If you need me to follow this up for you then do please forward that message to me.

2.5. Combined Authority O&S Role

The Hampshire and the Solent Combined County Authority (HSCCA) has been formally established following parliamentary approval of the statutory instrument, marking a major milestone in the creation of a new authority to lead strategic decision-making across the region

Hampshire and the Solent Combined County Authority formally established following parliamentary approval | Hampshire County Council

I have been appointed to the Overview & Scrutiny Committee for HSCA.

2.6. Free summer holiday activities now open to book in Hampshire

Families across Hampshire can now book free holiday activity sessions as the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme returns for summer 2026

Free summer holiday activities now open to book in Hampshire | Hampshire County Council

2.7. Lakes and water safety

There was deeply distressing news from Testwood Lakes after a 15-year-old boy was reported missing while swimming on 24 June. A major multi-agency search followed, and Hampshire Police later confirmed that his body had been found. Our thoughts remain with his family, friends and everyone affected by this tragedy.

The incident is a heartbreaking reminder that open water can be dangerous even in warm weather and even for confident swimmers. Parents and carers are encouraged to discuss the Water Safety Code with children and young people, including the “Float to Live” advice and the importance of calling 999 immediately in an emergency rather than entering the water to attempt a rescue.

Hampshire Safeguarding Children Partnership advice: Water Safety for parents and carers

2.8. Hosepipe Ban

Due to lower than average rainfall, continued hot weather and high demand, South East Water have started to see a decline in river levels and need to protect some groundwater sources.

This means South East Water must now introduce hosepipe restrictions in Sussex, Surrey, Hampshire and Berkshire to join Kent where there are already restrictions.

South East Water are urging everyone across Sussex, Surrey, Hampshire and Berkshire who’s supplied by the to please follow these restrictions straight away, to protect your water supply immediately, and the local environment. The restrictions will be in force from 00:01 on Saturday 25 July 2026.

More details on their website (and the legal notices etc)

https://www.southeastwater.co.uk/about/updates/tubs-26

2.9. ASB Driving Around Hook

Your 3 District Cllrs and HCC Cllr met with Police, Hampshire Highways and community safety officers from Hart to discuss the problems of "car meets" in the Hook area. A broad range of issues were discussed. It's a complex problem and no quick and easy fixes were apparent, but we did push the officers to look at some additional ideas. So will re-group in the autumn.

It's important that anti-social and dangerous driving are reported quickly to the police, "999" is appropriate.

2.10. Dimanche Rally Process

The Dimanche Rally is a professional road rally planned for 11 April 2027 on selected roads in between the Parishes of Crondall, Odiham and Long Sutton & Well.

For those involved with the Dimanche Rally, key stakeholders (eg. parish councils) will have been contacted by Motor Sport UK who are reviewing the safety case. Hampshire sees them as the key experts, so will await their recommendations. There will be an internal decision at Hampshire in September "in principle". With the final go-ahead expected in October, once Motor Sport UK provides its findings. Hampshire will then generate the requisite road closure orders and suspension of speed limits.

More info at ; DTOH27-Community Information V0.2.pdf - Google Drive

3. Details

Hampshire County Council Councillor for Odiham and Hook Division

Hart District Council Councillor for Odiham Ward

Email is the best option for me: chris.dorn@hants.gov.uk and chris.dorn@hart.gov.uk

m: 07973 822206

Just to caveat: Cllrs can't provide definitive planning or legal advice, but I'm happy to share my personal thoughts on matters while asserting my open mindedness to any related future planning applications or formal council decisions.

<Ends>