

## 'Three Crowns' Island



David would like to thank the numerous residents who have contacted him in support of the campaign to improve the traffic island at the Three Crowns junction. Many of the residents have told of their own experiences of "near misses" or

have seen minor bumps between vehicles. David is working with the Highways team at County to look at a range of possible solutions that can be brought forward to bid for funding.

David continues to work with County Highways for solutions to improve the traffic island

## Council Opposes Government Housing Targets

At the recent meeting of the Cabinet at the District Council, David and other members of the Cabinet spoke out at the Government's plans to increase the housing target. **Under the current Local Plan the agreed figure for houses is 276 per**

**year, the proposed reforms by the government of the Planning laws would see that increase to 617 houses per year.**

The Conservative administration strongly opposes this plan as it would mean areas of

the Green Belt would need to be released for development. There is not sufficient brownfield development sites in the district to accommodate that huge increase in the target.

## St Catherine's Primary School

David is pleased to report that the long-awaited parking and waiting restrictions are now in place. The area near to the school has suffered from both illegal and inconsiderate parking which is a danger to all

pedestrians but especially to small children. David is working with the District Council to see that the necessary enforcement of the new parking and waiting restrictions is carried out.



Restrictions on parking are now in place outside the primary school

## Town Centre Connectivity Project update



The urban park is an important part of the connectivity project for regeneration projects and developments

The contract for the build of the urban park has now been agreed and McPhillips (Wellington) Limited are on site. The project is due to be completed by Spring 2025.

This is an important link from the top end of Bromsgrove Street to the town centre.

It is part of the Conservative District Council's plan to regenerate the town centre.



## Single Persons Discount - at risk?

Worried residents have contacted David about the possible changes to Council Tax. **The new Labour Government has failed to rule out that the Single Persons Discount, currently 25% will not be abolished.** The Chancellor when asked to confirm that the Single Persons Discount would remain

refused to confirm that the government would keep the discount. If abolished this would add over £500 to a band D property.

**David has written to our Member of Parliament, Mark Garnier to ask him to urge the Chancellor to keep this much needed discount.**

## Labour Government cut number of pensioners on Winter Fuel Payment

At the recent meeting of the County Council the change to the Winter Fuel Payment was discussed.

Up to now all persons over 65 were entitled to the allowance worth up to £300. The Chancellor has announced that with effect from this winter only those pensioners claiming Pension Credit would be entitled to the payment. This means many thousands of pensioners in Wyre Forest will miss out on this much needed help with their winter heating costs. The government has said that it will encourage those pensioners who may qualify but are not currently claiming to apply. However no help is offered in filling in the application which contains

some 243 questions, and if successful will take a further nine weeks to process.

Your Conservative councillors wholeheartedly condemned this cruel and unnecessary cut, all the Conservative Councillors voted to support the condemnation of this cut, all the Labour councillors voted to support the government policy.

Pensioners are being forced to choose between heating and eating while the Government hands out inflation busting pay rises to the unions. Please contact David to register your concerns at this dreadful treatment of the most vulnerable in our society.

## Update from Mark Garnier Member of Parliament for Wyre Forest

Now the new Labour government has settled down, we can see what they are proposing to do and how they will govern. And their first policy proposal? To take away benefits from all but the poorest of pensioners - those in receipt of pension credit.\*

**Winter fuel allowance has been a lifesaver – literally – to many pensioners.** But in an extraordinary move, Labour Chancellor Rachel Reeves has taken this benefit away from hundreds of thousands of financially stretched pensioners. In another move, **the new Labour government is exploring removing the single occupancy discount on council tax.** An 80 year old widow/er will lose not just their £300 winter fuel allowance, but will see their council tax bill increase by 33%.

This is a taste of what is to come. At the end of October, Labour will present their first budget. Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer is warning that it will be tough. Pensioners have been hit; single people already under attack; even many military personnel trying to do the best for their kids will be hit with a 20% hike in the cost of their kid’s education. If that is just a sample of what is to come, its going to be a lot grimmer than anyone expected when we all voted just three months ago.

\*It is estimated that 1,431 pensioners in Wyre Forest who are eligible are not claiming Pension Credit (source: Policy in Practice).

If you or a family member needs assistance with a Pension Credit application, assistance is available at Citizens Advice, Age UK or contact my office.

## Boy Racers

Following concerns of residents in Franche Road, regarding cars speeding David is working with the Highways Team for better signage and with the Police to ask for more enforcement. The issue with speeding affects residents in Habberley Lane who complain of “boy racers” late at night.

## Winter nights

As we approach winter and the oncoming festive season, a timely reminder to look at the security of your home. Make sure, if you have one, garden sheds etc are locked and valuable garden equipment is secured. Also please keep an eye on elderly neighbours this winter - it will be difficult for them.

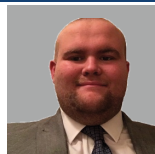
## To Contact Your Conservative team for Franche and Habberley North



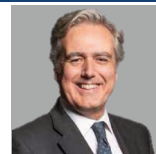
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