

Councillor's Report

I want to preserve Hayling's beauty

WRITTEN BY

**COUNCILLOR
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How time flies as I come up to 35 years of living on our lovely Island.

It is the beauty of the Island and the people that has kept us here and I am very keen to keep it this way.

You may have read that councillors can issue £100 or £200 community grants totalling £1,000.

The process will be explained to us next week and I will then look forward to receiving applications in due course.

For the last two months I have helped blue badge holders across the borough gain refunds for parking charges at the Havant Health Centre; if you are affected, please contact me.

However, the hot topics are the local plan and charges and reduced services at our amenity tip.

In October the community centre was packed with people for the HIRA AGM and to hear from HBC on the implications of the Local Plan. The government is committed to building at least 250,000 new homes per year and have determined the number of houses to be built in each authority based on immigration levels and demographics.

Consequently, Havant will build an extra 5,000 homes above the existing plan including 1,000 on Hayling.

Provided a development is sustainable, a planning application will likely be approved, if not by HBC, then by government inspectors.

Therefore, if we Islanders want to halt development we can either change the government or more practically prove that a planning application is not sustainable by proving that our infrastructure is inadequate.

I have never accepted that developer 'independent surveys' are truly independent.

My preference being for HBC to commission surveys and bill the cost onto the developers but I cannot get this changed.

I'm devastated about what has happened to our amenity tip.

Following the Tories 4 per cent rise in HCC Council Tax and with their extra housing proposed on Hayling, surely there can be no justification whatsoever for them to cut the tip opening hours.

A consequence is the six employees there have had their income significantly cut - how their cut in service was publicised by the Tories as a success is beyond the pale.

Five months have elapsed since the EU Referendum.

I am fiercely optimistic about Brexit which will bring a reduction in food prices, greater employment opportunities and export growth and a reduced demand for house building. I am convinced Brexit will be good for Islanders.

Let me finish by saying if you have anything I can help you with, please ask.