

## **Wickhamford Cllr ELIZABETH EYRE COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT November 2020**

### **County Issues**

**Schools:** The County Council ensured no child went hungry at half term. WCC worked with District Councils across the county to ensure vulnerable children could access a meal during the half term holiday. The number of children receiving Free School Meals in Wychavon is 1825.

Prior to half term just under 90% of pupils in Worcestershire were in school which is above the national average.

Even in Half Term WCC continued to provide communications and advise schools about when pupils and staff should get tested.

Face coverings should be worn by parents outside of schools. Parents and carers across the county are being advised to wear face coverings when dropping off and collecting children from school. It is an area where it is physically difficult for parents to follow 2 metre social distancing rules. This extra measure is being introduced to keep the whole school community safe, especially those who are most vulnerable.

**Adults and Older People:** The County Council has this week launched a new reablement approach to help adults in need of social care to remain in their own homes. The new look service, originally due to be launched after Easter had been delayed due to Covid. To achieve the best outcomes for people, we have changed our Homecare teams to become a single Reablement Service. We have redesigned our systems, processes and organisational structure to enable the Reablement Service to focus on promoting independence across all pathways, and to work with people to maximise their abilities and avoid the need for long-term care and support.

Limited visits to care home residents can be arranged in the county once more, providing strict safety measures are in place to protect vulnerable residents. Extra Care and Supported Living are also being advised that they can open to limited family visits.

**Health:** As with all county residents, the advice remains to only get tested if you are showing symptoms or if advised to do so by their GP or Local Authority or Public Health England.

New walk-in test centre locations in Redditch and Worcester have been publicly confirmed by Worcestershire Public Health. Work began to create a new walk-in test centre for Wychavon on the middle car park of the Civic Centre from Wednesday, 29 October 2020. Staff and visitors will not be able to use the Wychavon car park from Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup>. People cannot just turn up to get tested, they will need an appointment. It is expected it will be in place for 6 months and, if a vaccine does eventually arrive, then it will be converted to a vaccination centre.

**Finance:** The Government confirmed on Friday WDC will be receiving another £246,139 in support to help cover losses and additional costs caused the coronavirus pandemic. Total supported received from the Government is £1,785,015 however, total losses are estimated to more than £2million.

A new £100million fund has also been created for local authority run leisure centres to bid for. As WDC own the buildings but does not directly run them, it is not yet clear if WDC will be able to apply for money from this fund to support our leisure operator.

**Highways: New look Pinvin Junction and update on Pershore Infrastructure Improvement Scheme** – work is progressing well on the scheme. Works have recently focussed on the extension of the A44 north-west of the junction to accommodate an additional right-hand turn, and taken place on the kerbing and installation of a new footpath on the south-east side of the A44 towards White Logistics. To allow surfacing works to take place, on the A44, Terrace Road and Main Street, there are some planned night closures (8pm-6am from 9<sup>th</sup> November which will include up to four night-time

closures **Closures will be in place from Monday 26 October for up to four nights, from 8pm until 6am. During the day, the junction will operate as it is now, under temporary traffic lights. Diversions will be in place during the closures. Works on Pinvin Junction are set for completion this winter.**

**Highways Gritting:** Whilst no severe winter weather is currently predicted, from 15<sup>th</sup> October, WCC's Winter Service teams have been officially on standby. When gritting is required, actions will be updated daily on the @WorcsTravel Twitter account using the hashtag #GritterTwitter. The fleet of 32 gritting vehicles has been supplemented by 3 brand new vehicles, with another 3 to be updated as the season progresses. Over 11,750 tonnes of salt is ready to be used ahead of the new season and this will be replenished when necessary. WCC has also checked the county's 1,320 grit bins to ensure they are full. The grit bins are available across the county and are maintained with stocks of a salt/grit mixture. They are provided for use on the public highway only (including footways). There's also a variety of information about our gritting operations online, including interactive maps which show designated gritting routes and where residents can also locate their nearest grit bin and report it for refilling as we move through the winter: [www.worcestershire.gov.uk/gritting](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/gritting)

**Business:** Further support has launched for Worcestershire start-ups and entrepreneurs. Enterprising Worcestershire will offer support to new and early stage businesses in the region, after securing a further three years of funding. Match-funded grants between £1,000 - £15,000 will be available from November for eligible businesses under three years old, allowing them to get their ideas off the ground. Individuals wishing to start their own business can also receive free support to develop their ideas, whilst early-stage businesses can progress with free business coaching and development sessions. Find out more about the grant funding available at the upcoming free online grant workshop:

<https://businesseventsworcestershire.com/events-search/details/?id=187>

**Remembrance Day** :The Chairman's Remembrance Day Service on Wednesday, November 11 is being webcast only this year due to Covid-19 restrictions. For anyone who would like to join, here is the webcast link:

[https://worcestershire.public-i.tv/core/portal/webcast\\_interactive/519434](https://worcestershire.public-i.tv/core/portal/webcast_interactive/519434) The Service will start at 10.55am.

**Superfast broadband** –the Superfast Worcestershire Partnership is working to bring superfast and gigabit capable broadband connectivity to Worcestershire homes and businesses, whilst, at the same time supporting proactive communities with their efforts to secure gigabit capable connectivity, through the Rural Gigabit Voucher Scheme.

Worcestershire County Council welcomes your support in encouraging rural communities not currently in their deployment plan (red dots on the map): [www.superfastworcestershire.com/#where-when](http://www.superfastworcestershire.com/#where-when) to proactively pursue a community solution via the Rural Gigabit Voucher Scheme to potentially fully fund the build of the new fibre to the premise (FTTP) network. Please note that rural premises with access to good speeds (up to 100mbps) can also request upgrades to FTTP and utilise the Rural Voucher Scheme. Specifically:

- Support the transition for communities not in the deployment plan to move from 'complaining about lack of broadband' to taking a 'proactive approach' and engaging through the Gigabit Voucher schemes.
- Promote Take-Up; ensure residents know they need to 'sign up' to the newly available services.
- Engage with the officers if you have questions or require additional detail for communities.

Please see the attached FAQs for more information.

## **Local Issues**

Minerals Local Plan Examination in Public later in year

**Planning application: 20/01996FUL** - Field Farm, Longdon Hill. Wickhamford – I have discussed with Nigel. that it would be very difficult to resist this proposal in the light of the grant of the previous lawful development certificate. He will talk to you re calling it in – if so what grounds would you use?

**CDC Breach of planning permission: 20/00244/COU**, relates to the ongoing enforcement case at the site. I have sent photos, evidence of breach – and evidence they are building an additional pack house without planning permission. I am told they will come back to me next week. We can do no more now. Enforcement can stop the building of the new pack house and the transshipment – it cannot stop the large lorries bringing crates and taking outbound.

**16<sup>th</sup> November - Road closure for max 10 days Manor Lane and Golden Lane** – to add gully and renew pavements and add conservation kerbs.

There are other issues but I have not had time to progress – **could clerk advise re items highlighted.**

2.Coomberfield Road repair sets - Gordon Tichen, Rooftops – **advise if done please**

4.Footpath to cemetery. Requested – part of 8 million for footways?

5. Complaint re Flailing to cut back hedges was only method for cost reasons and past undermanagement should be less and look better next year.

6. Drysdale Road – **are repairs done ?**

9. Pete Bott going to Littletons why? Request to Pete Bott they do not go down Manor Road.

10. Log re HGVs turning around so often Pitchers Hill. Do we need signage changes? Why is this happening. ?

11. Pitchers Hill 27/29 access to drive KH to add keep clear signage advisory

12. No waiting lines near A44 Sandys Avenue extended Agreed to extend from 4-10 m safety issue re in/out from A44 – **has this been done please?**