July and August 2026 Report from Cllr Sally Yalden (North Baddesley)
Hampshire County Councillor

Despite the summer break, it's been another busy month with a lot of case work coming in across the division. As always, if there are any issues that the Parish Council would like me to investigate or pursue with HCC, please let me know.

County Councillor Grant Scheme

A reminder that the **County Councillor Grant Scheme** is now open for applications. I've supported two schemes so far - two (and a half!) in Valley Park and one benefiting the entire division. Of my annual £5,000 budget, I currently have **£3,736 remaining to allocate to applications**. I'm aiming to distribute the funding proportionately based on the population of each area, which means the remaining allocation for **North Baddesley is approximately £1880**.

Final approvals are made by county officers to ensure accountability and compliance with the scheme criteria. If local groups have projects in mind, I would be very happy to discuss potential applications.

North Baddesley Issues

Fleming Court Parking

Following Cllr Rice's request to revisit the ongoing parking issues near Fleming Court, I raised the matter with the County.

County has confirmed that it is currently unable to carry out parking enforcement because officers have been unable to locate a valid Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) covering the existing yellow-line restrictions. Without a valid TRO, the restrictions cannot be enforced.

The matter has now been referred to the local Traffic Management Team for further investigation to establish the position and ensure that a valid TRO is in place so that enforcement can take place.

I will continue to follow this up with County and provide a further update once the Traffic Management Team has completed its investigation.

Rownhams Road - Speeding and Highway Concerns

I visited a resident on Rownhams Road who has raised increasing concerns about speeding, particularly around the junction of Rownhams Road and Rownhams Lane. During my visit, a neighbouring resident also raised concerns about localised flooding during periods of heavy rain and the condition and quality of previous road repairs.

I wrote to the Director and Highways team on 3 August to raise these issues and have also asked when traffic speeds were last formally monitored along this stretch of road, either by radar or other traffic-monitoring equipment.

I am awaiting a response and will provide a further update once I have heard back from the team.

Visit from Cllr Steve Forster following questions asked at County meeting

At the full council on the 16th of July I questioned Cllr Steve Forster, Executive Member responsible for Highways, about the level of preventative road maintenance being carried out across the Baddesley Division.

The first question was:

- *The June 2026 surface treatments programme identifies only one scheme for the whole of Baddesley division (Botley Road in North Baddesley) despite residents across the division continuing to report recurring potholes. Can the Member confirm whether further preventative schemes will be brought forward before winter 2026/27 and explain how sites are selected for inclusion in the programme?*

The second question was:

- *How many highways-related claims relating to pothole or road surface damage are currently outstanding and what is the average time currently being taken to determine such claims?*

I highlighted that the June surface-treatment programme identified only one scheme within the whole division, despite continuing reports from residents about recurring potholes and deteriorating road surfaces. I asked whether further preventative schemes would be brought forward before winter 2026/27 and how roads are selected for inclusion.

Cllr Forster confirmed that surface treatment has recently been completed on the A27 Botley Road in North Baddesley, between the Chilworth Golf Club entrance and North Baddesley Infant School. However, **there are currently no further surface-treatment schemes planned for the Baddesley Division during this financial year**.

He explained that schemes are prioritised county-wide rather than allocated by electoral division. Decisions are based on annual road-condition surveys, previous reactive maintenance, road classification, engineers' assessments and the funding available. He also acknowledged that the County Council would like to undertake more preventative work but is constrained by the level of funding received from the Department for Transport.

I followed this with a supplementary question, pointing out that preventative maintenance is generally more cost-effective than repeatedly repairing defects and asking whether he was satisfied that Baddesley was receiving an appropriate share of preventative treatment.

In response, Cllr Forster reiterated that schemes are determined by road condition and engineers' assessments rather than by division, and encouraged me to continue reporting areas of concern so that they can be inspected and prioritised where appropriate.

On a positive note, Cllr Forster has agreed to visit the division with me which will provide an opportunity to show him first-hand some of the roads causing the greatest concern. I would therefore welcome suggestions from parish councillors of particular roads or locations they feel should be included in the visit.

Pavement Parking

I've received several complaints about pavement parking. The Government announced in January that it intends to give local authorities stronger powers to tackle pavement parking. At present, outside London, councils have fairly limited powers unless there are existing parking restrictions, while obstruction is generally a matter for the police.

The Government's plan is to allow councils' civil enforcement officers to take action where pavement parking causes an **“unnecessary obstruction”**, with secondary legislation and statutory guidance due during 2026. Longer term, local transport authorities will also have greater powers to introduce wider pavement-parking restrictions rather than having to deal with individual streets through the existing lengthy process.

The question I am now asking Hampshire County Council is **when it expects to be in a position to use these powers and whether it will have sufficient enforcement resources to make them effective in practice**. The Government's own consultation response acknowledged that councils may need additional enforcement capacity.

So, potentially very welcome news particularly for wheelchair users, people with pushchairs and those with visual impairments but we need to see how and when Hampshire intends to implement it.

Updates

Parking Bays (Rownhams Road)

The review period closed on 30 July, and as no applications were received, the two Disabled Persons Parking Places will be removed.

Contractors will carry out the work. County normally allows 8 to 12 weeks for this type of work to be completed, although this timeframe may be subject to delays.

Castle Lane Junction

No further updates at the moment following email from County to say that ‘Officers are considering possible improvements to the junction layout and signal operation, although any significant changes are likely to be delivered through the longer-term maintenance and upgrade programme rather than immediately.’

Rownhams Lane School Crossing Patrol

County has advised that a controlled crossing at the existing location is not considered feasible because access needs to be maintained to the shops and businesses on the north-west side of Rownhams Lane. A zebra crossing would therefore need to be located some distance from the existing pedestrian desire line, particularly for children and families travelling to and from the local schools.

The Area Strategy and Scheme Development Team is undertaking work this year to assess options for delivering Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan routes in North Baddesley, and officers have confirmed that the concerns raised about this location will be considered as part of that work.

Highways and Potholes

I supported a colleague’s motion at the recent County Council full council meeting calling for a greater emphasis on preventative maintenance, fewer repeat repairs, longer-lasting repairs and better value for money for residents. The motion was passed, although it is still early days in terms of what happens next. I remain concerned that while the motion is a positive step, we may struggle to see the meaningful change that is needed without a wider change in direction and approach to governance.

Joint Committee - Local Government Reorganisation (Mid Hampshire)

Until last week's news on the withdrawal of LGR in Hampshire, I was one of 7 county councillors to have joined the cross-party Mid Hampshire member group helping to oversee preparations for LGR and the transition towards the proposed new Mid Hampshire authority. Meetings have now been paused.

There is still a lot of uncertainty about LGR, but at the moment the expectation is that elections to Test Valley Borough Council will go ahead in May 2027. How long those elected will serve for however remains unclear. I'll continue to provide updates as we receive more information. For context, when I was elected as a county councillor in May, it was for a two-year term running until 2028.

Community Engagement

The July last drop-in session was reasonably well attended. Due to a family bereavement I was unable to run a session in August.

My next County Councillor surgery will take place on Friday 25th September from 10am until 12 noon at Beadles Tea Rooms.

No appointment is necessary and residents are very welcome to drop in for an informal conversation about local issues or concerns.