SOUTHAMPTON MAGAZINE



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DIGITAL EDITION
July 2026
Compiled from stories published online in July 2026

SOUTHAMPTON MAGAZINE

DIGITAL EDITION

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On the cover: Southampton Retains 11 Green Flag Awards for Parks and Green Spaces, page 6. Photo supplied by Southampton City Council.

This is a look-back edition, put together in November 2026 from stories that appeared online in July 2026. Southampton Magazine's first digital edition was published in November 2026.

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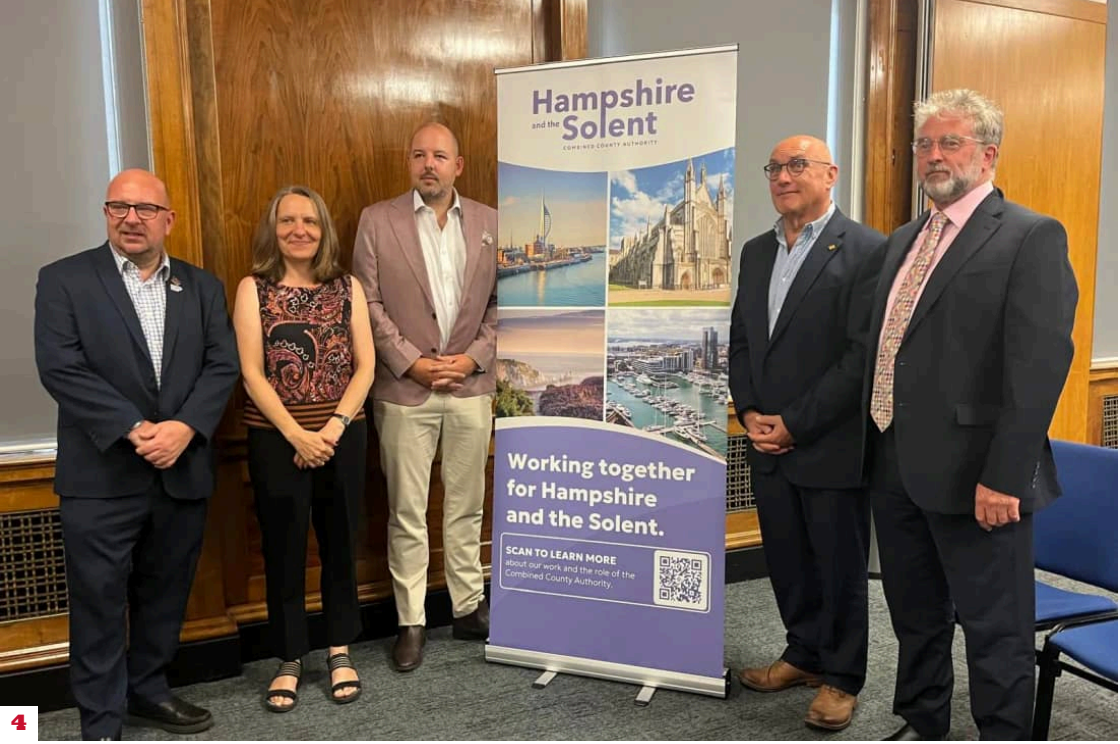

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SOUTHAMPTON

New Combined Authority Marks £1.3bn Future for Hampshire and the Solent

Today marks the start of a £1.3 billion future for Hampshire and the Solent, as the region's new Combined County Authority is officially inaugurated and begins work to bring more decisions and investment closer to local people.

Hampshire and the Solent Combined County Authority (HSCCA) brings together Hampshire, the Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton to work on shared priorities that affect people's everyday lives, from transport, skills and homes to jobs, growth and public services.

The launch comes at an important time for a region with more than 2 million residents and an economy worth around £70–£80 billion, but where growth has slowed, the population is ageing and employers are facing skills gaps. The HSCCA has been created to help tackle those challenges at the right scale, by bringing councils and partners together around transport, skills, homes, jobs and long-term growth.

HSCCA has been created through the Government's Devolution Priority Programme. It includes Government funding worth £1.3 billion over 30 years, with £44.6 million in annual investment from 2028. Government will make

40% of the annual investment fund available from 2026/27, enabling a phased and responsible set-up of the HSCCA ahead of the first Mayoral elections in 2028.

From today, the HSCCA will begin taking on new responsibilities in areas including transport, skills, housing, economic growth, public safety, health and wellbeing, the environment, culture, and rural and coastal communities. This will give the HSCCA new tools to plan transport and infrastructure across the whole region, support economic growth, shape future skills provision, coordinate housing and land-use planning, and bring partners together on areas such as health, public safety, the environment and climate resilience. Some responsibilities will be phased in over time.

Leader of Hampshire County Council and Chair of the HSCCA Board, Councillor Nick Adams-King, said:

This is a huge moment for our region and a real opportunity to put our area on the map. By joining forces, we can bring in new investment, create better-paid jobs and help our towns and villages thrive. Most importantly, this is about delivering real benefits for local people and businesses. I'm excited to work with colleagues across the region to make sure we seize this opportunity to build a brighter future for everyone.

Councillor Jonathan Bacon, Leader of the Isle of Wight Council and Vice-Chair of the HSCCA Board, said:

The launch of the Hampshire and the Solent Combined County Authority marks an important milestone for our region and a significant opportunity for the Isle of Wight. I am delighted to take on the role of Vice-Chair and to help shape the Authority's priorities from the outset, ensuring the Island has a strong voice at the heart of regional decision-making.

While we will work closely with our partners across Hampshire, Portsmouth and Southampton, I will continue to champion the Island's interests robustly and ensure our unique needs and opportunities are recognised. Island communities face distinct challenges, particularly around connectivity, skills, housing and access to services, and it is vital these considerations are reflected in future decisions and investment.

The Vice-Chair role provides an important platform to influence regional policy, strengthen collaboration and help secure the funding, investment and opportunities our communities need. By working together through the Combined County Authority, we can unlock long-term economic growth, improve outcomes for residents and businesses, and ensure the Isle of Wight plays a full and active role in shaping the future of our region.

Councillor George Madgwick, Hampshire County Council's Reform UK Group Leader, said:

Hampshire's new Combined Authority gives us the power to think bigger, go further and achieve more together, creating a stronger, more prosperous future for all.

Cllr Steve Pitt, Leader of Portsmouth City Council and HSCCA Board Member, said:

By Barbara Parker Online 15 July 2026

Continued at **southamptonmagazine.co.uk/new-combined-authority-marks-13bn-future-for-hampshire-and-the-solent**

Your turn

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Southampton Retains 11 Green Flag Awards for Parks and Green Spaces



6

Photo supplied by Southampton City Council

Southampton City Council is celebrating after retaining Green Flag Award status for all 11 of its award-winning parks and green spaces, recognising the city's continued commitment to providing high-quality, welcoming places for residents and visitors to enjoy.

The Green Flag Award is the international quality mark for parks and green spaces, recognising sites that are well managed, accessible, safe and environmentally sustainable. The awards are benchmarked against national standards, with judges assessing everything from maintenance and cleanliness to biodiversity, community involvement and long-term management.

Southampton's 11 Green Flag Award sites for 2026 are:

By Barbara Parker Online 16 July 2026
Continued at
southamptonmagazine.co.uk/southampton-retains-11-green-flag-awards-for-parks-and-green-spaces

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Junior Neighbourhood Wardens Host Popular Southampton Play Day



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Southampton City Council's Junior Neighbourhood Wardens were once again responsible for hosting the fun, free community Play Day in Hoglands Park on Friday 24 July.

Around 2,500 people of all ages enjoyed the event, which coincided with the start of the summer holidays for children across Southampton.

Play Day featured an array of activities including a giant inflatable bouncy castle, face painting, sports and arts and crafts. Providing open community events that celebrate the city of Southampton, and help to get people outside, is a core part of the Southampton City Plan promoting a healthier and greener Southampton, utilising open spaces for the benefit of the city.

Ian Mitchell, Junior Neighbourhood Wardens Co-ordinator at Southampton City Council said:

Play Day is one of the biggest events of the year for the Junior Wardens so it was fantastic to see so many people turn out and enjoy the day. The Junior Wardens are all about inspiring pride in young people within their communities and Play Day was a fantastic way to bring everyone together for some summer fun.

Councillor Toqeer Kataria, Cabinet Member for Communities, Safety and Leisure at Southampton City Council said:

By Barbara Parker Online 31 July 2026

Continued at **southamptonmagazine.co.uk/junior-neighbourhood-wardens-host-popular-southampton-play-day**

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SOUTHAMPTON

Southampton Council Proposes Parking Changes Around District Centres



8

Southampton City Council is taking the next step in bringing forward a wide range of changes to parking arrangements in and around its district centres after listening to feedback from residents, businesses and visitors about measures introduced last year.

The proposed changes are designed to make it easier for people to visit local shops and services for longer, improve access to short-stay parking spaces, and support safer, more accessible streets for everyone. The next stage of this process is to formally consult on the proposals through a Traffic Regulation Order.

By Zoe Online 27 July 2026
Continued at
southamptonmagazine.co.uk/southampton-council-proposes-parking-changes-around-district-centres

SOUTHAMPTON

Safer Routes to School Improvements Planned for Foundry Lane Primary



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Children, parents and carers travelling to Foundry Lane Primary School will soon benefit from safer crossings, improved pavements and a greener street environment as Southampton City Council begins work on a series of improvements designed to make everyday journeys easier and more enjoyable.

Coming forward as part of the Safer Routes to School programme, construction will start on 23 July, with work taking place over the summer holidays and into September. The improvements have been designed in partnership with Foundry Lane Primary and the local community to make it safer, easier and more attractive for children and families to walk, wheel and cycle to school, while creating a more welcoming environment for everyone who uses the area.

By Zoe Online 22 July 2026
Continued at **southamptonmagazine.co.uk/safer-routes-to-school-improvements-planned-for-foundry-lane-primary**

SOUTHAMPTON

Southampton Council Seeks Views on Winchester Road Travel Scheme



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Southampton City Council is inviting residents, businesses and road users to take part in a formal Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) consultation on proposals to improve Winchester Road and create a safer, more welcoming environment for people walking, wheeling, cycling, driving, and using public transport.

The scheme will improve access to the Outdoor Sports Centre and focuses on Winchester Road between Thornhill Road and Bassett Avenue, where previous engagement found many people felt the route was difficult to cross and unattractive for walking, wheeling and cycling. An earlier consultation carried out in April this year showed strong support for improvements, with an overall average of 64% of respondents supporting the proposals and 61% saying the changes would make it easier to walk, cycle and wheel along the route.

By Zoe Online 19 July 2026
Continued at
southamptonmagazine.co.uk/southampton-council-seeks-views-on-winchester-road-travel-scheme

SOUTHAMPTON

Southampton Council Confirms Road Safety Improvements After Community Feedback



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We are committed to listening to and working with local people to shape future improvements. This first stage of consultation has given us a steer as to the challenges people face and the sorts of measures people would like to see to address them.

The responses from the community showed strong support for measures to improve road safety and address concerns about driver behaviour, while also providing further information on which previously trialled measures local people did not want to see retained.

By Albert Nelson Online 13 July 2026
Continued at
southamptonmagazine.co.uk/southampton-council-confirms-road-safety-improvements-after-community-feedback

In brief



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SOUTHAMPTON

Southampton Council Confirms Future of Townhill Park Community Centre

Southampton City Council is pleased to announce that Testlands will become the new operator of Townhill Park Community Centre from 1 September 2026, ensuring the valued community facility continues to provide activities, services and opportunities for local residents.

By Zoe Online 24 July 2026
Continued at **southamptonmagazine.co.uk/southampton-council-confirms-future-of-townhill-park-community-centre**



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SOUTHAMPTON

Southampton Council Calls for Care to Protect Parks from Summer Fires

Southampton City Council is urging residents to stop using disposable barbecues until further notice as dry and sunny conditions continue to increase the risk of wildfires across the country.

By Albert Nelson Online 17 July 2026
Continued at **southamptonmagazine.co.uk/southampton-council-calls-for-care-to-protect-parks-from-summer-fires**



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SOUTHAMPTON

Southampton Asset Programme Opens Opportunity at Former Car Park Site

Southampton City Council has launched the marketing of the former St Denys Car Park on Osborne Road South, creating an opportunity for new development on a well-connected site in the heart of the community.

By Barbara Parker Online 28 July 2026
Continued at **southamptonmagazine.co.uk/southampton-asset-programme-opens-opportunity-at-former-car-park-site**



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SOUTHAMPTON

Cleaner Air Progress Recognised as Southampton Meets Legal Limits

People living, working and studying in Southampton are benefiting from cleaner air, following official Government confirmation that the city has achieved and is maintaining legal air quality standards for nitrogen dioxide (NO_2).

By Albert Nelson Online 29 July 2026
Continued at **southamptonmagazine.co.uk/cleaner-air-progress-recognised-as-southampton-meets-legal-limits**

In brief



SOUTHAMPTON

Southampton Secures Government Approval For Roadworks Charging Scheme

People travelling around Southampton could soon face less disruption from roadworks after Southampton City Council received Government approval to introduce a lane rental scheme on parts of the city's highway network.

By Albert Nelson Online 9 July 2026
Continued at **southamptonmagazine.co.uk/southampton-secures-government-approval-for-roadworks-charging-scheme**



PORTSMOUTH

Four Portsmouth Parks Celebrate Green Flag Award Success

Portsmouth is celebrating after four of its parks and gardens were awarded the prestigious Green Flag Award, the international quality mark for well-managed parks and green spaces.

By Zoe Online 16 July 2026
Continued at **portsmouthmagazine.co.uk/four-portsmouth-parks-celebrate-green-flag-award-success**



PORTSMOUTH

Portsmouth Education Partnership Marks 10 Years With New Teaching Ideas Book

A book that shares teaching ideas and encourages collaboration between schools in Portsmouth has been showcased this week.

By Zoe Online 10 July 2026
Continued at **portsmouthmagazine.co.uk/portsmouth-education-partnership-marks-10-years-with-new-teaching-ideas-book**



PORTSMOUTH

New Bransbury Park Play Area Welcomes Children and Families

Children and families are already enjoying Bransbury Park's new play area, created as part of the wider regeneration of the park.

By Barbara Parker Online 19 July 2026
Continued at **portsmouthmagazine.co.uk/new-bransbury-park-play-area-welcomes-children-and-families**

In brief



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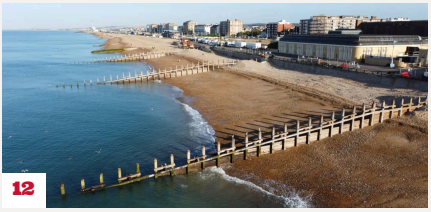
PORTSMOUTH

Portsmouth Residents Invited to Free Active Travel Event

Residents in and around Paulsgrove are invited to discover greener, healthier ways to travel this summer as Portsmouth City Council brings its popular Get Active event to Paulsgrove Park.

By Albert Nelson Online 23 July 2026
Continued at **portsmouthmagazine.co.uk/portsmouth-residents-invited-to-free-active-travel-event**



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BRIGHTON

Brighton & Hove Coastline Protection Project Enters Major New Phase

A scheme to protect a key part of Brighton & Hove's coastline from erosion and flooding will enter an exciting new phase next week.

Work is scheduled to begin on Monday 3 August to fill the new groyne field in Hove with thousands of tonnes of shingle.

By Albert Nelson Online 28 July 2026
Continued at **brightonmagazine.co.uk/brighton-hove-coastline-protection-project-enters-major-new-phase**



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SUSSEX

Cadets Get Hands on with Rotary Funded Training Defibrillator

The event was attended by parents, supporters and members of Lewes Rotary, including Steven Haasz, President of Lewes Rotary Club, and Peter Howard, Youth Officer.

By Joshua Gill Online 9 July 2026
Continued at **sussexmagazine.co.uk/cadets-get-hands-on-with-rotary-funded-training-defibrillator**



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PORTSMOUTH

New Stone Bench Installed In Victoria Park To Honour Portsmouth's Spanish Civil War Veterans

A new stone bench commemorating the International Brigades and those from Portsmouth who fought fascism during the Spanish Civil War has been installed in Victoria Park.

By Zoe Online 20 July 2026
Continued at **portsmouthmagazine.co.uk/new-stone-bench-installed-in-victoria-park-to-honour-portsmouths-spanish-civil-war-veterans**

In brief



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PORTSMOUTH

Portsmouth Bus Improvements Support Better Access To Key City Destinations

Passengers can now enjoy easier access to Southsea seafront, Castle Road and key destinations across the city following the opening of new bus stops on Southsea Terrace as part of Portsmouth City Council's Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP).

By Albert Nelson Online 9 July 2026
Continued at **portsmouthmagazine.co.uk/portsmouth-bus-improvements-support-better-access-to-key-city-destinations**



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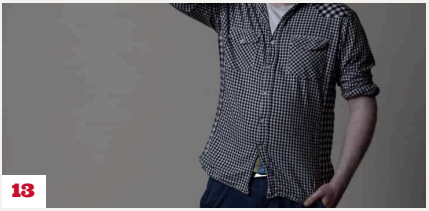
PORTSMOUTH

Families Invited to Explore Portsmouth with Stomp for Stamps

Portsmouth City Council's popular school holiday activity is returning with a unique Portsmouth 100 twist, as children are invited to 'Stomp for Stamps' alongside the Pride of Portsmouth lions trail.

By Zoe Online 15 July 2026
Continued at **portsmouthmagazine.co.uk/families-invited-to-explore-portsmouth-with-stomp-for-stamps**



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PORTSMOUTH

Portsmouth Selects Jackson Davies as Poet Laureate for 2026 to 2028

Portsmouth's new poet laureate has been selected by Portsmouth City Council.

Jackson Davies, a punk poet who has been performing humorous, honest and relatable spoken word for the last ten years across the city, has stepped into the prestigious role, which runs from 2026 to 2028.

By Zoe Online 29 July 2026
Continued at **portsmouthmagazine.co.uk/portsmouth-selects-jackson-davies-as-poet-laureate-for-2026-to-2028**

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