

County Councillor Report- South Littleton

Month April 2024

Produced by Alastair Adams

Littletons Division, Worcestershire County Council covering Pebworth (including Meon Way Gardens), Honeybourne, Badsey, Bretforton, Offenham, Cleeve Prior, South Littleton, North & Middle Littleton, Ullington, Bickmarsh and Broad Marston)

This is the time of road maintenance when roads are patched, surface dressed and re-lined. This regular maintenance keeps our roads in good condition and lengthens the life of the road. However, as I warn every year, it will mean some roads are temporarily closed (usually only for a day at a time), so there will be some disruption. So please check one.network to see the road works in your area and please allow a few more extra minutes for your journeys.

Also please drive slowly and considerately when driving down roads that have been recently surface dressed with new stones – the recommended speed limit on these newly laid surfaces is 20mph

County Council Budget 2024/25

The County Council finalised the 2024/25 Budget on 15th February at Full Council, and you should all have received your council tax notice which shows where the money is going between the 5 public bodies; Pebworth Parish Council, Wychavon District Council, Worcestershire County Council, West Mercia Police, and the Hereford & Worcester Fire & Rescue Service.

Your Worcestershire County Council proportion of the council tax has increased by 4.99% (2% ring-fenced for adult social care and 2.99% to deal with all the other services). As mentioned last month there has been a large increase in pressures from Children and Adult services. For example, the home to school transport has increased by nearly £10m in the last 12 months due to the increase in the number of children with Special Educational Needs, and many of them requiring transport to schools outside of the county. Also the number of children in care has increased from 440 to over 1000 in the last 10 years, and the annual cost is nearly £100million.

Even with the 4.99% increase in council tax, the Council still needs to save over £20million over the next 12 months so there will be some staff re-organisation, but the aim is not to effect front line services. The Council's investment in roads and pavements will continue at the same high level as previous years to keep them some of the best in the UK.

Boundary Commission Review

The Boundary Commission has announced for consultation their recommendations for changes to the County Councillor Divisional Areas with the aim that each elected member should have about 8600 residents. At the moment I have one of the largest Divisions with over 9500 residents which is forecast to grow to 10,500 by 2029. So they are proposing to take Badsey off my area and pass it to Broadway Division.

To read more see <https://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/worcestershire>

Flooding

There has been a huge volume of rain in the first quarter of this year, and some road flooding has occurred. However the large number of flood alleviation schemes built by Worcestershire County Council over the last 5 years have proven to be beneficial and even the hot spots of Honeybourne were kept open to traffic.

For example, on the 3rd/4th April, the flood plain upstream in Honeybourne before the Gate Pub was totally full of water. The flood plain was holding back 20,000+ gallons of water. If this flood plain had not been built, I estimate the Gate pub would have been 5ft under water and a lot worse than 14th November 2019 when the Gate junction looked like this

Also this flood plain is holding back water that would have gone through South Meadows, so must be helping South Littleton too.



Highways:

Please check <https://one.network/> to see all the temporary road closures and temporary traffic lights on a regular basis. It is the start of the annual road maintenance and surface dressing to keep our roads in Worcestershire as some of the best in the country. The roads with potholes around here are mostly in Warwickshire or Gloucestershire! So please do check the <https://one.network/> regularly

1. **I visited South Meadows Estate on 4th April to check on the flooding as we had so much rain overnight, and the water level in the Gate Inn brook was very high but was flowing well. The work done last year to clear the brook must have helped.** However I did notice the tree had fallen over as the brook exited the estate under the bridge on Withy Trees Rd; can the Parish Council contact the landowner to remove the tree?
2. **Mud and debris along the kerb of Shinehill Lane/Sheenhill Rd .** Road sweeping has been requested.
3. **Welford Bridge Open – Hooray!**
4. Can I remind everyone to try and keep the road gullies outside their houses free of debris so the drains work effectively. Simply remove any leaves or mud with a brush or spade or even with your wellie! By doing this one minute task, it will help minimise road flooding. Thank you.

As always, if you have any issues on any Highways matters, please report it on the WCC website

http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/homepage/98/report_it

Also remember a photo of the Highways problem is as good as “a thousand words” so always take a photo where possible.

County Council Divisional Fund

New applications for the Divisional Fund are now invited for the 2024/25 fund from local community organisations that are manned by volunteers and require a little help to buy equipment or services. To apply, please contact me on adams.pebworth@gmail.com

The following grants were paid out last year 2023/24:-

1. Honeybourne Village Hall – grant to help provide a Senior Citizen lunch for the Coronation
2. Honeybourne School – grant to help build a “Growing Hope” garden
3. Honeybourne Bowls Club – grant for a contribution towards a new mat
4. Cleeve Prior Heritage Trust – grant for new tables
5. Pebworth Bells – grant to help improve their Website
6. Freedom Day Centre – grant for a defibrillator
7. Cleeve Prior Art Club – grant for portrait training
8. Coffee Mornings in Pebworth Village Hall – grant requested for soup kettle and hall hire
9. Offenham Cricket club – grant towards an artificial wicket for training
10. Honey Tots Playgroup, Honeybourne – grant requested for some play equipment
11. Badsey Film Club – grant requested for a new projector
12. Cleeve Prior Heritage Trust- grant for laptop
13. Honeybourne Public rights of way volunteer group – grant for a strimmer
14. Vale Landscape Heritage Trust – grant for some tools
15. Bretforton Village School – grant requested for some music equipment.
16. Cleeve Prior Community Pub & Hub – grant for website and marketing
17. Honeybourne Village Fete –funding of the toilets for the fete
18. Honeybourne Primary School – 210 new fluorescent jackets for the children



The 'Fatal Four' and the impact they have on crashes

Last year, across our police force area, 56 people lost their lives in collisions and 468 people suffered serious injuries. Common causation factors in road traffic collisions - known as the 'fatal four' - include:

- Speeding or inappropriate speed
- Distractions, such as mobile phone
- Driving under the influence of drink or drugs
- Not wearing a seatbelt.

Enforcing the law around these issues takes place 24/7.

Throughout April, the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) will be focusing on their 'Fatal Four' operation. The national operation will recognise the significant contributory factor these issues have in road traffic collisions and will highlight the work that we do every day to tackle these.

For more info, visit: <https://www.westmercia.police.uk/news/west-mercia/news/2024/april/the-fatal-four-and-the-impact-they-have-on-crashes/>

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