

## **Charlton Cllr ELIZABETH EYRE COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT July 2023**

**National Backdrop:** High levels of inflation, tight labour market throughout the Council affecting services, stronger push to spend council money in Worcestershire, and more apprenticeships than ever.

### **County Council Report**

A reminder there is a household support fund for those in need. Please point residents to Here to Help or Worcestershire County Council or Wychavon District Council websites at such a time, and help those who are not so computer literate. knowledge.

**A46 improvement at Hinton Cross,** The initial change to 40mph worked well – there have been a couple of accidents recently, ascertaining the reasons. Closure 19<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> July, 21.00 – 6.00 am, From Teddington hands rbt to Fairfield Rbt. The start and end points represent the soft closure as access will be allowed to frontages. The hard closure points where no through traffic will be permitted are Easting 398227, Northing 235350, and Easting 398406, Northing 235432. Carry out technology installation on 10m high masts utilising a MEWP. The existing lane width is not wide enough to deploy the MEWP safely. Escort vehicles will be deployed to ensure vulnerable residents are catered for. Access will be maintained for emergency vehicles. None through traffic to be diverted South bound none through traffic will be diverted via the A44 - B4632 - B4077. Northbound none-through traffic will be diverted via the B4077 - B4632 - A44

**Severn Trent's replacement of the mains** from Salters Lane, Fladbury down to Greenhill continues.

**Corporate Plan 2022 – 2027** - 4 pillars: Open for Business, Children and Families, Children and Families, Environment and Health and Well Being is now on the website. We are continuing to invest in digital and physical infrastructure. Worcester Parkway and Kidderminster have been delivered. We are working with partners to deliver the Worcestershire Growth Plan 2020-2040. Worcestershire Growth Hub is supporting local businesses. The Game changer investments are Malvern Hills Science Park, a Worcester – a new

Vision for Shrub Hill, and Redditch Gateway – a new station at Redditch, and investment in the railway quarter.

The UK Shared Prosperity Fund replaces EU funding streams. Since 2019 800 businesses have had access to £10m funding.

Since 2019 Here to Help has helped 700 enquiries, and helped 180 businesses. It aims to create 500 jobs, and 55 graduate placements. The programme also supports Connecting Schools, Visit Worcestershire our DMO now operated by WCC, the one Worcestershire Brand, 93.3% of Worcestershire is broadband-connected, and Infrastructure has been taken up by 81% of residents

**Environment:** we have re-surfaced 400 yards of footway 250 footways will be done by 2024. Practical and financial support has been given to the EA for the Bewdley, Severn Stoke, Tenbury, Toronto Close in Worcester Main River flood alleviation schemes. We support Rights of Way, signs, footpaths, footbridges, and signs, have a climate emergency Net Zero plan, and LEP Energy Strategy, are looking at demand management transport systems, Securing £20m from Europe for our businesses, have completed a Worcestershire's Habitat Inventory, and are providing evidence for the Local Nature Recovery Strategies and Biodiversity Offsetting. We are making progress in planting 150,000 trees over 5 years.

**Children and Young People:** The Independent Review of Children's Social Care endorses the approach of WCF, their Business Plan 23/24 has been endorsed. WCF has a co-ordinating role with Police, Health, and Schools. The number of children in care is 1001 in April 2023. Those on a Child protection plan 555. Referrals remain high. Social Care staff stability data shows 86% for workers and 96% for managers. Our KPIs show improvement in Social Care is steady. Of the past weaknesses in the area of SEND 8/12 has made sufficient progress, more to do. In the area of schools, 14,700 applications were made last academic year; High schools =6,200 places 89% first choice, 5% second choice, Middle Schools - 2474 places 96% first and second place, Primary Schools – 6,100 places 91% first choice. We have secured funds for a new secondary school and a new autism spectrum school in Malvern.

**Health and Wellbeing:** Public Health is part of WCC, you can find the Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2022-2032 on the website. Community Safety has been delivering against new duties commissioning domestic abuse and drug and alcohol services. There is a new Protect Duty in response to the Manchester Arena bombing. Trading Standards is tackling fraud and scams, illegal sales, removing unsafe products, and animal health. We have increased the front-line adult social care workforce which supports the re-enablement and rehabilitation of adults following a stay in hospital, with 24hr wrap-around for 4 days. We are continuing to roll out assistive technology to support older people in their own homes.

**Severn Trent's replacement of the mains on going** from Salters Lane, Fladbury down to Greenhill over the next 2 years until 2025.

**Avon Pollution** EA I am told has passed more data on how information on how to read the data to the monitoring resident group

**Minerals Plan** - Not known if the will refusal at Lea Castle, Wyre Forest, and appeal dismissal put pressure on the Evesham Strategic Corridor.

**WCC Planning** The County Council is responsible for the processing and determination of planning applications for:

- minerals developments
- waste management facilities
- Its developments; such as schools, roads and railway stations.

Worcestershire County Council, as the County Planning Authority, are reviewing their Planning Validation Document which tells applicants and agents what information they are required to submit with a planning application form.

**Is there sufficient in the section on Mineral resource assessment to cover the balance with environmental and social impact?**

**Local Charlton Matters**

**Enquiry 259** Tree root problem Strand/ Green excl Ryden Lane, work did not happen in October 2022. On the very difficult list, trees TPO, BB to contact G Poole.

**Enquiry 262 - Build up under the bridge** BB sent photos to Drainage Team who advised it was not at a safety issue level at present, so no works were required. They will monitor through routine inspections

**Openreach** Broadband vouchers – completion end of Summer?

**Enquiry 773 Charlton Cemetery Bridge to Jubilee Bridge - road cracking, barriers. DEC 2021** - still on the list for the edge of carriageway repairs. WCC only completes this type of repair during certain times of the year. We are also now looking into land ownership of the adjacent verge as this is the main cause.

**Enquiry 776 Yew Tree Cottage on the Green to Cemetery** –. I understand this work is now programmed in BB to check when on the schedule. Money from B4084 footway work reassigned.

**Enquiry 777/1163 March 2022 The Bight** Water leaking on the road. Wychavon investigated, a French drain installed by private landowner cant be pursued by WDC but can be by WCC under the Highways Act. BB traced the land registry and wrote to the owners of the land requesting they take action to prevent water from draining onto the highway. Four plans showing The Bight through each epoch have been checked. 1846 – 1901 shows four wells. 1888 – 1915 and 1900 – 1949 both show seven wells. No springs are denoted and no drainage channels or pond. Request to our Drainage Team for any works that would stop water draining onto the highway. BB chasing to see if jetting has been done. If not a date.

**Footway, B4084, siding out Hampton to Brook Lane about 2700 metres.**  
Canceled request Enquiry 776 to take precedence