



Town Clerk's Report to Full Council – 14 September 2026

1. Operational Update

New Bus Shelters

Thanks to grant funding secured from Hampshire County Council, two new bus shelters have been installed on Firgrove Road and Darby Green Road. The new shelters replace ageing infrastructure and provide improved waiting facilities for public transport users.

Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs)

Three new Speed Indicator Devices have now been delivered following the Council's successful funding application to the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Police and Crime Commissioner. One device is currently installed on Reading Road near the Council Offices whilst battery performance and operational requirements are assessed. Subject to the outcome of this testing, the devices will be rotated between the approved locations across the parish. The devices are intended to encourage responsible driving and support wider road safety initiatives within the community.

Council Offices Accessibility Improvements

Works have been completed to replace and improve the patio area outside the Council Offices. The improvements provide a safer and more accessible entrance for visitors, councillors and staff, enhancing access to the building for all users.

Automated Hall Booking

The Council has now fully migrated to its new hall booking system, which is working well. The door access PIN system was installed this week and will be linked to the booking system. This will provide a more convenient service for hirers, allowing direct access to facilities without the need for key collection, whilst reducing administrative tasks and improving operational efficiency.

Churchill Crescent Play Area – Refurbishment Update

Following completion of the public consultation and the appointment of a contractor, the refurbishment project is progressing. Due to delays in the delivery programme, works are now expected to commence in early October. Further updates will be provided as the project progresses.

Local Council Award Scheme – Gold Award

I am delighted to report that Yateley Town Council has been awarded Gold Accreditation under the National Association of Local Councils' Local Council Award Scheme.

Gold is the highest level of accreditation available and recognises excellence in governance, community leadership, service delivery and continuous improvement. This is a significant achievement for the Council. Yateley Town Council is only the second town or parish council in Hampshire to achieve Gold status and is among a small number of councils nationally to hold the accreditation. The award is valid until August 2030.

I would like to thank all councillors and staff for their contribution to achieving this milestone and for their continued commitment to maintaining high standards of governance and service delivery for our community.

2. Crime & Disorder

Graffiti

Following the recent incidents of graffiti vandalism affecting Town Council property and other locations within the community, the Police have successfully identified the individual responsible and appropriate action has been taken. I would like to thank Council staff and our contractors for their prompt response in removing the graffiti and restoring the affected areas.

3. Finance

Grant Applications

The Council is currently in the process of submitting three grant applications to support a range of Council projects and initiatives. The outcome of the applications is awaited and, if successful, further details will be reported to Members in due course.

4. Events Attended

I have attended the following events:

[100th Birthday Party for WWII Veteran Dennis Thatcher – 6 June 2026](#) I attended the celebration of the 100th birthday of Dennis Thatcher, a Second World War veteran. As part of the event, Yateley Town Council was proud to confer upon Mr Thatcher the Honorary Freedom of the Town in recognition of his outstanding service and contribution to the community. The occasion was especially fitting as it coincided with the commemorations of D-Day and provided an opportunity to reflect on the contribution and sacrifice of his generation.

[Frogmore & Darby Green Fete – Sunday 14th June 2026](#),

A very successful community event, providing an excellent opportunity to engage with residents and gather feedback on Council services and facilities. I spoke with a number of residents, with particularly positive comments received regarding the Council's open spaces, play areas, Heathlands Cemetery, and the recently installed public toilets. The event also provided the opportunity to draw and present another winner of the Council's community hamper prize.

[Britain in Bloom – Judging Day 6th July](#)

The Council once again submitted an entry to the Britain in Bloom competition, with the judging day taking place on 6 July 2026. The visit provided an opportunity to showcase the Council's ongoing commitment to enhancing the local environment, maintaining high-quality open spaces and supporting community involvement in the appearance and sustainability of the parish. The outcome of the judging process is awaited.

[Village of the Year - Judging Day 19th August](#)

The Council submitted an entry to the Hampshire Association of Local Councils (HALC) Village of the Year competition, with judging taking place on 19 August 2026. The judges were given a presentation showcasing the wide range of community organisations, facilities and initiatives that contribute to making Yateley a vibrant and successful community. The outcome of the competition is expected to be announced on 23 September 2026.

I would like to thank Yateley Town Council staff, Yateley Lions, Yateley & Hawley Royal British Legion, the Yateley Society, Yelabus, and Vision for Youth for their support and participation in the presentation to the judges, which demonstrated the strong partnership working and community spirit within the town.

5. Upcoming Events

Hampshire Association of Local Councils Presentation Event - 23rd September

We have been shortlisted and invited to the presentation event.

Britain in Bloom Presentation Event – 25th September

The Council has once again submitted an entry to the Britain in Bloom competition. The awards presentation will take place on 25th September 2026.

6. Climate Change

- The Town Council's existing solar panels have continued to generate renewable energy, helping to reduce electricity consumption across Council buildings. I am pleased to report that the new infra-red heating system has now been installed at Monteagle Community Centre, with the installation of solar panels due to take place shortly. Once complete, the project will improve the building's energy efficiency, reduce carbon emissions and help lower ongoing energy costs. The scheme is part-funded through a £4,500 Climate Grant awarded by Hart District Council.
- Windows at The Tythings have been upgraded, with replacement of the Council Office windows due to be completed within the next weeks, improving insulation and reducing heat loss.
- Energy Performance Certificates (EPCs) have now been obtained for all council-owned buildings. The Tythings, Monteagle Community Centre and Darby Green have all achieved a B rating, representing a significant improvement on the 2022 assessments.
- Yateley Town Council has taken the decision to work in partnership with local schools to support biodiversity by providing bird and bat boxes, alongside installing additional boxes on Town Council-owned open space land across the parish.
- Work continues on delivery of the Biodiversity Action Plan. Work continues on the delivery of the Council's Biodiversity Action Plan. Habitat improvement works are currently taking place at both Darby Green Pond and Goose Green Pond, with the aim of enhancing biodiversity and improving conditions for wildlife. The Council continues to work with local wildlife groups and volunteers to identify further opportunities to support native species and strengthen ecological habitats across the parish.
- I would like to thank the residents who volunteered their time throughout the summer to help water the Community Orchard during the prolonged periods of hot and dry weather. Their efforts, using watering cans to support the young trees when conditions were particularly challenging, have been greatly appreciated and have made an important contribution to the establishment and long-term success of the orchard.
- The next Community Climate Forum will take place on 26th October.

Julie Routley, Town Clerk

9 September 2026