

County Issues

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Worcestershire spends about three-quarters of its revenue budget on support for adults and children, with demand and costs rising in both sectors. The County Councils Network (CCN), which represents 37 local authorities, said adult social care, children's services and home-to-school transport account for 83 per cent of the total increase in costs councils will face by 2030. The CCN believes unless a £54bn funding black hole is filled, councils will be able to provide "little more than care services" within a few years. I don't think many people realise the high proportion of spending that goes on adult and children's services. WCC forecasts an overspend for 2024/25 of £14.2m at the end of June on its £433.1m net budget. Despite addressing the structural deficit (£35 million) in the 2024/25 budget, this financial year continues to be a challenging time for local government and the county council is no exception. I also attach a breakdown of how the budget affects the local authority pension funds and services.

Active Travel Worcestershire County Council's commitment to improving provision for those who walk, wheel, and cycle in the county has been recognised in Active Travel England's latest capability ratings published September 5, showing that WCC has improved to level one which will enable it to bid for more Government funding going forwards, to help achieve active travel improvements across the county.

Worcestershire County Council's Streetscape Design Guide aims to set a new standard for highway design in the county, reflecting the latest Government policies and guidelines.

The guide has opened for public engagement, inviting residents, developers, planners, and local stakeholders to help shape the future of the region's streets after it was approved at a cabinet meeting last Thursday (October 24). It introduces a comprehensive toolkit that can be used by everyone involved in shaping the streetscape, whether a developer, planner, or local resident. The goal is to ensure that streets are designed to be green, clean, accessible, and sustainable.

The engagement period for the draft Streetscape Design Guide is scheduled runs from November 4, 2024, to January 27, 2025, offering an opportunity for the community to contribute their thoughts and ideas. Councillor Marc Bayliss, Worcestershire County Council's Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport emphasised the importance of community involvement in this process.

Outstanding issues

Silt before and after and under Bridge

Concern from Torr House, WR10 3 LJ, adjacent to the brook re-flooding garden and house.

Build-up of silt/debris at the entrance and exit of the culverts and under the bridge.

Under the bridge appears to be the responsibility of the WCC Structures Team. This is the only area the County is responsible for not the upstream. WCC needs EA consent to reprofile under the Bridge. No reprofiling appears to have taken place. How far the parish wishes to go to obtain a depth and flow not clarified. The cost would need to be met by landowners.

Either side appears to be with the Parish.

Smells Boston Lane – difficult unacceptable issue for some residents – 6 known.

- Not regulatory Services
- Not EA
- Severn Trent came out on Monday 16 September - Job 20066716766 –note this is a private system matter.
- As it was also a dry weather problem it does not seem to be a highway gully issue.
- Liaising with Evesham Caravan Park hope to set up a meeting.

Drainage Report - Reference #57260 CANADA BANK blocked gully(under yellow bush - photo) reported 15 July 2024 . WCC aware of the issue at this location and there are issues with roots in the piping which requires a specialised unit to remove. The location is on the list for the unit to attend and clear the roots. Need to check no confusion with the Dovecote area.

Enquiry 259 BB's response to Clerk re footway refurbishment 11/10/24 BB's response *attended here with Engineers from our Depot. A possible plan for remedial works has been put forward but there is still concern regarding the tree roots.* Work will not disturb roots – levelling – so may need doing in a year or three

Enquiry 773 Crophorne /Charlton Cemetery Bridge to Jubilee Bridge - road cracking.

- structures job that needs doing.
- cost 250-400k will be programmed in for 2025. It is a big job and Jacobs; a sub-contractor will need to be called in.
- This month when the vegetation has died back the council will visit to plan gabion baskets in the interim.
- I have asked meanwhile for a white line to be painted along the area to encourage drivers to keep away from the edge and notified EVG.

There was a suggestion of temporary lights for two years which I think none of my three villages would have welcomed.

Enquiry 777/1163 March 2022 The Bight Water leaking on the road. Wychavon investigated, awaiting an update from Mark Morris WDC.

Traffic Monitoring Survey on Haselor Lane: We've had data taken in Haselor Lane at the same location as 2021.

The speed data is pretty much the same. Please see the table below:

| | Mean speeds (mph) | 85 th Percentile Speeds (mph) |
|------|-------------------|------------------------------------------|
| 2021 | 46 & 48 | 54 & 55 |
| 2024 | 45 & 47 | 54 & 55 |

The average daily traffic volume has increased from 1858 to 2022. However, these results may have something to do with the temporary works/closure on the B4084 in Evesham. Either way, the volume data does not highlight excessive use. For comparison, the average daily traffic volume on a C-class road in Worcestershire is around 3000 vehicles.

Bridge accessed from Haselor Lane PUBLIC NOTICE Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (As Amended) (Footpath CN-520 Charlton and EV-579 Evesham) (Temporary Closure Order) 2024

The order was made to close Footpath CN-520 Charlton and EV-579 Evesham between Grid Ref: 401632, 242603 and 401896, 242443.- unsafe bridge.

Exemptions: to permit access to any land or premises having a frontage to the highway affected where there is no other form of access; and to allow the necessary works to be undertaken.

Alternative route: South on footpath Charlton CN-517, north-east on Charlton CN-522, north-east then northerly on Evesham EV-577 and vice versa.

The proposed Order will continue in force for a period not exceeding 6 months or until the works which it is proposed to be carried out have been completed, whichever is earlier.

However, it is anticipated that the Order will only be operative for 6 months commencing on 22 January 2024.

The Hedges on Canada Bank BB has requested a hard cut back 11/10 by Green.

The gully at the bottom of Canada Bank with the tree roots still needs attention – Response BB to clerk 11/10/24 We have three defective gullies at the location. There's this one and a further gully and catch pit near Cherry Orchard. They are on the system but not scheduled yet.