

Hampshire County Council Report 21st September 2015

Highway Report July 2015

The surface dressing team has treated over 120 miles of road across 315 sites, since the beginning of April, and implemented over 200 closures and delivered countless letters to local residents and businesses. Whilst we can't guarantee this early finish every year, we will aim to reproduce the same timescales next year by starting our programme as early as possible.

New Forest Stats 2015

- 13 drainage Jobs completed
- 14 Vehicle accesses completed
- 344 square metres of footway completed
- 599 Jobs completed (excluding emergency, trees, vegetation maintenance, structures, or planned works)
- 52 Two hour emergencies attended
- 170 Potholes repaired
- 1 Planned work completed in full
- 5,399 Gullies and catchpits cleared

Announcement by Government on Oil and Gas Licencing

The Government has just issued proposals for number of new oil and gas licences in Hampshire. Given the community and media interest in oil and gas development in Hampshire in over the last few years, officers wanted to make you aware of this.

The licencing system in the UK has been active for over 40 years. Licences are issued by the Oil and Gas Authority (OGA) which is part of the Department of Energy and Climate Change. Hampshire County Council does not issue licences for oil and gas development. Oil and gas licences give a company or group of companies exclusive rights to explore for and develop the oil or gas resource in a particular geographic location. Licences allow a company to pursue a range of activities for conventional or unconventional oil or gas.

Hampshire already has a number of licence areas which were issued through previous rounds of licencing.

On 18 August 2015, the OGA announced that 27 onshore blocks from the 14th Onshore Oil and Gas Licensing Round will be formally offered to companies. This does not include any new licence areas in Hampshire. However, the OGA also

announced a public consultation on a second tranche of licence areas which require further assessment and this consultation includes 2 proposed new licence areas in Hampshire.

What this means for Hampshire? Hampshire already has a number of oil and gas licences which are located across Hampshire, in the administrative areas covered by the Hampshire Authorities (Hampshire County Council (HCC), Portsmouth City Council (PCC) and the New Forest National Park Authority (NFNPA)).

The consultation on a second tranche of licence areas includes proposals for further licence areas in Hampshire. This is subject to public consultation. This includes proposals for 2 further licence areas in Hampshire located to the north of the existing Stockbridge oilfield up to Andover. This consultation runs until 29 September 2015. The second tranche of licenses will then be finalised, taking into account the outcomes of the consultation and issued later in 2015.

It is important to note that a licence does not give consent for drilling or any development. Potential operators will still need to obtain planning permission from HCC, as Minerals and Waste Planning Authority as well as other associated consents before any development can take place.

In light of the interest in this subject, officers have prepared an update to the Oil and Gas FAQ which is available to view at the following location under 'hot topics': www3.hants.gov.uk/mineralsandwaste.htm. The update includes more information on the new licence areas.

Changes to Netley View Post office

The following improvements to the post office at Netley View are to be put in place as follows:

- Post office services will be offered from an open style service point integrated into the service counter
- The branch will be open for longer :Mon to Sat 06.00- 22.00, Sun 07.00 – 22.00
- Customers will still be able to get most Post Office services and products. However for a small number of services you might need to go to an alternative post office or go on line of telephone the Post office customer services department
- To get the branch ready it will need to close for up to 7 days over the October/November period