October Report from Cllr Sally Yalden (North Baddesley) Hampshire County Councillor

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County Councillor Grant Scheme

I've supported five schemes across the division so far and have £2887 remaining. I'm trying to allocate the funding proportionately across the different communities, which means there is currently around £160 available for the community of Ampfield, **£1589 in North Baddesley,** £195 in Braishfield and £933 in Valley Park.

North Baddesley Issues

Fleming Court Parking

No further updates.
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

Q: Any updates from the Men's Shed?

Thank you to Joan and the councillors for the update that the Men's Shed will send a monthly log to see if any extra measures might need to be put in place.

Pavement Parking

No further updates.

Updates

Parking Bays (Rownhams Road)

I'll need to check this for next month as it has now been 12 weeks since the review period.

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.
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

No further updates.
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

The Executive Member for Highways visited the division on 22 October to see some of the issues first-hand and discuss the challenges facing our local roads.

During the visit, he emphasised the importance of residents continuing to report potholes and other highway defects, as these reports help the County Council identify and prioritise repairs.

Following his advice on best practice for reporting defects, I suggested that Hampshire County Council produce a simple guidance leaflet for residents and to encourage better reporting.

A recurring theme throughout the visit was the significant pressure on highways budgets. The Executive Member explained that he had written to the Government requesting additional funding for road repairs and maintenance.

Unfortunately, the current financial constraints mean that difficult decisions and compromises are being made about what work can be undertaken. Nevertheless, I will continue pressing for improvements across the division and ensuring that residents' concerns are heard. We're still waiting to hear what will be in the work programme for the next year.

Cumulative Traffic Impact

Following my question at Full Council about the cumulative impact of housing developments, I met with the Leader of Hampshire County Council and Executive Member for Highways to discuss my concerns about how the cumulative impact of housing developments on our roads is assessed. My research into six different planning applications has highlighted that developments are often assessed individually, without adequately considering the combined impact of other proposed schemes using the same roads and junctions.

In one particularly concerning example, a junction identified as needing £1.7 million of improvements for one development was not assessed for another nearby scheme. I've asked for greater transparency, more consistent assessments and proper consideration of cumulative traffic impacts under the revised National Planning Policy Framework. I understand that officers are reviewing the relevant guidance in November, and I've expressed my willingness to contribute.

Updates from Committees

Children and Young People Select Committee

As a full member, I attended the October meeting of Hampshire County Council's Children and Young People Select Committee where we considered:

Children's safeguarding: Reviewing the annual safeguarding report and the protection of vulnerable children.

Free school meals: All children from households receiving Universal Credit are now entitled to free school meals, regardless of earnings. This should help more families with the cost of living, although families still need to apply. The committee also considered changes to school food standards.

Religious education: An update on the work of Hampshire's Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education.

Universal Services (deputised for colleague)

The key points were:

Recycling changes: Paper and cardboard will be collected separately from other recyclable materials, with councils expected to be ready for the new system from May 2028.

New recycling facility: A £50.5 million facility is being built in Eastleigh to process recyclable materials.

Financial and environmental benefits: The proposed system is expected to save approximately £7 million annually across the Hampshire waste partnership, improve recycling rates and reduce carbon emissions.

Impact on households: The changes may require an additional recycling bin or container, although collection arrangements have yet to be confirmed.

I also raised concerns about **Test Valley Borough Council's packaging recycling funding**, which is falling from £1.48 million to £1.216 million, a reduction of nearly 18%, while most other Hampshire councils are receiving increases. I have asked why this is the case and was informed it was a Government formula.