

Charlton 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 2nd. 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 9th 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 15th 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

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>

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 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 – still watching

Hedges

Ref 922099 – silt under bridge on green – is a risk in a high flood risk village – as we go to into winter – is it our responsibility to clear the silt/ if so when?

Ref 912379 – Trees falling on Haselor Road and other trees (Poplar I think) BB visit? Land registry?? Speak to the farm?

Fallen Tree - west side of Canada Bank and scrub below – all on Highway land – parish gang - is it resolved?

Overhanging hedge on highway land boundary of Boston Farm, Boston Farm Lane – ownership progress?

Hedge adjacent to carpark Jubilee Bridge cut back, why did you not cut back the adjacent hedge between Jubilee Bridge and Cemetery Bridge when highways are responsible?

Pershore to Evesham Cycle Route – additional funding did not go to this project- WDC officer needed to progress this issue – soon to start

Motor Cycling along Red Lane – Footpath officer

Traffic Calming - Charlton Parish Council

3rd July 2020

Traffic Calming Options for Charlton Village

A. Local Action

- 1. Community Speed Watch** -which roads would Charlton wish to have considered and are there enough volunteers for those roads if accepted. Next step if interest to contact the lead officer. Fladbury good example of how it can work.

2. Accident data collected

Haselor lane key area

16/10/16 - Car in ditch. Recovered without emergency services attending so no URN.

16/12/16 - 2 car collision on blind bend. Elderly lady suffered broken wrist. URN 1545 16/12/16

20/1/17 - Moped skidded on ice outside Plough Cottages. Ambulance required

24/11/17 - Truck in ditch (highways or subcontractors of). Recovered without emergency services.

23/8/18 - Accident involving 2 cars racing 9.30pm. Blocked Elmley/Hinton road junction while damaged car recovered privately. No emergency services.

27/1/19 - Car in ditch. URN 0820S 27/01/19. Presume excessive speed as extensive debris on verge.

Other accidents have occurred when vehicles have left the road at cemetery corner, also at the 90 degree junction of Yessell Lane and Boston Lane, and at the bridge over the Merry Brook on Canada Bank.

Speed monitoring January (Dave Perridge) 85th percentile figure for all vehicles of 38MPH.

3. Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS). Does village need second VAS? Is Vas checking in both directions.

4. Planters and cut verge enhancement - any locations ?

B. **Education** – talk of posters, possibly designed by children attending local School, an approach effective in other villages, for example, Bidford on Avon, Warwickshire.

C. **Engineering changes requested to Kieran Hemstock – Monday meeting**

- Where appropriate change some limit and other warning signs to be mounted on either yellow or grey backgrounds to increase levels of driver recognition. **Which ones? Include those new ones below? Feasible**
- ‘Pedestrians’ warning sign on Canada Bank requested moved c.100 yards further south to give drivers more warning of the potential hazard due to the lack of a foot path. **Believe this was agreed with Barry Barnes**
- Plate stating “No footway for 400 metres” should be added. **No response chasing**
- Gradient signs* between the village gateways and the junction with The Strand and Ryden Lane. *Canada Bank to warn drivers – **not usual no response chasing**
- Increased number of 30mph repeater signs on the main routes through the village, Mill Bank, Canada Bank and Yessell Lane **Feasible**
- Can we add legends such as “remember it’s 30”, “it’s still 30” etc on to highway signs. **Maybe a parish initiative**

- Can 300 / 200 / 100 yards countdown markers be installed on Yessell Lane prior to the 30MPH sign. **Not usual high maintenance cost for the parish will press**
- “Dragons’ Teeth” on the roads leading into Charlton on Yessell Lane, Church Leys (Crophorne Parish) and Mill Bank (Fladbury Parish). **Feasible but only clarify after a survey**
- Warning signs such as “beware farm entrance”, “hidden vehicle entrance / exit”, “beware farm vehicles” or similar should be installed at defined points along Haselor Lane. **Feasible cost**
- 3-D images painted on the surface of all roads approaching Charlton village- **Not a practice in Worcestershire yet, not agreed but discussing**
- Change 60MPH **more challenging**
 - a. Church Leys between the outskirts of Crophorne and Charlton less than 400 metres in length and <5.5 metres in width for most of its length is 60mph. The Department for Transport Circular 01/2013, “Setting local speed limits” states in Section 3: ***The minimum length of a speed limit should generally be not less than 600 metres to avoid too many changes of speed limit along the route. I think in view of short length this should be done***
- Extend the 30MPH limits in both Crophorne and Charlton along the entire length of Church Leys to reduce the speeds of vehicles approaching the junction of Church Leys, Mill Bank and The Strand, where gravel run-off from the adjacent fields often causes skidding, and flooding occurs after bouts of heavy rain. **No built up area would think unlikely**
- On the Southern approach to Charlton along Yessell Lane and Canada Bank, the road runs downhill sharply at the point where the existing 30MPH sign is located, making it difficult for drivers to reduce their speed from the 60MPH National Speed Limit as they enter the village – move the 30MPH speed limit signs c.75 metres South from Canada Bank onto Yessell Lane to coincide with the existing village gateways. ***I think in view of short length this should be done***

- The National speed limit of 60MPH along the entire length of Haselor Lane is inappropriate, as the road width is mainly <5.5 metres and there are many residential and farm properties with access / exits directly onto the road, often hidden by blind bends in the road. In neighbouring Warwickshire, a similar road would have a 50MPH limit at most. In addition, consideration should be given to further reducing the limit for c.300 metres either side of the entrance to Haselor Farm due to poor visibility around the bend, poor road surface and frequent pooling of water following heavy rain. **Not a built up area but will press**
- Consideration should also be given to implementing a weight limit of 7.5 tonnes MGW to stop heavy goods vehicles using Haselor Lane as a cut through to avoid traffic congestion on the A46. **Done before will ask again**

COSTS - Based on the number of requests which are many times more than Fladbury (Road markings = £3658.58) the costs are estimated at 16k – I have 2k in my budget, highways may add 2-3k. If the parish had to prioritise?