

HEADLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 18 May 2026 at the Pavilion, Mill Lane, Headley at 7.00pm

Present:

Cllr Mark Dickens	Cllr Rebecca Hudson
Cllr Anthony Williams	Cllr Neville Merritt
Cllr Ben Daunter	Cllr Paul Tansley
Cllr Tony Williamson	Cllr Sally Laker
Cllr Stephen Thair	Cllr Lesley Coombes
Cllr Ann Sherburn-Hall	

In attendance: Mrs Rachel Audsley (Clerk & Executive Officer), Mrs Hannah Rizotto (Admin Assistant), Cllr Debbie Curnow-Ford

The Chair opened the meeting and advised all those present that Cllr Deborah Chamberlain had resigned earlier this day.

- C001/26 **Election of Chairman & Declaration of Acceptance of Office**
RESOLVED: That Cllr Mark Dickens be Chairman for the coming year.
Proposed by Cllr Williams, seconded by Cllr Tansley and unanimously agreed by those present.
- C002/26 **Election of Vice Chairman**
RESOLVED: That Cllr Tony Williamson be Vice-Chairman for the coming year.
Proposed by Cllr Williams, seconded by Cllr Hudson and unanimously agreed by those present.
- C003/26 **Register of Interest**
The Clerk reminded those present to regularly check and advise of any updates throughout the year.
- C004/26 **Declaration of Interests**
None declared.
- C005/26 **Public Participation**
None.

C006/26 **Appointment of Planning Committee, Finance & Policy Panel , Parish Enhancement Group and Community Resilience Panel**

RESOLVED: That the following Councillors are appointed to:

Planning Committee

Cllr Tony Williamson

Cllr Sally Laker

Cllr Ben Daunter

Cllr Neville Merritt

Cllr Paul Tansley

Cllr Anthony Williams

Finance & Policy Panel

Cllr Anthony Williams

Cllr Mark Dickens

Cllr Tony Williamson

Cllr Sally Laker

Parish Enhancement Group

Cllr Peter Ellens

Cllr Lesley Coombes

Cllr Tony Williamson

Cllr Stephen Thair

Cllr Mark Dickens

Cllr Ben Daunter

Cllr Neville Merritt

Cllr Rebecca Hudson

Non appointed Cllr Peter Ellens

Non appointed Cllr Sarah Borlotti

Community Resilience

Cllr Stephen Thair

C007/26 **Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Planning Committee**

RESOLVED: To elect Cllr Tony Williamson as Chairman and Cllr Sally Laker as Vice Chairman for 2026/27.

C008/26 **Council Minutes**

RESOLVED: To confirm the Minutes of the Full Council meetings held on 20th April 2026.

C009/26 **Committee Minutes**

The Planning Minutes from 11th May 2026 were received.

C010/26 **Confirmation of Appointment of Representatives to Outside Bodies 2026/2027**

RESOLVED: The named Councillors were appointed to represent the Council on the following outside bodies:

All minutes are draft until ratified by the Council at the next meeting

Headley Allotment Association	Ben Daunter, Lesley Coombes, Stephen Thair
Headley Village Hall	Sally Laker Lesley Coombes
EHAP & TC	Rebecca Hudson Stephen Thair
HALC AGM	Anthony Williams
Headley Sports Association	Mark Dickens
River Wey Trust	Anthony Williams Neville Merritt
Policing	Tony Williamson
Headley Twinning Association	Mark Dickens Rebecca Hudson
Transport	Tony Williamson Ben Daunter

C011/26 Hampshire County Council Matters

- a. County Cllr Debbie Curnow-Ford was at the meeting, and her report is attached to these Minutes.

C012/26 East Hants District Council

Cllr Williams report had been previously circulated and is attached to these Minutes.

Internal Council Matters

C013/26 To note the Internal Auditor report and recommendations contained therein.

The Internal Auditor report was noted. Due to insufficient information being provided on time, the final Internal Auditor visit could not be completed. This has resulted in an extra visit having to be scheduled. If information is not supplied by the new date, then the Council will not be able to comply with the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015.

C014/26 To Review and Adopt the Standing Orders

RESOLVED: To agree and adopt the Model Standing Orders.

C015/26 To Review and Adopt the Financial Regulations

RESOLVED: To agree and adopt the Model Financial Regulations.

CO16/26 To review insurance renewal

This has been deferred due to the Asset Register still requiring completion. This is required by 28th May in order for the Internal Auditor visit. Failure to do so will result in the Council being unable to complete the Annual Governance and Accountability Return. This information is also required for the Insurance renewal due 1st June. Any new Insurance renewal will need to be agreed with the Chair and Clerk under the Scheme of Delegation.

CO17/26 To note donation received for the registration on the Gift and Hospitality Register

At the grand opening of the Pavilion and envelope with a gift of £500 cash was received for recognition and thanks to the Council for their work on refurbishing the pavilion for future generations. The gift was specifically for a well-done celebration for the Council. The Council thanks the donator and this will be spent on a small celebration in the coming year.

Pavilion

CO18/26 Approval of the Working Party Notes of 8th May 2026 and recommendations contained therein.

RESOLVED: To approve approve the Working Party notes and recommendations contained there in of 8th May 2026

CO19/26 To consider adopting of the Sports and Social Club committee

RESOLVED: The principle of the SSC was approved. It was agreed that a small sub group meeting would take place to evolve the Terms of Reference and be brought to the next meeting.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT – May 2026

Following on from Central Government's announcement of the forthcoming Hampshire Unitary Authority boundaries that I mentioned last month, and which are being challenged by some of the existing authorities, the "headline news" this month has been the Local Government elections. As a result of all the nationwide publicity on what has become a five horse race, the turnout in the Liphook, Headley and Grayshott division was a remarkable 49%, which is high for a standalone local government election. Debbie Curnow-Ford was re-elected as our County Councillor for the last two years of the County Council, and Cllr Andy Tree was re-elected as the County Councillor for Bordon, Whitehill and Lindford. Waverley and all Surrey Districts and Boroughs are a year ahead of Hampshire, so their electors were voting for West Surrey Unitary Councillors, for the Shadow Unitary Authority.

Two important items of note this month at the District Council. Firstly, Gill Kneller has retired as Chief Executive and her successor is Dawn Adey. Gill has been with the Council for 21 years and I wish her an enjoyable retirement. The other item of interest is the result of the Corporate Peer Challenge. The Report is on the EHDC website and is a most interesting document.

During the month I attended the Local Plan Working Group, and two fortnightly Planning Portfolio briefings on Teams. I also attended a Teams Social Media Training events. I chaired the monthly Planning Meeting, and a Planning Policy Committee meeting. Central Government has announced (with immediate effect) that any planning applications refused by a Local Authority for over 150 dwellings must be referred to PINS – the Planning Inspectorate, for decision. So besides doubling our housing requirements, they are also taking away our ability to refuse larger applications on any grounds, and all at a time when the construction industry does not have the ability to actually build the numbers required nor do developers have the purchasers able to afford the proposed dwellings!

Finally, as I go to press, EHDC has cancelled the publication of the final (Regulation 19) stage of the District Local Plan (excluding the areas covered by the SDNP). This Reg 19 stage was due to have been prepared for Public Consultation in late Summer 2026. The reasons for cancellation are set out in great detail in the EHDC Press Release and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Report. In the meantime, in the absence of a five year housing land supply, the "tilted balance" will continue resulting in most planning applications outside of Settlement Policy Boundaries having to be granted planning permission.

Cllr Anthony Williams

2025/26 Annual Report From your Hampshire County Councillor

for Liphook, Headley and Grayshott Division

Many thanks to members, officers and staff of Bramshott and Liphook, Headley and Grayshott Parish Councils for their warm welcomes to Parish Council meetings and events over the past year. During that time, I continued to be a member of the Health and Adult Social Care (HASC) Select Committee and Universal Services (incl Highways, Countryside Services, Waste Mgt, Regulatory and Trading Stds) Select Committee. I represented HCC on the Deadwater Valley Trust, the Bramshott Education Trust, the River Wey Trust, and the South Downs National Park Authority.

Delayed 2025 County Council elections were held on 7th May and I very grateful to everyone in the Liphook, Headley and Grayshott Division who re-elected me as their County Councillor for the next 2 years, assuming the Labour Government's "minded" proposal for Local Government Re-organisation in Hampshire goes ahead. In which case we will have elections next year for shadow members to a Mid Hants Unitary Authority which will take over in 2028.

Election results for Liphook, Headley & Grayshott

County Council Election - Thursday 7 May 2026

- [Status: Published](#)
- [County Council Election - results by party](#)
- [Previous results for Liphook, Headley & Grayshott](#)
- [Summary of comparison with previous results for Liphook, Headley & Grayshott](#)

Liphook, Headley & Grayshott - results				
Election Candidate	Party	Votes	%	Outcome
Debbie Curnow-Ford	Conservatives	2519	37%	Elected
Chris Bullick	Reform UK	1690	25%	Not elected
Bobby Smith	Liberal Democrat	1681	25%	Not elected
James Edward Hogan	Green Party	632	9%	Not elected
Diana Lovelock	Labour	205	3%	Not elected

Voting Summary	
Details	Number
Seats	1
Total votes	6727
Electorate	13798
Number of ballot papers issued	6740
Number of ballot papers rejected	13
Turnout	49%

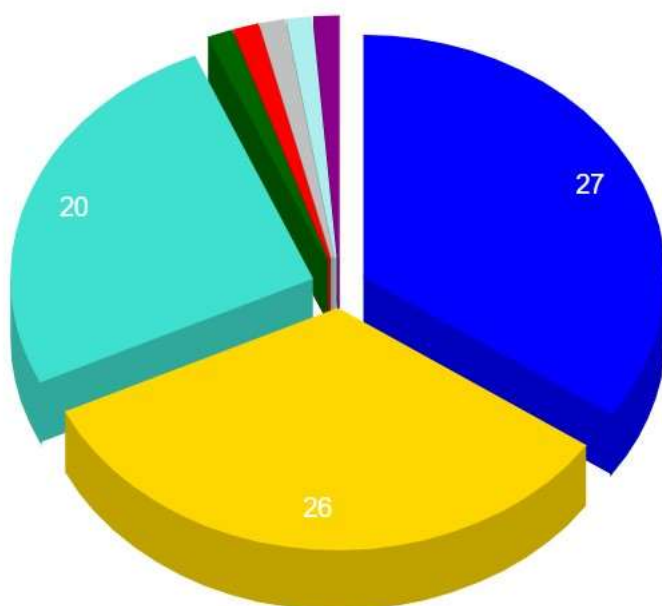
Share of the votes (%)		
Debbie Curnow-Ford	37%	Elected
Chris Bullick	25%	Not elected
Bobby Smith	25%	Not elected
James Edward Hogan	9%	Not elected
Diana Lovelock	3%	Not elected

The Council

HCC has 78 elected members, aka Councillors. Each Councillor represents one of the 76 divisions in Hampshire and is elected by the voters on the electoral roll for that division. Following the 7th May elections the makeup of Hampshire County Council is

Share of newly won seats

- Conservatives
- Liberal Democrat
- Reform UK
- Green Party
- Labour
- Independent
- Whitehill & Bordon Commun...
- Community Campaign (Hart)



2025/26 Annual Report From your Hampshire County Councillor
for Liphook, Headley and Grayshott Division

The Chairman of HCC is the civic and ceremonial head of the Authority and represents the County Council at a variety of events and functions. The position of Chairman is held for a period of one year only. The Chairman of HCC in 2025/26 was Cllr Mark Cooper, and the Vice Chairman was Cllr Pal Hayre.

Hampshire County Council's Cabinet Portfolios for 2025/26 were:

- Adults' Health and Care - Cllr Zoe Huggins (lead member) and Cllr Stephen Reid
- Children's Services - Cllr Roz Chadd (lead member) and Cllr Steve Forster
- Universal Services - Cllr Kirsty North (lead member) and Cllr Lulu Bowerman
- Corporate Services - Cllr Nick Adams-King (leader) and Cllr Jan Warwick (deputy leader)

Cllr Liz Fairhurst was Cabinet Member for People, and Member and Cabinet Development

The Leader of HCC will be decided at the AGM to be held on Thursday 21st May.

Hampshire County Council Organisation

HCC is the third largest shire council in the country, delivering the majority of Hampshire's public services, to almost 1.42 million residents (excluding people living in the Southampton, Portsmouth and Isle of Wight unitary council areas).

We are responsible for around 80% of all spend on council services in Hampshire, amounting to over £3 billion a year.

Hampshire County Council Highlights from 2025/26

Proudly serving 1.4 million residents

Our services



Children's social care – Supporting **12,457 children** with social care.



Adults' health and care – Providing long-term support to **20,159 residents** and supporting carers and adults in care.



Public health – Promoting and protecting the population's health.



Waste disposal – Encouraging recycling, diverting **95.6%** of our waste from landfill.



Education – Teaching **131,000 pupils** in Hampshire's **448 maintained schools**.



Economic development and skills – Supporting our **58,520 businesses** and enabling further growth in Hampshire's **£49bn economy**.



Transport infrastructure – Managing **5,500 miles of roads** and **1,750 bridges/structures**.

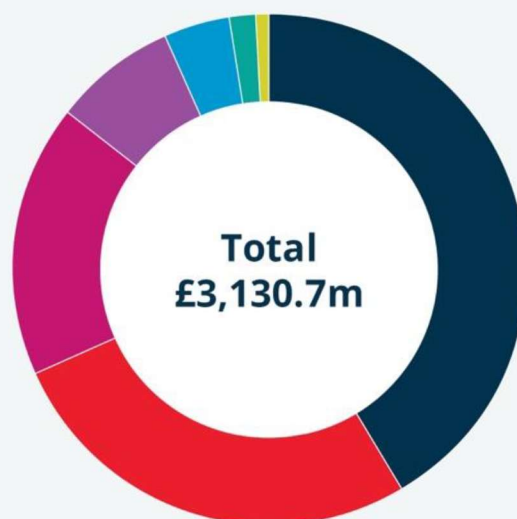


Countryside – Managing **3,658 hectares** of land for people and nature.



Registration – Registering **20,500 births and deaths** and **16,000 ceremonies and preliminaries**.

How our 2025-26 budget was spent



- **£1,302.8m**
Schools and Early Years: Funding is provided by Government and ringfenced
- **£837.6m**
Looking after vulnerable adults and public health
- **£540.7m**
Looking after vulnerable children and families
- **£244.4m**
Services for all (including £43.2m for highways and £74.4m for waste)
- **£132.1m**
Running the County Council and other costs
- **£49.8m**
Capital financing
- **£23.3m**
Hampshire's economy and future

2025/26 Annual Report From your Hampshire County Councillor

for Liphook, Headley and Grayshott Division

HCC 2026/27 Budget

Our financial challenge

- In the last year, the number of Younger Adults needing a care package of more than £3,000 per week has more than doubled. That is 78 extra people each costing at least £156,000 per year.... A total of £12.2m.

- Since 2011 the percentage of the population over 85 years old has increased by 31% to 3.52%.... by 2030 this is expected to be at least 4.40%. These are typically the residents that most need our help.

- The number of children's social care referrals has more than tripled since 2011, requiring significant investment in new social workers, we added £7m to next year's budget to deal with this.

- The number of Education Health and Care Plans issued in 2015 was 3,884, for the current year it is 21,000.... This has increased the costs of school transport for SEN children from £8m to £75m per annum.

- In 2019 we had one child in our care whose package cost was greater than £0.5m, in the current year we have 37. The cost to Hampshire of just these 37 children is some £26m per annum.

From 1 April 2026, Hampshire County Council's portion of council tax increased by a total of 4.99%, of which 2% will go specifically towards adults' social care and supporting the county's higher numbers of older people and adults with complex needs and disabilities - in line with Government policy.

Finding sufficient resources to meet all of these pressures is challenging due to the Council receiving much less Government grant per resident than councils in many other parts of the country. Excluding grants ringfenced for specific services such as schools, last year in 2025/26 Hampshire County Council was allocated just £91 of general Government funding per person compared to the English average for the same set of services of £205 per person. This underfunding is being worsened by a new funding formula the Government is phasing in over the next three years.

Our funding allocated through it will be £42.9 million lower in 2028/29 than it was in 2025/26, with £10.9 million of this reduction being made in 2026/27. We continue to call on the Government to provide a fairer deal for county areas.

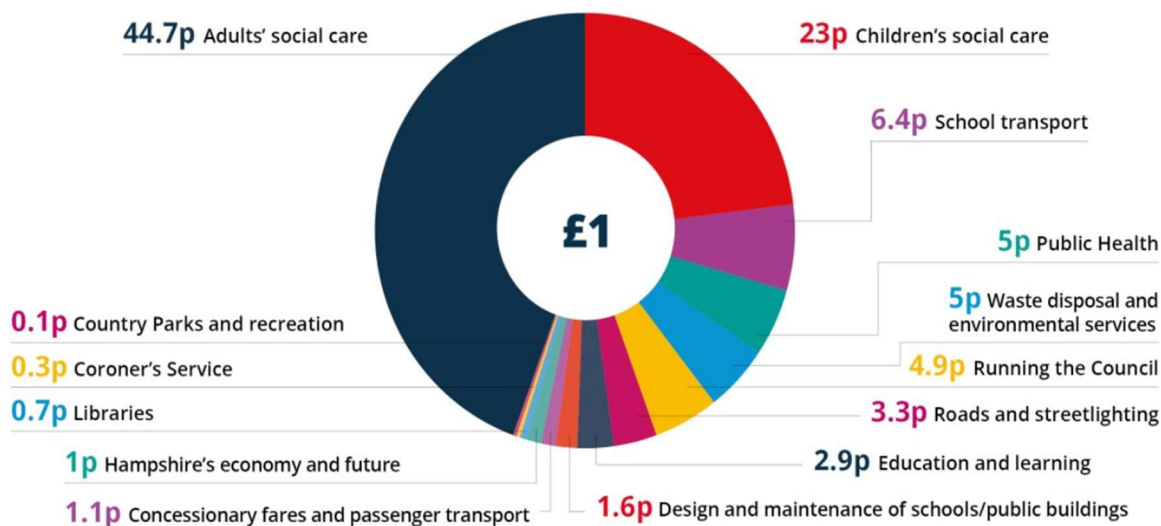
In 2026/27, our priorities will include:

- Protecting and caring for Hampshire's children
- Special educational needs
- Providing adult social care
- Supporting safe and reliable travel
- Delivering a strong future for Hampshire

2025/26 Annual Report From your Hampshire County Councillor
for Liphook, Headley and Grayshott Division

Hampshire County Council's budget

This is how each £1 of the budget will be spent on essential services in 2026/27.



Alongside the revenue budget, councillors have also approved the County Council's £971 million capital programme for 2026/27 to 2028/29, funded largely through developer contributions and Government grants. As well as supporting economic growth, jobs and skills, the programme will ensure the Council has the buildings, roads and facilities needed to deliver services now, and in the future, while helping to drive efficiencies in day-to-day budgets, including supporting children with special educational needs closer to home.

The agreed programme includes:

- £178m for structural maintenance of roads and bridges
- £216m for Integrated Transport Plan schemes
- £187m for new and extended school buildings
- £49m to support High Needs provision
- £71m for children's social care, including a new secure children's home
- £124m for condition-based improvements to school buildings
- £47m for waste and recycling infrastructure to improve recycling services

2025/26 Annual Report From your Hampshire County Councillor
for Liphook, Headley and Grayshott Division

Devolution

The Conservative led Council was keen to pursue the Government's offer of devolved powers, with the funding to deliver, from Westminster.

The benefits of devolution include

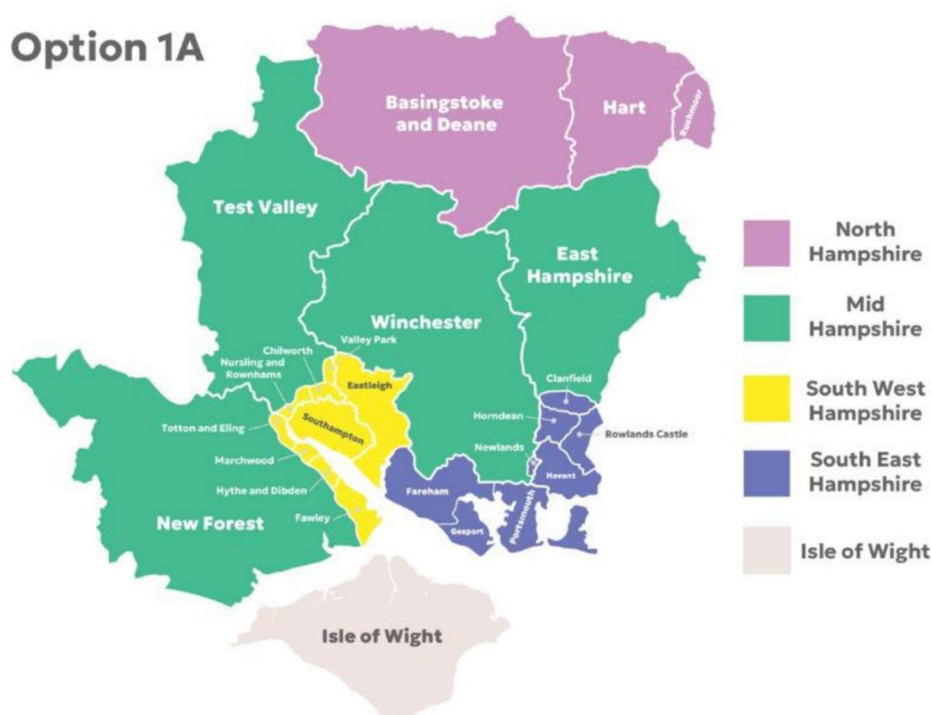
- A seat at the national table
- New powers and flexibilities – local taxation, Post 16 skills
- New funding and investment – regional regeneration and growth priorities
- Simplification and consolidation of settlements – eg local transport funding
- Wider grants funding to support regeneration and housing delivery
- Local energy planning to support development of regional network energy infrastructure
- Significant opportunity for wider public service reform and join up

Devolution includes the establishment of a Mayoral Combined Strategic Authority. Elections for Mayor of Hampshire and The Solent were scheduled for 7th May, to coincide with the County Council elections. This election was postponed by the Government to May 2028.

Local Government Reorganisation Proposals

To be clear, the Conservative led County Council voted for Devolution. We did NOT want LGR.

The Government has now made its decision on Local Government reorganisation for Hampshire.



Our job as a County Council is to work together to deliver whatever changes are required safely, effectively, and with as little risk as possible for the people we serve. Residents rely on us for stability and clear leadership.

2025/26 Annual Report From your Hampshire County Councillor

for Liphook, Headley and Grayshott Division

This is a top-down political decision designed to maximise the benefit for the Labour Party, and many communities across Hampshire are understandably worried. I will continue listening to them and making sure their voices are heard.

One part of the proposal — Option 1a, Liphook, Headley and Grayshott would be part of a Mid Hants Unitary Authority. Rowlands Castle, Clanfield, Horndean and Newlands are moved from East Hampshire and Winchester into a Portsmouth centred unitary council. The Mid Hants Unitary Authority would go from SDNPA in the east to NFNPA in the west and include Winchester City Council, Test Valley and parishes from the New Forest.

These are some of the reasons why Mid Hants doesn't work for the residents of Liphook, Headley and Grayshott

- Higher costs of maintaining miles of rural roads
- Higher costs of maintaining rural schools
- Rural public transport
- Cost of transporting children from rural areas to school
- Cost of supporting a disproportionate aging population
- Loss of business rates
- Loss of housing opportunities
- Loss of local identity
- Higher council tax
- Weaker representation for rural and semi-rural communities
- A rushed process driven by administrative convenience, not community need

This proposal is not in the interests of our residents or our county. The risks are huge, the benefits unproven, and the public opposition overwhelming.

So while HCC will work constructively to deliver the Government's overall decision, as the County Councillor for Liphook, Headley and Grayshott, I will oppose the boundary changes proposed in Option 1a every step of the way. Hampshire's communities deserve stability, continuity, and a real say in their future. Option 1a was NOT a preferred outcome of the Public Consultation.

Liphook, Headley and Grayshott Division 25/26 Highlights

During 25/26 my case load was again dominated by complaints about potholes. Local residents and I started Pothole Patrol so I could escalate to Highways those requiring urgent attention. Some residents are sceptical about the approach to fill with a temporary tarmac infill. However Highways priority is safety, especially on main routes through our villages.

Bramshott and Liphook

- Finally the potholes on Woolmer Lane were patched after a persistent campaign with support from local residents.
- Thames Water took responsibility to remove trees overhanging their sewer pipe suspended over the River Wey in Liphook after lobbying from me and RWT.
- Traffic calming plans for Headley Road, Liphook adjacent to The Avenue have been signed off and will be implemented this summer during school holidays.
- I'm working with BLPC and Highways Strategic Planning to implement measures to reduce speeding and have asked PCC Donna Jones for police support.

2025/26 Annual Report From your Hampshire County Councillor
for Liphook, Headley and Grayshott Division

- I've asked Highways to prioritise resolving the Church Road flood drainage issue this year.

Grayshott

- Resurfacing work on the Headley Road from the border with Headley Down, postponed from 2025 has now taken place. I've escalated residents concerns about the quality of the work to the Highways Planned Maintenance team.

Headley

- After many reports of potholes on Mill Lane, the road was resurfaced. Apologies for lack of access to Luff's.
- Highways Planned Maintenance team have continued to work with Fullers Vale Wildlife Pond Association team to ensure the health of the pond and maintain adjacent roads.
- I'm looking forward to working with Headley Parish Council on identified traffic calming measures across the parish.

Councillor Devolved Grants made in the financial year 25/26

Parish	Applicant	Project	Grant £
Bramshott & Liphook	Conford Village Hall Trust	Accessibility and inclusivity for disabled members of the community	667
Headley	Headley Parish Council	A Christmas Carol	1000
Grayshott	Grayshott Community Orchard	Picnic bench with wheelchair facility and anchors	952
Grayshott	Grayshott Tennis Club	Infrastructure Improvements to the club	1000
Grayshott	Grayshott & District Housing Association	Landscaping of new social housing	1000
Headley	Friends Of The Holme.	Holme School Coffee Morning Outreach	381
			5000

I expect my annual devolved Councillor Grant pot for 2026/27 will be open for applications in June. Please contact me if you have a project or event that will benefit residents. I've already received enquiries that I was unable to meet in the previous grant year.

Kind regards – Debbie

17th May 2026

Cllr. Debbie Curnow-Ford

Still the Hampshire County Councillor for the Liphook, Headley, and Grayshott Division

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