

Hampshire needs hope, and new direction in 2021/22.

As County Councillor for the last thirty years for the Baddesley Division, I believe we need a vision to put hope back into Hampshire.

The Council Tax will rise by 4.99%, a Band "D" property will be charged £1350.45p a £64 increase. There will also be an additional £15 for a Band "D" from the Police precept.

Many vital services have already been reduced or cut and this heavy increase of council tax will be an additional pressure to many families during this most difficult of years.

As we start to recover from Covid-19 the County Council must put people and communities first, fix problems, and have the vision to address the climate emergency. We need our County Council to truly recognise young people as the future, and respect and value older people and those in need of help. We also need a County Council that backs skills and business to generate the wealth to support world class services.

Our Climate Emergency

Hampshire has a plan for zero emissions by 2050, but is this 20 years too late! I believe there should be a plan of tackling our climate emergency at the heart of all our policies, recognising it will be too late for our children and grandchildren if we don't. That means rethinking transport to minimise unsustainable journeys, learning lessons from the Covid emergency, and supporting safety with reduced speed limits, where there's local support. It means greening new and existing homes, promoting walking and cycling, tackling air quality and demanding a healthier Hampshire for all.

Our NHS, Health and Social Care

We should be working towards preventing ill health, and that leads to longer and more enjoyable lives and takes pressure off our doctors and NHS. We need to protect and enhance public health budgets and put mental health first from schools to old age. We also need to rethink all our 'people' services from restarting youth services, working towards a Hampshire where food banks are consigned to history and where elderly care is celebrated as a valued part of life.

Our Homes & Infrastructure

Roads and pavements are collapsing with pavement resurfacing down to once in every 99 years. Bus services axed.

The County Council should be working with district councils to ensure infrastructure comes first, with the right homes in the right places. Backing Green Belt plans such as in South Hampshire, to allow our communities and wildlife space to breathe and move. That means bringing forward investment in sustainable transport, integrating rail and bus services, support for buses and improved community transport, and a County-wide plan for electric charging points.

Hampshire People: Our Communities

We have witnessed major cuts to community groups and the arts announced in the middle of this pandemic. It's time to foster that spirit for the future. We will only do this by encouraging and supporting our communities and thinking afresh about local

services. That must include an end to library closures, and partnership with villages and communities for new library spaces with extended hours.

HCC Cllr Alan Dowden
Baddesley Division