

## MORE HOMES NEEDED

Everybody agrees that this area would benefit from more homes for local people. However, nobody likes the idea of losing all our remaining green fields to development.



It is the New Forest District Council that is responsible for preparing a Local Area Plan which will provide details of where over 10,000 homes will be permitted to be built over the next 20 year period. The special status of the nearby New Forest National Park will increase the pressure on Totton & Marchwood.

Local Councillors will be faced with some hard choices as to exactly where development will take place. We need to think about how the local infrastructure could cope, including schools, medical and community facilities and trying to avoid traffic congestion. There also needs to be some green space for local people to enjoy.

The consultation exercise should help reflect the wishes of local people to some degree. We must never forget that there are thousands of people, who have been waiting many, many years for suitable local housing.

## THE CUTS.....

Somebody joked that “the trouble with you British is that you demand Scandinavian quality public services but are only prepared to pay USA level tax rates”. He has a point. You only get what you pay for. Even our NHS is expected to run at about 80% levels of funding that you find in France or Germany. Local authorities have been hit particularly hard by cuts in central government funding. It’s the reason why services have been cut or charges introduced or increased. There are few people who haven’t been impacted in some way, whether it is the loss of school buses, bus services generally, the closure of Children’s Centres, the end of the mobile library service, new restrictions to the Household Waste Recycling Centres.

A balance has to be reached between reduced public services and tax. As Opposition Spokesman for Health & Adult Services on Hampshire County Council, my particular effort has been to try and make sure that the most vulnerable people in our community are looked after. It’s been a real battle at times. Some of the cuts just end up costing taxpayers more in other ways. Admitting people into hospital for the want of caring for them properly at home is a classic example.



## MISSING OUT ON VOTING

Every election I hear from people who tell me that they will miss out on voting because of a holiday or family illness. It’s such a shame because anyone can apply to become a permanent postal voter. It’s becoming increasingly popular. You just fill in a form to register. Once done, it counts for all elections and you can even still vote in the normal way, if it suits you better. I have the application forms. Just contact me and let me know how many you would like. I will pop them through your door!

## HIGHWAYS MATTER....

It’s a real challenge, trying to meet public expectations of roads without pot holes, improving safety, salting in winter and cutting back vegetation in summer months, all with less money from government.



There have been some improvements to roads and footpaths in this area, but there is always more to do. Unfortunately, one of the worst aspects of the cut backs has been the loss of several, experienced council officers, including our local highway engineer (who has not been replaced). Also, we no longer have officers to organise and take action agreed at local traffic management meetings. As a result, there will be more hazards and inconvenience on local roads.

I do the best I can to meet requests, (including the odd bit of clipping back vegetation from junctions, paths and road signs), but it’s a struggle and not really an expectation of a Councillor. Restrictions on HGV movements in the town and village centre have been successful to a degree, but it relies on the hard pressed police to enforce restrictions. It’s good that the air quality has been shown to have improved in the centre of Totton. I have seen to it that monitoring will continue. It’s a really important public health issue.

I use Facebook for posting details of roadworks and closures – another good reason to “like” my Facebook Page.

## HOW TO GET IN CONTACT

Write to: Cllr. David Harrison:

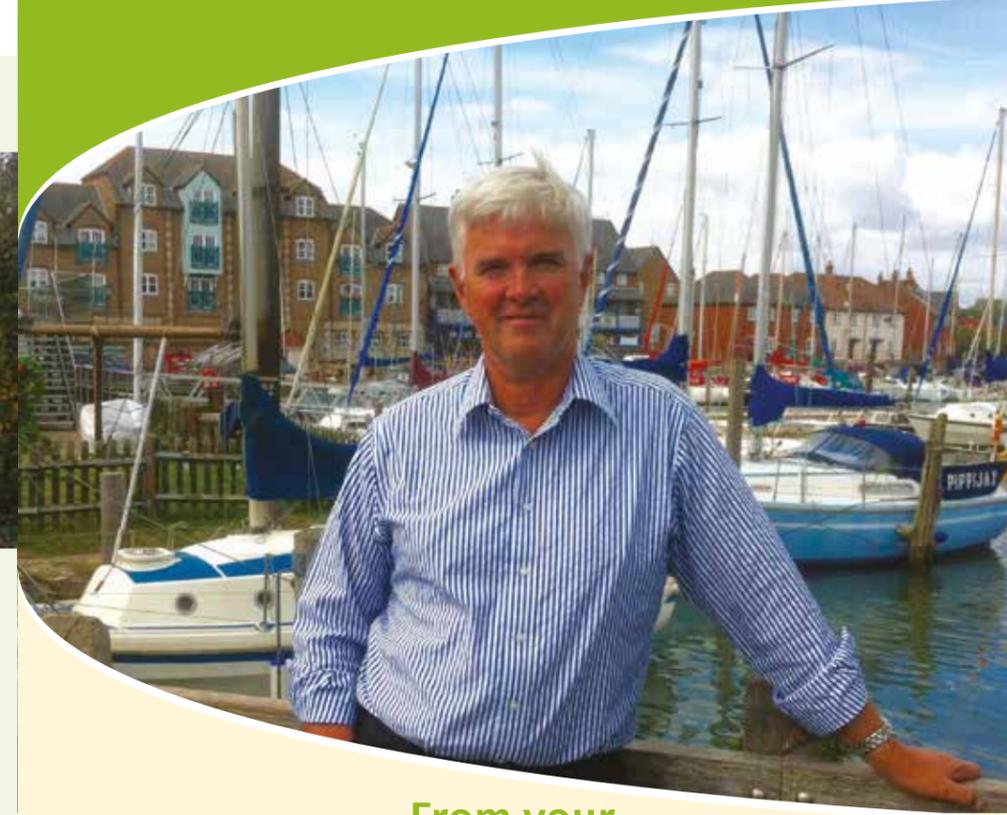
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# ANNUAL REPORT 2016



From your  
Hampshire County Councillor  
**DAVID HARRISON**

in this edition:



**ON YOUR BIKES.....**



**HOUSEHOLD WASTE**



**COMMUNITY GRANTS**

Delivered **FREE** to Totton & Marchwood residents  
at **NO COST** to Council Tax Payers

Got something for me to look into **GET IN CONTACT**

Promoted by David Harrison, 25 Rushington Avenue, Totton, Hampshire SO40 9DD  
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Follow me on Facebook: Councillor David Harrison

## Hello Resident,

I hope you enjoy reading this report. It takes a lot of effort to communicate all that you are doing for every household in the Totton South & Marchwood division that I look after.

Social media has been great, but I hope you agree, there is also a place for the printed report, especially for those that don't use Facebook, Twitter and the like.

As usual, all the ways of contacting me are listed in this report. Very few people send me letters these days! I enjoy being out and about, whether delivering a Focus leaflet, holding a Street Surgery or one of the many social events that I'm invited along to.

These are challenging times in local government. There will be some sweeping changes if services are to be protected and council tax kept in check. I strongly believe that residents need good quality representation by caring, hard-working, Councillors with good judgement. I hope you will think that I fit that bill.

Many, many, thanks to all those who have helped me do my job, by signing petitions, helping me campaign, telling me about things that need attention or support and to the officers and staff who work hard to deliver for the community. It's really a team effort,

Best Wishes,

David Harrison

## Business to Business.....

In recent years, I have put in a special effort to support local business interests. A very strong local economy is in everyone's interest. We want good quality jobs. We appreciate good service and competition.

I have hosted business networking meetings, helped promote local businesses on social media pages, encouraged business people to support local community initiatives, officiated at a few ribbon cutting ceremonies, opening up a few shops and fought against car parking charges.

If you run a local business and would like me to support you in some way, do contact me and ask.



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Councillor David Harrison

## ON YOUR BIKES.....

This last 12 months has been one of the best for cycling that I can remember. After years of planning, overcoming land ownership and legal issues and finding all the necessary equipment, materials and money – we finally delivered a new, safe, off road cycle route that links Marchwood with Eling.

I am delighted that the new route is proving very popular. Of course, there are things that need to be ironed out but I see this as just the start towards making it easy for local people to get around on bikes, whether cycling from Totton out to the New Forest or commuting into Southampton from the Waterside.

There have also been some significant improvements for cyclists along the A35, as well as a resurface of the Ashurst to Lyndhurst cycle path.



## HOUSEHOLD WASTE

Local people rallied around and helped me fight a very successful campaign to persuade those running Hampshire County Council that we could not do without our Household waste Centre (HWRC) at Marchwood.



A petition I raised attracted over 2,500 signatures. As a result, the HWRC stays open, albeit with more limited opening hours and charging for some items. My guess is that, after the elections, there will probably be a charge introduced for all users. I won't support anything that is likely to lead to more fly tipping. I think this will be costly to deal with and therefore self defeating!

One of the best ways of keeping updated on what happens with the Marchwood facility is to like my Facebook Page "Councillor David Harrison", or to regularly check out my popular website: [www.dharrison.org.uk](http://www.dharrison.org.uk)



Visit my website  
[www.dharrison.org.uk](http://www.dharrison.org.uk)

## COMMUNITY GRANTS

One of the best things about being a Hampshire County Councillor is having the ability to help people. It might be a visit, providing some publicity and advice, or in some cases providing some financial support via a community grant fund that I administer. Over the years, I have been able to help scores of organisations in Totton & Marchwood. Here are some that have received a grant in the past 12 months:

- Youth & Families Matter (Totton)
- Marchwood Rookies Netball Club
- Marchwood Twinning
- Mulberry Pre-School
- Marchwood Fun day (in aid of Southampton Hospital Charity)
- Headway (Totton based charity)
- The Garage Youth Centre, Totton
- St. Winfrid's Church Social Mission
- Tottonians Rugby Club



## SUPPORT FOR SCHOOLS

We are lucky to have some very good local schools. There is no such thing as a job description that says Hampshire County Councillors should engage with local schools but I have always been of the view that we should support them where we can. I have enjoyed my role as a School Governor at Eling First School. I have also, several times, visited other schools for different reasons, maybe helping with a school travel plan, or giving a talk to students, or having the honour of handing out awards to young people who achieved something special. One thing I have been impressed with is the contribution that parents make to local schools. Whether it is a formal role as a Governor, or a member of the Parent Teacher & Friends Association, or just "helping out", all the work makes such a difference to the quality of education enjoyed by our children. Grateful thanks to you all!



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