

**Incoming Chairman's Announcements
County Council AGM – Friday 29 May 2020**

Members, Honorary Aldermen, Ladies and Gentleman, Officers of the Council and colleagues. May I start by thanking you all for getting your MS teams working for this meeting, the first by remote video conferencing in the history of Hampshire's AGMs.

It is with a deep sense of responsibility, and honour and, of course, pleasure that I accept your nomination to serve as Chairman of Hampshire County Council.

Thank you for the support you have given me and for the trust you have placed in me.

May I thank the Leader, Councilor Keith Mans, and the Deputy Leader, Councilor Rob Humby for proposing and seconding my nomination and for their kind words.

I would like to take the opportunity to congratulate and thank Councilor Choudhary for his outstanding service as Chairman over the past year. Charles, it was a pleasure to have had the opportunity to support you as Vice-Chairman. Thank you for your distinguished contribution to the County and congratulations on your contribution to your theme of "Health and Wellbeing" particularly as it referred to mental wellbeing and with the outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic there has been a real need to consider the stresses that causes on those being safeguarded.

This is my 24th year as a County Councilor. That is a long time as my supportive wife Lynne will tell you. If I were to reminisce on the ups and downs over the years during that period we would be here all day. Far too long for a web meeting. You would probably all leave before long. But I would like to just say thanks to all my councilor colleagues with whom I have served over the years. Also, I would like to thank the Chief Executive and his staff for the comfort they give us Councillors due to their excellence, as indicated by the numerous awards and honours bestowed upon them and this Council thanks to them.

Hampshire is a beautiful County. These last few weeks most of us have been confined to our homes. For many of us there could be no better place to be. Milford on Sea, for example, is particularly lovely village and the views across Christchurch Bay to the very white cliffs of the Isle of Wight and the Needles with its Lighthouse are a daily reminder to me of how fortunate we are. At the moment the air is so clear. The changing sea colours are amazing as the sunlight catches the ripples when the wind blows across the tides. But the sea hides a terrible underwater morass of plastic affecting our sea-life and threatening our health as the plastic microbes enter the food chain through our sea foods.

As a County we have been at the forefront of household waste disposal, either recycling plastics or converting them to energy in our various plants. But we need to do even more and I hope that we can find similar solutions for commercial plastic waste.

This brings me to my theme for the year ahead. I know we will emerge well from this Pandemic as a nation and as a County, but I hope this time for reflection brings about a change in the wasteful way we take for granted our resources and the affect that has on our environment. So, my theme for the year ahead is for a Cleaner, Greener Hampshire led by the County Council with its huge resources. And in particular I want us to encourage the use of Clean energy wherever we can and to continue to reduce our carbon emissions improving our air quality until finally we reach the Nirvana of Carbon Neutrality.

This is not to say that I do not value all the work this Council does. Like all of you, of course, I do too.

As a Council we are at the forefront of keeping the fabric of local communities strong and cohesive, and it is right that we remind ourselves about the contribution our councils make. I will continue to uphold our values and make a stronger connection, where needed, with other bodies. So, I commend the work that we as an authority do. I am conscious that as the Chairman for the County there is a need for engagement in all civic activities and duties. I will continue with our ambition to be seen as an effective and practical authority striving for the good of our fellow citizens.

I turn now to my announcements.

Firstly, it is with sadness that I record that former County Councilor Frank Rust passed away at the end of March. Frank represented the Aldershot East division from 2013 to 2017. The Leader issued a press in April recording our sadness at his passing and mentioning how he had served this Council in committee and on outside bodies.

I mentioned earlier the awards this council wins time and time again. Here are those currently meriting special attention.

HCC Property Services – shortlisting for awards

The Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors Social Impact Awards are the only nationally recognised awards programme that show the impact our built environment has on people's lives. They highlight excellence at a regional and national level, identifying the projects making a positive difference. Three projects designed by the Hampshire County Council's Property Services team have been shortlisted as follows:

In the Education Category:

Oakmoor School, Whitehill & Bordon - a new secondary school to relocate existing school provision as part of the wider Regeneration of Whitehill & Bordon.

CETC, a new Civil Engineering Centre for apprenticeship training for Fareham College.

In the Heritage Category:

Netley Chapel, Royal Victoria Country Park, consisting of conservation, access, interpretation and improvement works to the historic chapel at the heart of the Country Park.

CIVIC BUILDING OF THE YEAR IN THE SPACES NATIONAL AWARDS 2020

Four projects designed by the Hampshire County Council's Property Services team have been shortlisted for Civic Building of the Year in the SPACES National Awards 2020. SPACES is the Society for Public Architecture, Construction, Engineering and Surveying, an organisation who bring together property professionals with a focus uniquely on the public sector. Hampshire County Council is well represented, being the client for three of the four projects and the key funder to the fourth one. The four projects shortlisted are:

Endeavour Primary School, Andover – a new primary school to serve new development in the town.

Netley Chapel, Royal Victoria Country Park – (as mentioned)

Visitor Centre, Queen Elizabeth Country Park – re-modelling, access and improvement works to the existing centre forming a customer gateway to the Country Park.

Theatre Royal, Winchester – a new entrance, foyer area and café providing contemporary and improved front of house facilities at this much loved local theatre.

HC3S

Has been re-accredited for the Soil Association's 'Food for Life Served Here' bronze award. This accreditation is reviewed annually and confirms that at least 75% of food is cooked fresh, is good quality and sourced locally where possible.

HC3S are shortlisted finalists in the Marketing Excellence category for this year's Public Sector Catering Awards. They were due to be held in March, but have been postponed until September, so we don't know who the winner is yet!

Adults' Health and Care (updated)

Client Affairs

Bernice Scott-Field has been re-appointed (for a second year) as Chair of Association of Public Authority Deputies (APAD), which is the body for England and Wales which oversees Client Affairs Services.

Client Affairs Teams manage the finances and property for adults who lack mental capacity to be able to do this for themselves and who have no suitable representative. This responsibility is granted to Local Authorities by the Court of Protection. Bernice Scott-Field leads our Client Affairs Service which manages the property and finances of over 900 people in Hampshire and through contracted arrangements with other areas.

HCC Care

HCC has supported registered nurses from overseas whose qualification was not previously recognised to convert. To date 12 staff who have been working as carers have now successfully completed their conversion enabling their qualification to be registered with the Nursing and Midwifery Council. This has provided a significant boost to our Registered Nursing workforce numbers, enabling us to maintain safe, effective care.

Finally, Members, thank you once again for attending today.

I turn now to the election of Vice Chairman.

ENDS

[check on delivery]