
October 2026 Report from Cllr James Batho, Hampshire County Councillor

Welcome to my monthly report as the Hampshire County Councillor for the Winchester Downlands Division. My aim is to provide a regular update on county-level matters affecting Hursley and the wider division, together with information about local issues that residents have raised and the work I am undertaking on their behalf. As always, if there are any issues that the Parish Council would like me to investigate or pursue with HCC, please let me know.

Meetings

Attended the public consultation for improving travel at Badger Farm Road and Oliver's Battery Junction, which was well attended. The online consultation ended on 11th October.

Local Government Reorganisation

Government ministers have placed plans to merge our local councils on hold, withdrawing the decision on Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) decisions for Hampshire. The move would have seen all district councils in Hampshire (including Winchester City Council) and the county council replaced by four unitary councils. Under the withdrawn plans, the new unitary authorities would have held elections next year before taking over all council services in 2028. Instead, the government intends to conduct a review of their plans - asking all councils to pause work on implementation. Instead of voting for the new authority in May 2027, we now expect that City Council Elections will proceed as per the status quo.

It is important to note that the government's project to reorganise Local Government in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight has not ended - even if this pause has thrown plans and timings into chaos.

Local issues raised

I have not been asked to raise or follow up on local issues on behalf of residents or the Parish Council.

Community Engagement

One of the most valuable aspects of being a councillor is hearing directly from residents about the issues affecting their daily lives.

Monthly Drop-In Surgery

When: Second Thursday of each month at 2pm

Where: Starbucks, Badger Farm

No appointment is necessary – residents are welcome to drop in for an informal conversation.