

Clr Report - Our Island Matters

With me half-way through my time as an elected councillor, I have had time to reflect on how less money will be spent on council services than foreign aid, and the effect of government spending cuts on the residents of Hayling Island.

In December, I was given a Hampshire County Council document that was the outcome of the consultation on closing Amenity Tips, in which our Hayling Island Tip was included in all four 2017/18 Tip closure options. The best way we can halt the Hayling Island Tip closure is to convince our county councillor that the Tip is important enough for him to spend enough time convincing his party colleagues that our Tip should not be closed. I must commend Alli, a Hayling resident for her campaign and Facebook publicity to "Save The Tip".

This country is experiencing explosive population growth resulting in an insatiable demand for housing with thousands more new houses scheduled for Havant and Hayling Island. The photo above is the view from the AONB by My Lords Lane. Whereas St Mary's Church was visible, the view has been destroyed by the densest housing development on Hayling Island. I ask myself, why was this development ever approved and do we really want Hayling's green fields to go this way? I will continue to oppose similar green-field developments.

Recently I have been an observer on 10 hour shifts with both the Police Response and Patrol teams (who respond to 999 calls) and the Road Policing Unit (who handle road traffic incidents and speeding). I was driven at 120mph+ attending crashes, an over-turned car and dangerous situations for broken down motorists. Can I publicly express my thanks to the Police who serve us on Hayling for the professional and efficient manner the officers operate. I appreciated the opportunity to see first-hand how the Police keep us safe despite their severe budget cuts.

This brings me onto the Havant Road speed limit which was implemented against public opinion in the belief by certain individuals that driving above 30mph on the road is dangerous. I opposed this speed limit reduction and will oppose future plans for a 20mph limit over the whole Island as I did the 20mph limit that residents rejected for West Town.

In the last Council Meeting, I raised a motion to debate whether Havant's interests are best served by the UK being in the European Union. This issue particularly concerns me as some Havant wards have some of the highest levels of income, health and housing deprivation indices in the country. Exiting the EU would result in higher wages; provide more funds for our NHS and cut housing demand while reducing the cost of food and energy. Meanwhile the UK and Havant would see tremendous employment opportunities from increased world-wide trading. I was dismayed that that other councillors struck out my motion – is this democracy?

Meanwhile, I'll continue to serve you as your councillor to the best of my abilities; thank you for reading this report.

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