

## **District Councillor Report to HPC meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> July 2023**

Cllr D Evans, EHDC Horndean Kings and Blendworth ward

### **Green Trail and Heritage Network**

I see from the [Agenda](#) (page 358) of the EHDC O&S Committee for 6<sup>th</sup> July that the HPC Application has been refused. It seems that CIL cannot fund feasibility work.

I find this extremely disappointing and I hope that HPC, having put so much effort into what looks like a fabulous project, are successful in finding alternative funding sources. If I can assist in any way, please call me. A 13km trail linking the five Local Nature Reserves in Horndean and much more besides is a truly great Project

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EHDC is a largely rural District, so it is important that Councillors keep contact with and hear about how the farming community is fairing. Every couple of years the NFU organises a visit to a local farm for this purpose.

So, on **14 June** I took part in the NFU Farm Walk at Whitewool Farm, East Meon, courtesy of the Butler family. The evening included a talk about Whitewool Farm's activities and a tractor and trailer ride to show everything the farm provides to its local community and how it does it so sustainably. Like many farms, they have diversified into several activities such as fly fishing training and fishing ponds.

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### **16<sup>th</sup> June**

I expect many have seen this headline:

### **Barbecue [sic] in a bin causes recycling lorry fire**

- Fire brigade called to extinguish fire
- Collections heavily disrupted
- Ten-tonne load cannot now be recycled

A disposable barbecue in a recycling bin caused a fire in one of our bin lorries today (Friday 16 June), causing severe delays to our collection rounds.

A crew working in Clanfield spotted smoke billowing from the back of the collection vehicle. They quickly called the Fire Service who controlled the fire at the scene and then followed the truck back to our Petersfield depot.

There the entire 10-tonne collection, almost a full load, was tipped and then doused with water to ensure the fire was properly extinguished.

Once wet it cannot be recycled, it was loaded back into the truck by a telehandler and was sadly sent for incineration.

The incident meant the round was suspended, resulting in hundreds of bins missed today. These collections will be caught up on Saturday.

Cllr Richard Millard, EHDC Leader, said: "It's really important that people are very careful when they throw away disposable barbecues. The coals can stay hot and smouldering for several days and when mixed with the dry paper and cardboard in our recycling lorry it can easily reignite.

"Thankfully this incident wasn't as serious as it could have been and no-one was hurt, but it has meant a heavy delay in today's collections thanks to one person's stupidity."

Not only is this a reminder about BBQ coals and safety but it also highlights the all-too-regular occurrence of non-recyclable material being placed in black bins which can result in a whole load that cannot then be recycled. So please, everyone, put your waste in the right bin!

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**3<sup>rd</sup> July**

## **EHDC honoured with Armed Forces award**

### MoD award recognises our support as an employer to former service personnel

Our commitment to supporting former and current armed forces personnel as an employer has been recognised with a Silver Award from the Ministry of Defence.

The council, which has long-standing bonds with the local Armed Forces, has fostered a working environment which is welcoming and attractive to servicemen and women.

Policies have been put in place to support reservists and members of the cadet forces, allowing them to fulfil their commitments while working at the council.

Last year we re-signed our Armed Forces Covenant and launched our Armed Forces Stakeholder Group. We also have a guaranteed interview scheme in place for former servicemen applying for roles at EHDC.

Cllr Phil Shaw, our Armed Force Champion and former Royal Navy veteran, said: "It is fantastic news that EHDC has been awarded the Defence Employment Recognition Scheme Silver Status.

"This area has a long-standing connection to the Armed Forces, particularly with the former army base in Whitehill & Bordon and our proximity to Portsmouth and RAF Odiham.

"We believe it is important to support members of the Armed Forces as an employer and we have made great efforts to do that. This Silver Award is in recognition of that work."

Mark Jewell, a Health and Safety Inspector at EHDC and a former serviceman, said: "Having served 22 years in the Armed Forces, with all that brings, stepping away from this exclusive family is a daunting prospect.

"However, when you start a new career and find your employer has a number of other veterans within the workplace supported by an armed forces network, this can go a long way to assist an individual with the transition to civvy street and improve collaboration and support, both inside and outside the place of work."

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