

Charlton Cllr ELIZABETH EYRE COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT July 2022

Funding for community projects – please inform your community groups WORCESTERSHIRE County Council hosted 28th June, ahead of Crowdfund Worcestershire launching its largest round of funding an event for potential project creators and funders. The County Council, along with Malvern Hills and Wychavon district councils, has partnered with crowdfunding platform Spacehive to create Crowdfund Worcestershire which gives organisations who have ideas to improve their community, the opportunity to gain much-needed funding. So far, Worcestershire County Council has backed 24 successful projects on Spacehive with £97,000. These community groups raised an additional £258,000 from thousands of backers across the county. The County Council has allocated a dedicated fund of £92,000 to encourage local groups to put forward their ideas, with pledges of up to £10,000 available per project. **The deadline to submit an idea for the next round of funding is 28 September.**

Anyone is welcome to crowdfund on Spacehive, but to pitch for additional funding from the county council, projects should fit one or more of the following themes:

Food and fuel poverty

Social isolation and befriending

Supporting people into employment

Community capacity building e.g. recruiting volunteers, start-up costs for groups, pilot activities etc

Healthy Communities – activities to improve the health and wellbeing of the local community

Commonwealth Games 22nd July 2022 - of interest to your residents especially given the baton goes through Pershore

In the build-up to Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games, the Queens Baton Relay (QBR), like the Olympic Torch Relay, will be passing through Wychavon on Friday 22nd July, both Broadway and Pershore. This will include:

- Baton Relay through Broadway High Street (WR12 7AA)

- Community celebration event at Broadway Tower (WR12 7LB)
- Another Baton Relay through Pershore Town Centre (WR10 1DS)

For both the Broadway and Pershore relays, where Baton bearers carry the Baton on foot, WCC will require road closures on the day. The road closures will be organised and staffed by a traffic management company (Beaumont) on the day.

1: Broadway High Street – Baton Relay from 1:05 to 1:15 pm

4 Baton bearers to take turns carrying the Queen's Baton from Station Road (Cheltenham Rd Junction) to the roundabout on the High Street. There will also be a street entertainer (stilt walkers) entertaining the crowds plus face painting and circus skills on the Village Green.

- Roads Closed 12:59 – 13:15*
- Entertainment from 11:00 until 15:00

2: Broadway Tower - Community Celebration Event.

The event will start with Baton Relay from the car park to the tower. The Baton will be then placed on the plinth in front of the Tower entrance for 20 mins for speeches from Nigel Huddleston MP and our Chairman, music, and Baton photo opportunity, followed by another Baton Relay back to the car park. Entertainment will include Smoothie Bike, face painting and another photo opportunity on a giant deck (supplied by the Army).

- QBR in attendance 13:24 -13:49
- Entertainment from 11:30 – 15:30

We estimate the attendance in the area will be:

1. Broadway High Street between 1,500 & 3,000
2. Broadway Tower 100 / 200

Based on previous experience with the Olympic Torch Relay, the crowds will peak just before the convoy/baton arrives but as soon as it passes, most people will naturally disappear.

There will be no parking/waiting restrictions in place in Pershore and possibly Broadway. To help enforce this, we are looking to have traffic wardens stationed in each area.

Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) - The County's recent ambitious bid to the UK Government for an £86m investment into the network in Worcestershire was not funded others were funded to the tune of £87.9m but Worcestershire's plan was awarded £0.

Our network urgently requires such investment. Diamond Buses, First Bus and Johnsons etc all are finding it challenging running bus services. The situation is bleak, and with funding to offset the impact of COVID-19 coming to an end the network is at risk of reverting to a reliance on the commercial viability of routes to ensure their survival unless alternative funding can be located.

The Department for Transport made it clear they want to see Enhanced Partnerships (EP) as defined in the Bus Services Act 2017 as a key feature within how bus services are managed across England. Outside of London and other metropolitan mayoral authorities, franchising remains an option and that has led to the vibrant Transport for West Midlands brand which benefits from significantly higher demand for bus travel with over 248m passengers in the 2019/20 period. COVID-19 may have abated but it still impacts passenger confidence to travel on buses remains, with just 50% of concessionary pass holders using the buses compared to pre-pandemic levels.

The County Council continues to fully review the network and report again to the Department for Transport by 1 July, work with current operators, explore the result of the Bromsgrove Demand Responsive Transport (DRT) trial to ascertain if this is a viable model for rolling out across Worcestershire, and establish an Enhanced Partnership with our operators but the tools at the County Council's disposal are limited as demand is either low or not in a form to fit how bus services

traditionally work. I have asked to sit on a **Bus Travel Task Force for Worcestershire** which will travel around the county, hosted by each constituency Member of Parliament or a substitute, to work closely with all the key partners to hear about the challenges and opportunities and to help us to forge new solutions and ideas for both my division and further afield. Again, I am committed to doing all I can to try and find new solutions for my division.

I am in favour of 1. Lift Share – a system which is technology focussed, links residents to an app, buddies those with transport with transport needs. 2. Car share allowing residents to “Book a car” located locally without having to own a car, 3. Moped usage for YP to get to College, 4. More usage of the Pershore Volunteer Centre’s provision for shopping, hospital appointment service, and 5. a small mini-bus service, providing the catchment area is sustainable, using volunteer drivers. A word of caution usually the parking area for the minibus can be found, insurance and the funding to buy a minibus is achievable through partnership working between parishes, local schools, care homes, private SEND operations, playschools, local businesses and churches , one of the challenges, as Pershore Volunteer Centre know too well, is finding volunteer drivers. **I urge this council to join forces with its neighbouring Councils to these ends.**

A46 - A six-mile stretch of the road between Evesham and Beckford has seen nine deaths and almost 50 accidents in the last five years. Local villages and I have lobbied National Highways for the section from Hinton Cross to the Teddington roundabout, to be improved e.g. the addition of speed indicator signs, improved alignment of white lining, small road changes (57 in all) have taken place, hence the number of road closures on the A46 and diversion routes.

More significant changes: the new super VAS at Hinton Cross (linking the movement of vehicles exiting from the Hinton Road to inform vehicles travelling from Evesham to Cheltenham), a suggested reduction of speed limit to 50mph at Hinton Cross, and a left turning lane for those exiting on the Elmley Castle road are not likely, due to legislation, consultation, further research into the accidents by the police to come forward until end of this year/early next year.

You will have read, in addition, of June 14 a 20-year vision to “future-proof” the busy A46, cut congestion and reduce the number of serious accidents, was revealed by the Government transport body Midlands Connect. Congestion in Evesham

has previously been highlighted by Midland Connect as a major issue that was having a “detrimental impact” on the town and acting as a “hindrance to growth.” Improvements will be made to ease congestion around the A46/B4035 roundabout in Evesham as part of a multi-million-pound bid in ‘levelling up’ money to the government by Wychavon District Council. Midlands Connect said the improvements to the 155-mile route between Gloucestershire and Lincolnshire would boost the economy by more than £7 billion over the next 60 years. As many as 600,000 new residents, 150,000 new jobs and 250,000 new homes are expected along the route by 2041. **I just underline this is a 20-year vision nothing is in the RIS**

The new bridge linking Hampton to Evesham town centre project, to boost walking and cycling, is moving forward. The planning application to build the new bridge over the River Avon has been submitted and papers are now published on the council's planning web page.

Defibrillators and CPR training – please ensure your defibs are registered on [heartsafe.org](https://www.heartsafe.org) and be aware of the CPR training from St John’s Ambulance, Red Cross and your local first responder – please continue to add and promote.

Local Charlton Matters

Flooding resilience –gravels either side of under bridge – Parish

. **under the bridge – WCC 262:** The County is only responsible for removing silt from the section of the stream directly under the bridge, not the upstream. Following, the Nov visit of WCC engineer suggest you ask BB to push again for WCC to talk to the EA about consent to reprofile under the Bridge

Emerging minerals Local Plan went though WCC full council today – I made the point re bias in favour of the developer on your behalf but stil voted for it as it is important Worcestershire is not at risk by not having a plan.

Broadband – awaiting an update from Robert but did not come through today

Bight - Water leaking on road after new house changes, in cold weather ice 20mm thick, Visit by Barry and Richard Cerci – chasing next steps Blocked drains raised as advisory **1163**

Haselor Lane Accident – police matter but checked by Barry and Kieran for learning and damage

B4084 accident – awaiting further information

772 : Chalton Canada Bank Debris is this cleared

1159/60 – Charlton Road /Hollies - The road surface is breaking up and the residue is being washed into the drains when it rains – advisory raised in March

1161 – long pothole road edge? not sure where and if Charlton Evesham?

Yew Tree Cottage on the Green to Cemetery why did WCC not claim for damage as across road and work needs doing. Advisory Aug 2018. Barry has found out that a request to try and claim damages was raised but abandoned through lack of information. Driver or vehicle details not supplied? RD has supplied information. WCC may be too late? If the claim cannot be pursued, then the repair will have to be paid for by WCC. Can WCC follow up on the claim if not what is the timescale for repair. Have a suggestion re this issue.

New Footway discussion – Dovecote to the Church – member enquiry #107 and 474

Dovecote Footway joining up with the footway outside the Church some years ago was not acceptable to WCC as they could only fit full-width footways and to do so would leave the road too narrow. Car's parking, car doors hitting the wall, the narrowness of the road are all issues. KH visited the site 7/10 listed wall between the Dovecote and the Church. There appears to be a missing old verge, now worn away. Parish Chairman and residents discussed with KH. Chasing Monday.

Request to Highways

- Who does verge belong to?
- Can there be a betterment of the verge either as a footway to the same width as the existing verge or with grass and appropriate reflective posts?

BB 31/12/2021 I've spoken with Kieran Hemstock who informs me that consideration was being given to parking restrictions at this location. These were not fully supported or desired. A suggestion of bollards was also not supported. I've raised a service request with the TIC Team to survey the possibility of a short section of a new footway from The Dovecote to the church. They will survey MARCH 2022 Service request number 1175296

Footway and road Maintenance - Tree roots also causing damage to the road and footway in 3 areas

- **The Dovecote**
- **Footway between Ryden Lane and The Dovecote** WCC 259 incl. the crescent shape.
- **Footway from Yew Tree Cottage, on The Green to Cemetery**

BB has been in contact with the WCC Footway Team who are beginning to list footway and siding out works for the future.

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.

The footway team has prepared a plan for footway resurfacing at The Green which will include the section near Ryden Lane that has been affected by tree roots. As soon as he has a quote, he will let us know.

Footway, B4084, siding out Hampton to Brook Lane about 2700 metres. Member enquiry # 49 Two sections being done from Pull in Crophorne to wards Hampton and Fromm Hampton towards Crophorne – this May

Haselor Lane Weight limit request not supported: Based on the data a weight limit would not be considered appropriate.