

## **HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL – FEBRUARY & MARCH 2008**

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

#### **Introduction:**

This is a composite report covering the parts of February & March when I was not travelling on business to Eastern Australia & North Island, New Zealand.

I have attended the following commitments since my last report:

- Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee which considered a wide range of health topics of which one – the development of LINKs is still very unclear, which is disappointing as it is meant to be a link between the user & the provider;
- A briefing with Mott Macdonald on their peer review of the technical report done for the Lyndhurst Bypass Review;
- A HAT meeting where the principal & contentious item was the case for or not a pedestrianised crossing at Colbury & preparation for the Transport HAT in March;
- A New Forest HAT Chairman's briefing on the 2008/9 highways programme for maintenance & minor works;
- The New Forest Local Strategic Partnership meeting to review the final draft, agree flagship projects & agree a communications strategy – most people, quite reasonably, do not know what the LSP is meant to do, particularly at the individual level;
- A Community Safety & Strategy Group which attempts to tie together the various actions of the various LSPs – a bit like knitting fog, though it would seem that more funds will come within the ambit of the Local Area Agreement & its monitoring framework the LSP;
- A Cabinet briefing where the main themes were
  - Updates to Hantsweb;
  - MATISSE – report on home working & smart teleworking which aims to cover most 'knowledge' workers with the objective of reducing HCC& partners working traffic by 17.5% by 2016 – ambitious, with probably unforeseen consequences once the early adopters are on board;
  - The challenge of effective two tier working involving the structure of a Hampshire Senate (Democratic leadership) & the delivery of improved outcomes via more joint working. The concept of 'place shaping' as an important element of a

Hampshire focussed service delivery – the idea sounds attractive but uncertain what it will mean in practice when the real challenges are just doing what we do now as well as is possible.

- Chaired the New Forest Transport HAT- a long agenda that got delayed by the consideration of the case for a Colbury Pedestrian Controlled Crossing, which detracted from the consideration of progress in 2007/8 & programmes for 2008/9. Generally, there will be little scope for minor new works as funds have been cut for next year & continuing programmes from 2007/8 take the lion's share;
- Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee – another varied agenda covering from an update on Care at the End of Life to the case for Southampton University Trust Hospital becoming a Foundation Hospital, performance of the Ambulance Service (must improve) & an update on Fordingbridge Community Hospital amongst many items;
- Chaired the Access to New Forest Healthcare Working Group – a roundup of progress to-date concentrating on the actions of the PCT & their Non Urgent Passenger Transport service (eligibility rules & provision vary from hospital to hospital) & capacity building of the Community & Voluntary Transport sector – problems of recruiting & retaining volunteers.

### **Other activities:**

I have also attended:

- Community First, New Forest management meeting to mainly approve the programmes & budgets for 2008/9 & ratify the appointment of a new Finance & administration Officer;
- New Forest Association of Local Councils which, as usual, was poorly attended. That said those who were there did seem to be interested in the RTC Agenda items (we had the bulk) & we may have stirred some interest in NFALC being more proactive?

*Nigel Clarke*