

Charlton Cllr ELIZABETH EYRE COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT September 2021

County Issues

Worcestershire Children First - Her Majesty's Inspectors for Ofsted visited Worcestershire County Council children's services last month to review the quality of practice at the Family Front Door (FFD). Headline findings said the local authority had made strong progress in improving the quality of practice for children and families in receipt of services since the last inspection in June 2019. Leaders have established a positive culture of commitment to continuous improvement across this service area, supported by particularly strong quality assurance arrangements. The early help partnership is now well engaged in the delivery of services, and most schools in Worcestershire have an early help offer, bespoke to the needs of their community.

Covid: cases in Worcestershire are increasing. The Worcestershire rate stands at 266 cases per 100,000. The equivalent England rate is 321, West Midlands rate stands at 319 per 100,000. Individuals testing positive is 7.8% overall in Worcestershire.

Here2Help Worcestershire continues to support individuals and is pro-actively working with individuals who have been asked to self-isolate; self-isolation is increasing demand.

Schools Planning support is being provided to schools for school testing for pupils. On the last day of term, there were 186 outbreaks in 80 schools with 105 collapsed bubbles, 7135 affected overall, 527 staff, 6602 pupils. 99.3% of schools in Worcestershire were open compared to the national rate of 98.5%. Attendance was 71.6% currently with a national average at 75.2%. WCC is working with Worcestershire Children First, as home-to-school transport is resuming following schools reopening.

Local Issues

Minerals Local Plan

1. 'Planning permission will be granted' wording versus 'planning permission will be supported' wording was debated during the examination hearing sessions, Inspectors made their position clear in the hearings. "planning permission will be granted" is followed in each policy by the tests which need to be met. The Plan is to be read as a whole and within the context of planning law. This means that decision-makers will give appropriate weight to each policy and other material considerations at the time of each planning application. In their view, the suggested change of phrase would be beyond what could be an Additional Modification. The original wording was not "unsound" if any party were to submit additional evidence or legal interpretation as to why the phrase IS unsound, they would consider it.
2. Inspectors' Report procedure: the last stage in the examination procedure Consultation on the Main Modifications. The Inspectors could consider any representations made in response to that consultation. They could choose to hold further hearing sessions if significant issues are raised, before issuing their report. Once their final report is received, it will be put to Cabinet and Full Council for a decision as to whether to adopt the plan. The Worcestershire Minerals Local Plan Main Modifications consultation was withdrawn for technical document reasons but has now been restarted, with a deadline of 12 October.

Broadband – Airband oversight hopefully dealt with, only a few projects have had vouchers issued and DCMSs sign off. DCMS won't all be caught back up with the backlog until the end of September – you I think submitted 10 mths ago? I have significantly lobbied the MP.

Highway maintenance and speeding issues – Not sure BB has set up KH meeting yet?

Yessell Lane Sewer update: company that is carrying out a sewer connection to the caravan park has incorrect signage and traffic management, so the County Council stepped in. Delayed to September. When advised will remind.

- Access is needed for residents of both Yessell and Boston Lanes.
- access is always needed for a farmer (Mike Wood), Orchard Farm, who has fields all along Yessell Lane that need feeding, etc daily involving several tractor movements each day.

Route for pipe is Severn Trent issue. Parish Council would have to take up with Severn Trent. **Have asked why were others not asked to connect?** Have asked about capacity, the bubbling over brook lane – awaiting a response from ST

Caravan park and a different route for the bridleway – need more information before I go to the ROW team?

Hampton to Pershore Cycleway: working with the active travel officer Wychavon and Cabinet Member WCC and Emily Barker who is looking into the history and Tina McLaughlin who is working on Evesham Local Cycling and Walking Plan, which will go out to public consultation in October. Questions I have asked are:

1. Where all the cycling S106 monies from Hampton and Pershore went, over say the last 4 years.
2. Why there were several feasibility studies '93 onwards but no planned implementation.
3. If the small area in Fladbury (start of Porter's path coming from Station Road) which is not wide enough to meet Sustrans requirement for a horse/man/walking and cycle to progress in line, can be overcome by a flexible approach.
4. When might the parishes learn of the date when this project may start, and finish given the S106 monies and LTP4 hooks for this cycle route?

Footway, B4084 to Hampton - siding out Hampton to Cropthorne

Request for grass to be strimmed until a proper assessment can be carried out in respect of resurfacing
Query 49: Response the grass cutting for B-class roads will follow on from the A-class roads. The date for this has not yet been given.

I have asked that the Cabinet Member come and see this site for himself.

1. Requested siding out
2. Trying to get better policy and budget to improve footways next to A and B roads.

Background facts for Parish Councillors

BB 24th June: machine for siding out work, was not suitable. Footway needs to be in quite a good condition for siding out work to be completed. B4084 is not suitable for siding out due to its condition and would benefit from reconstruction. There are five advisories raised at various points Engineers have not allocated resources so far. Note also from **Head of Highways RB - 24/6**

- core maintenance budget is used for all footways, including those adjacent to A roads.
- programmed work is very much based on our asset management data and hierarchy of needs (footway usage, including vulnerable users).
- siding out budget whole county circa £200k per annum
- work is usually carried out during the warmer summer months.
- Before committing to this work, we need to assess the area and carry out trial holes to understand the footway condition.
- Siding out in rural areas can often reveal a very old, damaged footway and what we don't want to do is to create a safety issue.
- Siding out is principally cost-effective, but there are also the traffic management costs and tipping charges to bear in mind, significantly increasing the cost of work.
- An advisory was raised on the footway along the B4084 following your enquiry and those from two residents.

- WCC will shortly assess this area, carry out the required trial holes and obtain an indicative cost for the works.
- stretch is about 2700 metres and there will inevitably be some sections that will require resurfacing and thus increase the cost.

Questions for the Parish

- A. Does the parish have an area it wishes to prioritise?**
- B. Does Parish have funds to put to the project if so, how much?**

Haselor Lane Weight limit: Based on the data, Heavy goods vehicles (HGVs) accounted for 1.29% of total traffic. (HGVs are those vehicles over 7.5 tonnes). County Council policy for the consideration of weight limits is that HGV traffic must make up at least 5%+ of total traffic as this figure potentially indicates a significant ‘rat running’ issue. The average daily volume of vehicles using Haselor Lane was 1858. As a comparison, the average daily volume on ‘C’ classified roads in Worcestershire is 2829. **Based on the results a weight limit would not be considered appropriate.**

Automated traffic count 21-28 June 2021. Average daily data:

	Total Volume	HGVs	Mean Speed
Northbound	1066	13	47.8mph
Southbound	792	11	45.5mph
Total	1858	24 (1.29%)	-

Canada Bank road bridge Clearing grit under the bridge – WCC262 riparian owner WCC – to clarify? From report dated 7th December 2012 Worcestershire County Council is responsible for the areas under the road bridges and over the last few weeks they have cleared silt from under the Canada Bank and Brook Lane bridges. This is essential so that water flow is maximised in a flood event. Sussex CC also has an interesting document available at [https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/media/1984/riparian_owners - faqs.pdf](https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/media/1984/riparian_owners_-_faq.pdf) which confirms our view re CC responsibility for the culverts under the bridge. I quote “most pipes or culverts beneath the highway and of the bridges over watercourses are the responsibility of the County Council”

Wall of church Ryden Lane – WCC 107 - Dovecote Footway joining up with the one outside the Church some years ago was not acceptable to WCC. They can only fit full-width footways and to do so would leave the road too narrow. I understand the issue of cars parking, the narrows road, especially when nurseys running and children leaning against the wall, and picking mortar out of the heritage wall, and parents car doors hitting the wall. To protect heritage assets (which is a DOT reason for yellow lines) can I asked if Charlton could have yellow lines along this small area of the wall. KH has visited the site and it appears a little more complex than first thought. He is arranging a visit with me. I would like to organise a visit for 3.30 on 6th October. I would ask Roger and Sue to join us. I am going to ask KH which date suits him.

Footways

Footway between Ryden Lane and The Dovecote WCC 259 incl. the crescent shape. Tree roots also causing damage to the road and footway on part of this. Remainder footway also requires replacement. Ryden Lane from the above path to the Dovecote to the road “The Dovecote” Includes an area affected by tree roots that WCC will be attending to. The whole footway in this area requires repair best done when tree root repairs one. Given these areas are in the vicinity of the areas where the tree root work needs to be undertaken in Ryden Lane it would make sense if it was done at the same time.

Footway from Yew Tree Cottage, on The Green to Cemetery – WCC 260/261 advisory and BB is now investigating whether to make the insurance claim. This is a very long stretch and mentioning the insurance claim seems both sides are suggested. I think the parish will have to narrow down to the area most needed. Await BB's view