

## **HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL – JULY 2008**

### **Report by County Councillor Nigel Clarke**

#### **Introduction:**

I have attended the following commitments since my last report:

- A cabinet briefing where the two themes were:
- A Rural Delivery Strategy for HCC – supporting Hampshire’s rural communities which is a problem as 20% of the population live in >75% of the County that is not urban;
- Review of current scrutiny arrangements which are perceived to be not as effective as they could be or engage the attention of most Councillors – very much work in progress with a hankering after the old Committee system.
- A Group meeting at which the major concern was the management of the approval of the Minerals Plan due to the number of public deputations.
- Attended a briefing to scope out a Review of Well Being in the Home concentrating on the enablers that can keep a person safe, secure & warm in their homes – a large & growing area of concern;
- Attended Full Council that was the longest I have attended as the presentations (14 No), amendments & recorded votes on the Minerals Plan took until late afternoon & then we reviewed the County Sustainable Community Strategy & so it went on.
- Chaired a HAT meeting where we reviewed our work plan, discussed how we should take a more positive role in the Local Strategic Partnership & ensure that outcomes were SMART, not another review or consultation, which seems to have been the previous norm. Agreed that a major theme for the future would be better dialogue with the National Park Authority & in particular their consultation on Recreational Management, which has significant spill over effects on areas outside the Park.
- Attended an interesting meeting in Fareham of Project INTEGRA where it is apparent that there is not a common vision of the way forward amongst all partners. The focus was the appointment of a senior officer – what is his role, title & salary level when all the resources & responsibilities are in the gift of partners – County, 2 Cities & 11 Districts. Some see the way forward as an autonomous Strategic Waste Authority; others have a less grand view, & one that retains more local control & accountability.
- Attended another Community Safety Strategy Group which as usual I think is focussed, has funds & resources & knows what it is doing. The intelligence base of most of its decisions is enlightening. One objective that has been agreed is a ‘Meet the People’ event on Saturday, 4<sup>th</sup> October

at Greyfriars attended by all the partners to present, discuss & listen to what is said about what the Partnership is doing generally & specifically in Ringwood.

- Attended another scoping review to clarify what we were going to do, when & with whom on Well Being in the Home. The partner District with a good mix of urban & rural communities is to be Eastleigh & the review should start in September.
- Attended the Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee where the main topic was a capacity study in SE Hampshire for 'community hospitals'. Everyone wants one in their location but usage, clinical critical mass & costs say otherwise so there are heated debates often centred on buildings & not the provision of services. Two matters of more local interest: Fordingbridge Hospital is now open having had a significant physical upgrade & more importantly improvements in clinical support & management – a previous weakness; a proposal by the PCT to increase the level of Fluoride in the water supply to Southampton to help combat poor levels of dental health, however, the water network also supplies parts of the Waterside, Romsey & Test Valley. There will be a review of case – evidence based, for fluoridisation carried out by a sub-committee of the HOSC; I have not volunteered.
- Attended the Safe & Healthy People Select Committee (Adult Services biased) which had a varied agenda covering;
  - Voluntary Sector Services Review;
  - Hampshire Commission on Personalisation – what does it mean to hold a budget for your own health & well being needs?
  - Safety of Social Workers – lone workers;
  - Joint Health & Social Care Needs Assessment – a view with a strong public health in its widest sense;
  - Alcohol Scrutiny Review – a major & underfunded health issue that covers the whole age spectrum;
  - Demand for Well Being at Home.

**Other activities:**

- Attended a Forest Forge AGM & Quarterly meeting where we said good bye to Sean Akita, Artistic Director, who is joining the Arts Institute as a Senior Lecturer. We now have to find a new Managing Director. We also agreed as a way of ensuring continuity an interim Strategic Plan for 2009/10 which the new Director will be able to develop into a five plan
- Chaired the Ringwood Informal Traffic Liaison meeting where we agreed a programme of Traffic Regulation Orders mainly focussed on the Bickerly, High Street & other smaller areas.

*Nigel Clarke*