

Booking System at Household Waste Recycling Centres

A new system for residents to book slots at a Hampshire Household Waste Recycling Centre [HWRC] will begin on Monday 15th June 2020. Only residents who have made a booking will be able to access the sites from this date onwards. The system is being set up in response to some of the severe traffic congestion seen at many HWRCs since they reopened on 11th May with new social distancing measures in place.



From 15th June, all HWRCs will also revert to their normal summer opening hours of 9.00 am until 6.00 pm, seven days a week. People will be able to book a 30-minute slot up to 48 hours in advance. It is anticipated that over 30,000 booking slots will be available each week. Bookings will need to be made online. Arrangements are also being made for a telephone booking line for residents who do not have access to the internet. Those wishing to book a slot will need to provide their name, car registration and, for online bookings, an email address. Bookings will be limited to one slot per household per week. Further details will be provided on how to book later this week.

Making Space for People and Social Distancing

A range of temporary changes are being made across the County to provide more road space for people walking and cycling – keeping a safe social distance as they begin to go back to work and school after the Coronavirus lockdown. HCC has already made some immediate changes across the County to traffic signals and signs, to give pedestrians more space and time. The next stage will be work on the ground to install physical measures which provide more space for safe social distancing.

Changes already in place include:

- Following a review of all pelican, puffin and toucan crossings, waiting times at 166 crossings have been reduced in favour of pedestrians;
- Traffic signals have been altered at some of Hampshire's busiest town centre traffic signal junctions, increasing the frequency that the pedestrian stage appears, and the amount of green time provided to cross the road by foot;
- As well as national messages to Stay Alert and maintain social distancing, many electronic traffic information signs now inform motorists to slow down, share the road and look out for pedestrians and people on bikes.

Work started this week on some of the first schemes in Hampshire to provide more space for pedestrians and cyclists. Further schemes are in development to support retail spaces which mean taking traffic and parking out of our town centres to create space. These plans are being developed with Hampshire's District and Borough Councils, Business Improvement Districts, Town and Parish Councils. Communities, schools and residents are encouraged to make suggestions for schemes which support social distancing at: www.hants.gov.uk/transport/transportchemes/hantscovidtravel with priority given to those ideas with the potential to make the most positive impact and which meet Government criteria for funding.

Road Works on A32

As part of Operation Resilience, Hampshire County Council's programme to make Hampshire's roads more resilient to the effects of extreme weather and heavy traffic, essential carriageway repair works on the A32 will take place on School Road, Wickham, from the junction with Hoad's Hill to the junction with the B2177 Southwick Road.

The works are programmed to start 11th June 2020 and are expected to last for 2 nights, during which time the road will be closed to vehicular traffic from approximately 20:00 – 06:00 hrs. The road will be open during the day.

Due to the current COVID-19 situation, works will be carried out ensuring safe working practices and social distancing measures are maintained at all times. A minimum of 2 metres will be kept between site operatives and members of the public, with the appropriate traffic management in place to prevent any interaction.

Improvements to M27 Junction 9 and Parkway South Roundabout

Hampshire County Council will start work this summer on the £23 million project to improve the M27 at Junction 9 and Parkway South. The works are jointly funded by Hampshire County Council and Highways England. Skanska are set to get to work on site from 1st June, initially carrying out earth works and ducting while observing strict social distancing measures. All work will be carried out in line with the Construction Leadership Council's Site Operation Procedures, which is based on Public Health England guidance.

At Junction 9, the overall project will involve carriageway widening which will provide an additional lane on both motorway off-slip roads, the westbound on-slip road and the Whiteley Way approach, together with additional lanes on the northern and southern sections of the circulatory carriageway.

At Parkway South Roundabout, a new, larger fully signalised roundabout will be provided, with carriageway widening to provide additional traffic lanes on all approaches and the circulatory carriageway. A shared use path for pedestrians and cyclists will be provided on the western side of Whiteley Way between M27 Junction 9 and Parkway South roundabout. This will have controlled crossings points at each junction to provide safe access and connections to existing pedestrian and cycle routes on Whiteley Way, Rookery Avenue and within the Segensworth Business Park. Work is due to last for up to 24 months until summer 2022.

For more information visit the scheme web page:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/transportschemes/m27junction9>

Foster Carers

At any time, around 1,138 children across Hampshire are in need of foster care. Fostering with Hampshire County Council is **not** dependent on marital status, ethnicity, sexuality or age – so long as you are over 21 years and have a spare room. Foster carers can receive up to £600 per week for each child they look after and a referral fee of up to £500 if they encourage their friends to also become foster carers.

There are several different types of fostering: short term [anything from an emergency overnight stay to a few months]; long term foster care; unaccompanied asylum seeking children, and specialist respite placements.

For a child, growing up with the constancy of a caring home where they feel safe and supported is the most important gift they can have. If you are interested in helping a child and want to find out more telephone 0300 555 1384 or visit the website

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/socialcareandhealth/adoptionandfostering/fostering/aboutfostering/whocanfoster>

Hampshire's 'SEND' Services are Good

Inspectors from Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) recently looked at how well services for children and young people in Hampshire are implementing the Government's SEND reforms, as set out in the Children and Families Act 2014. Inspectors praised the ambitions of leaders in ensuring that children and young people with SEND can succeed. Cited as a strength of the area, was how professionals work together in the early years to identify young children's needs. Transitions between early years and school, and between children's services and adults' services was also seen as a strength. Alongside this, inspectors found that there is effective support for schools and settings to help them successfully provide an inclusive educational experience for children and young people with SEND. Also highlighted as a positive aspect of the services, is the way in which professionals are improving how they involve parents, children and young people in the development of Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs).

School Places

The County Council has processed more than 15,000 applications for school places in Year R this year. Just over 98% of parents have been offered a place for their child in one of their three preferred schools - with 90.86% being allocated a place at their first choice of school, up from 88.92% last year. Of pupils transferring from Infant School to Junior School (Year 3), almost 99% received a place at one of their choices - with 97% obtaining a place at their first choice school. For the few cases where parents did not secure a place for their child in a school of their choice, parents have the right to appeal and can ask for their child's name to be added to their preferred school's waiting list. Places can become available if parents change their mind and decide not to accept the offer of a place, or if families move home. More information about the admissions process is available at: www.hants.gov.uk/admissions

Patricia Stallard

Lead Executive Member for Children's Services & Young People

Hampshire County Council

Divisional Member for Winchester Southern Parishes

pgstallard@aol.com