

County Councillor Report - Offenham

Month: November 2018

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At this time of the year both District Council and County Council are looking at budgets for next year, Council tax, and looking back at the last 12 months to publish their Annual Reports.

Once again a lot has been achieved, and to give you some headlines from the Worcestershire County Council and the Wychavon District Council

Wychavon District Council Annual Report

In November, Wychavon District Council published their Annual Report 2017/18, which looks back at what they achieved during the year and their plans for this year. It's jam-packed full of achievements – from supporting the creation of new jobs, preventing homelessness and investing in sports and leisure, to tackling fly-tipping, improving wildlife sites and improving aspirations for people living in Droitwich West. The report also highlights the District Council's plans for 2018/19, these include working with partners to tackle social mobility, developing a plan to increase visitor numbers and launching a new community legacy grant scheme. To read the full report see <https://www.wychavon.gov.uk/performance-reporting>

Worcestershire County Council Annual Leader's Report

At full council on 8th November, the Leader of Worcestershire Council gave his report and the some of the key messages were:-

- Open for Business has been a key priority for the council. This is vital if both individuals and businesses are to prosper. A successful local economy generates jobs, opportunities and income for all. Working with the Worcestershire LEP over the last few years has seen 22,000 new jobs created in our County adding £1.7billion to the local economy.
- Growing industrial parks, and making sure there is enough business accommodation in the County has been key in attracting new businesses to the area. Worcestershire Six near Junction 6 on the M5 has new investors taking 700,000 sq ft of commercial space. Redditch Gateway is a new park with consent for over 1,000,000 sq ft of new commercial space. Malvern Hills Science Park continues to develop high quality defence and cyber security jobs with construction complete on phase 5 and further expansion planned.
- Improving infrastructure is also key, and now Superfast Broadband (23Mbps) is available to 95% of premises in the county, with the latest programme is rolling out fibre to the premises which achieves 100Mbps. Many residents in Ullington are now benefiting from these speeds. For more information on Superfast Broadband and the Gigabit Voucher Scheme see www.superfastworcestershire.com.
- Improving mobile phone coverage in the County is also a key priority and Worcestershire is one of only 6 counties across the country to be awarded funding to help get 5G mobile coverage off the ground – faster and better mobile coverage.
- Many improvements to the roads have been achieved from re-surfacing and repairing existing roads and pavements to the new investment secured to build new major structures like Carrington Bridge on the southern ring road around Worcester, the new Pershore Link Road over the railway, significant improvements to the A38 corridor.
- Improvements to the rail network have been a top priority and the platforms at several railway stations, including at Honeybourne, have been lengthened to support the all new trains. The new Worcestershire Parkway station between Pershore and Worcester is nearly complete and should open in May next year. And the timetable has been

redesigned to give a better more frequent service, and this will be implemented in the New Year.
If anyone is interested in reading his full report, email me, and I will send you to the link to his report.

New Leader of the Council

Bradley Thomas was elected unanimously at a meeting of the council on 7th November. The 32-year-old Councillor for Broadway and Wickhamford lives in Badsey. His new executive board is

Resources and Investment - Councillor Ron Davis.

Housing, Health and Wellbeing - Councillor Gerry O'Donnell.

Environment, Recycling and Streetscene - Councillor Emma Stokes.

Economic Growth and Tourism - Councillor Richard Morris.

Community Engagement, Culture and Sport - Councillor Rob Adams.

Council Tax

The current thinking is WDC will be looking at either zero increase or a 1% increase next year. WCC are looking for an increase of 3% for Adult & Children's Social Services, and 1.94% for everything else. However no decisions have yet been made.

Upgrading the railway platforms at Honeybourne

The platforms have been made longer at Honeybourne station so up to 7 carriages can open their doors. By the end of the year all the trains through Honeybourne will be of the new trains and carriages.

More information is available on <https://www.gwr.com/travel-updates/planned-engineering/cotswolds2018>

New Bin lorries

The new waste collection service with all new lorries and improved recycling started last month. Although there were a few hiccups with some people unsure when to put out their bins as collection dates had changed, the majority of the change-over went smoothly. The contractor FCC sends their apologies to anyone who did not receive a letter from them advising of the new collection dates.

Out of 57,000 homes, only 251 missed collections were recorded in the 1st week beginning 15 October, and this fell to 199 in the 3rd week. Also a large amount of batteries, textiles and small electrical items have been collected which will help our recycling figures.

For more information about the new waste collection service and what new items you can recycle, please see the website, <https://www.wychavon.gov.uk/refuse> You can also click on the "Bin collection calendar" and then enter in your post code to find out what days your bins will be collected.

Highways:

Worcestershire County Council's winter season has started and gritting becomes the main task for Highways.

1. **The road drain by Kanes /School Lane has been identified as partly blocked** - Further investigations have revealed a collapse in the culvert which crosses Cleeve Rd towards School Lane. Highways is putting together a scheme to replace the culvert, this will be a bigger job than anticipated and will require a road closure. All being well the works will be completed towards the end of this financial year, circa March 2019.
2. **Leylandii hedge on the left hand side as you travel towards Cleeve Prior centre along the B4085 just past the Gypsy site entrance need cutting** – The land owner has agreed to have it cut, but so far all the contractors are saying they can not do the work until January 2019

3. Carriageway patching - B4085 Cleeve Road, Cleeve Prior - Road closure on behalf of Worcestershire county council - -completed

As always, if you have any issues on any Highways matters, please report it on the WCC website http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/homepage/98/report_it

Also remember a photo of the Highways problem is as good as “a thousand words” so always take a photo where possible.

Divisional Fund - Grants requested/paid this month:-

- 1.** Badsey Rainbows – request for books, badges and education material from resources from the Girl Guides – grant approved
- 2.** Long Lartin Residents Association – request for new playground equipment for South Meadows - grant approved

If you run a local Community organisation and need a grant for some vital equipment or service, then please feel free to apply for one from the Divisional Fund by contacting me at adams.pebworth@gmail.com

Your District & County Councillor, Alastair Adams can be contacted on adams.pebworth@gmail.com or mobile 07725 979 277 or www.alastairadams.org