

## **Leader's Report**

### **Death of Honorary Alderman and Former County Councillor**

It is with great sadness that I report the death of Honorary Alderman George Porter. He passed away quietly at the Rothsay Grange Care Home, Andover on the 18 June 2012. Honorary Alderman Porter had his 91st birthday the day before he died.

He moved to Andover in 1946 and, for most of his working life, was one of the directors of the Savoy Cinema. Latterly he lived in Goodworth Clatford and was involved in the field of education, Andover sports clubs and societies in general. George represented the people of Andover South from 1970-1981. He served on many Committees during this time including Education, Public Protection, Social Services and Hampshire County Health Joint Consultative Committee.

He was Vice-Chairman of the Education Committee and Chairman of the Schools Appeal Panel for most of his 11 years of service.

### **Queens Birthday Honours**

Anne Marley who retired from Hampshire County Council last December after ten years as the Head of Children's, Youth and School Library Services in Hampshire, has been awarded an MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours for services to Local Government.

We are extremely proud that Anne has been recognised for her commitment and dedication to encouraging children to read. She is highly regarded nationally and internationally by colleagues and authors alike.

### **Architects Win RIBA Awards For New Andover And Totton Schools**

Hampshire County Council has received Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) Regional Awards for 2 new schools which were designed and built in the county in the last year.

The RIBA Awards are given for buildings that have high architectural quality and make a substantial contribution to the local environment. The awards are given annually.

The Endeavour Primary School in Andover was the winner of the RIBA Downland Award. A RIBA Downland Award was also presented to Forest Park School in Totton. This new school is for children with complex learning difficulties.

### **HCC Property Services**

HCC Property Services have been appointed by Stowe House Preservation Trust after being invited to tender for a project to design and coordinate the conversion of an existing cellar and adjacent areas within Stowe House into an Interpretation Centre with fully accessible entrance. The alterations and access improvements to this magnificent Grade I Listed Building are part of a wider Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) funded project. Stowe House is on the list of potential World Heritage Sites.

Our appointment is a testament to our national reputation for design and historic building conservation.

### **County Council's Legal team scoops MJ award for work on BRT**

Complex legal work surrounding the construction of the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) route in Gosport has been recognised nationally, as the Council's legal team scooped the MJ (Municipal Journal) Award for best legal team.

The award recognises how the County Council dealt with a range of complex legal matters around the planning and development of the scheme, undertaking a number of potentially conflicting roles throughout.

### **Community award nomination for innovative youth project**

Hampshire County Council and Hampshire Youth Offending Team has been shortlisted for a national community award.

The Wessex Dance Academy aims to transform the lives of young people at risk of social exclusion and offending and is in the running for one of the Howard League for Penal Reform's prestigious Community Programme Awards 2012. The winners of the awards will be announced at the League's annual conference in London today.

### **New Diamond Jubilee Woodlands**

Hampshire County Council has confirmed that it plans to create new public woodlands to improve recreational opportunities for people across Hampshire. The three new woodland areas near Andover, Basingstoke and Hedge End total approximately 100 acres and have been designated jointly as one of the Diamond Woods that the Woodland Trust has been promoting across the United Kingdom to mark The Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

Each of the new woodland areas will be planted with a mix of broadleaf trees including Oak, Ash, Cherry and Hazel. When complete the new woodland will offer local communities a variety of recreational activities including walking and

cycling. A number of paths will pass through the woodland opening up views into glades, across open countryside and linking to surrounding public rights of way.

Oak trees have been planted in over 340 schools across Hampshire.

The County Council has supplied oak trees to over 100 town and parish councils in Hampshire which have been planted in public spaces to mark the Diamond Jubilee.

The collection of specimen oaks at the Sir Harold Hillier Gardens near Romsey, which is already one of the largest in the UK, will be extended by the planting of 10 additional varieties in the autumn.

### **Olympic inspired artwork displayed in Great Hall**

Hampshire Schools have been given the rare honour of having their Olympic inspired artwork displayed in the historic Great Hall in Winchester.

The 'Rings' exhibition takes its inspiration from the Olympic rings. The vibrant textiles, artworks and concertina sketchbooks of artwork were created by schools all across Hampshire and will be on display until the end of July.

The centrepiece is a large textile of rings, using the five colours of the Olympic rings (blue, yellow, black, green and red). Other artwork incorporates creative interpretations of the core Olympic values in their rings: Friendship, inspiration, excellence, respect, courage, equality and determination.

The schools were inspired by workshops with leading artist Françoise Dupré who provided ideas and techniques such as French knitting, wrapping, crochet and many other techniques

There are over 100 pieces of artwork in this exhibition and all capture the exciting atmosphere that the Olympics are creating. Although over 300 schools have taken part in this project to create a lasting legacy of Hampshire's involvement with the Olympics, I would like to say a special thank you to the Quilley School of Engineering in Eastleigh, Toynbee School in Eastleigh, Hale Primary School in Fordingbridge, Merton Junior School and Lakeside School in Chandlers Ford for their leading roles.

### **Webcam**

Members might be interested to know the latest viewing figures for the webcam are:

	<u>Live</u>	<u>Archive</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>Full Council 17 May</u>	59	49	<u>108</u>
<u>Cabinet 30 April</u>	49	227	<u>276</u>

### **Members Environment Fund**

I intend introducing a Members Environment Fund for all County Councillors and I will present a paper at our September meeting for approval.

This fund will be added to Members Community Fund, and will help every Member to improve the environment of their Division. We all know that it is Environmental and Transport problems that fill our postbags or flood our e-mail inboxes. We all know what improvements to our roads, pavements, footpaths, traffic calming and facilities such as bus shelters, plus cutting grass and improving hedge sight lining, we would like to introduce if we had a budget to do so.

With a half-year effect from 1 October Members will be able to do so, but we must not flood Economy, Transport and Environment with our requests, therefore for the half-year October 2012/end of February 2013 Members may add £5,000 to their existing £8,000 to be spent on community projects.

From May 2013 Members will receive a total of £18,000, but we will need to plan how and where the money is spent and so 2013/2014 is likely to be spent project planning and scheduling environmental improvement for the years 2014 to 2016.

The £780,000 I am earmarking is from my Corporate Policy Reserve that is funded by savings from our SAP IT system and other efficiency savings. This amount will not impact upon the council tax.

This exciting initiative epitomises the spirit and intentions of the localism agenda.

Members, you will be able not only to help your Community Groups, but also to improve the environment in which they live. You will help to retain or increase jobs too.

Members will remember how in the midst of this year's £45 million savings I was able to sugar the pill, and that I gave £1 million to avoid Adult Care users with two carers having to pay for both. You will remember £1 million for speech and language therapy for our very young and disabled children. You will know that we earmarked £500,000 to offer apprenticeships for school leavers, and a loan to help Culture and Communities re-configure museums.

In all of this I gave not a penny to Economy, Transport and Environment. This initiative gives some help to ETE, but also gives you, Members, the ability to help your communities in a most tangible way.

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