

Your Conservative led district council continue to invest in Kidderminster town centre

Leader of WFDC Cllr. Marcus Hart says, "Our **Castle Road temporary accommodation** is currently being constructed on our land which was a much under utilised pay and display car park. Costs of providing temporary accommodation continue to rise and this is a sound financial way of seeking to control that cost whilst providing fit for purpose accommodation."

WFDC has used Levelling Up Funding to purchase and refurbish the **Piano Building** to bring this redundant building back into life. We have also purchased the adjacent bus station and are aware that this area is looking tired and we have plans to make this whole area more attractive. Works are due to start imminently



The Old Magistrates Court will be reopened later this year as a Creative Hub - new opportunities and jobs

These two projects are funded from our successful bid for £20.5 million from the Future High Streets Fund, funded by the previous Conservative Government with Mark's help and support.

We successfully secured a **£2.4 million grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund for Brinton Park.** The planning application is expected to be considered by the Planning Committee later in the Autumn. The proposals include bringing back a duck pond and café.

with the main works scheduled for early November, now that the planning application has been approved by the Planning Committee. We are looking at renting out the first and second floors as office accommodation with the ground floor for food and beverage/leisure.



The Piano Building is being transformed with Levelling Up Funding - Cllr Marcus Hart and Mark Garnier MP outside the historic building

The contractor for the next stage of the **Connectivity Project** has recently mobilised with the main works commencing in August with completion scheduled for spring 2025. Works are well advanced with the **Creative Hub**, with practical completion expected early in December. The Hub will provide office space and venue space for those with an interest in areas such as the arts, music, media etc..



Update from Mark Garnier Member of Parliament for Wyre Forest

The election is over, and we have a new

government. And as the new Labour government gets started, it is worth remembering how things have changed over the last 14 years under Conservative leadership.

In 2010, Labour left us with a budget deficit at 7% of GDP. It is now just 1.9% In 2010, Labour left us with a deep recession. We now have the predicted fastest growing economy of the major G7 nations.

In 2010, Labour left us with unemployment at 7%. It is now just 4% and Conservatives have created 4 million new jobs in our economy.

In 2010, after Labour had been in power for 13 years, they had done nothing to sort out water pollution.

Conservatives legislated to monitor discharges and brought in the Environment Act to stop water companies polluting our rivers.

And in 2010, the local highlight of the Labour government was the hugely unpopular downscaling of our local hospital. After 14 years of Conservatives, we have a new railway station, the old sugar beet site is opened up for housing and employment thanks to a link road, £40 million is being invested into town centre regeneration, flood defences will be completed, we have three new state-of-the-art GP surgeries, and thanks to private investment into the local area, we have over 2,000 more employment opportunities.

Don't let Labour tell you it's been a bad 14 years.

Get in touch!



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Churchill and Blakedown, Broome and Lea Castle MATTERS

Update from your local Chaddesley Division Conservative Team

October 2024



Local Road Safety Updates for full details see inside



Promoted by Caroline Garnier on behalf of WFCA, both at 28 Bewdley Road North, Stourport-on-Severn, DY13 8PS. Printed by Paragon CC, Unit 2B Forward Park, Bagot Street, Birmingham, B4 7BA

Your local Conservative Team - Working For You All Year Round

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Churchill and Blakedown Pavements



As your local County Councillor, Marcus is very pleased that extensive pavement works have been carried out across the area.

The resurfaced pavement at Ismere has made this area once again accessible for pedestrians and joggers. Further works are planned on the Waggon and Horses PH side and to continue back towards Kidderminster on the Ismere House side of the road.

Pavement works have been carried out in Blakedown village itself along the A456 between Churchill Lane and The Avenue.

More works are to be accrued out from Churchill Lane on The Swan PH side back along the Birmingham Road.

Pavement repairs have also been ordered due to defects in Roxall Close. Thank you to the resident who raised this with me.

Additionally, Marcus has also requested patching work due to defects on Stakenbridge Lane between the railway bridge and Rocky Lane. Thank you to the resident who raised this with me. Marcus pushed for this work after an inspector initially said no and so Marcus walked the pavement for himself.

Lea Castle Village

Marcus, Robin and Ian have been contacted by **concerned residents that the play area adjacent to Lea Castle Drive is not fenced.** We have liaised with WFDC planners who have confirmed that the developers could if they wished erect a fence which subject to certain size restrictions, could be done without planning consent.

We would like to advise that we are aware of the **highway safety concerns for pedestrian access to Cookley and the B4189.** It is proposed that at the A449 traffic light junction a pedestrian crossing will be incorporated and the pavement connected from Lea Castle Drive to the A448. Likewise, it is proposed that that there will be a pelican crossing from The Crescent end of the development crossing the A449 to Castle Road.



We are aware of **certain anti-social behaviour** and raise these issues with the local police.

The second phase of the Lea Castle Village development of which 800 houses, parade of shops, a community centre, employment units and a Primary School have been allocated in WFDC's adopted local plan is expected to go before the WFDC's planning committee over the coming next few months.

Blakedown Road safety

Marcus is very pleased that the **bollards in the refuge in the village have been replaced. He has asked that a blue directional arrow be installed on each approach on a metal pole to make the refuge more visible as the bollards are often hit by HGV's.**

Marcus continues to get contacted by local residents concerned with speeding traffic through the village. Speed enforcement is a police matter and Marcus is pleased that the location is still a speed enforcement site and the safer roads partnership speed camera van is deployed along the main A456 in the 30mph limit.



Additional safety bollards installed for the pedestrian refuge crossing



Damaged barriers have been reported for repair work

Further SLOW marking has been painted on the road in the village.

The damaged highway safety barriers in the village have been reported for repair.

Marcus is going to ask WCC highways to look again at the feasibility of a pelican crossing in this location.

Marcus has also ensured WCC highways officers are aware of the near permanent cones on the A456 outside the Eurovia depot on the Kidderminster bound A456 which as a result of being frequently damaged by HGV's were becoming a complete eyesore. These have now been removed and will only be permitted at a certain time in the year when there is a need to remove large amounts of aggregate.

Deansford Lane – Edge of Carriageway Scheme

Following complaints from local residents, Marcus ensured **WCC highways undertook an edge of carriageway scheme in July and August between the A450 and the A456.** In essence, the scheme was to make the edge of the road safe with the verge, given the dangerous drops for vehicles and cyclists, pedestrians and horse riders.

Safety verge markers and kerbing to alleviate flooding have also been installed. Potholes have



Safety verge markers and kerbing installed for Deansford Lane

been filled in and highway patching undertaken as well as verges built up with soil again.

Marcus says, "I am fully aware that this lane, like virtually every other across my patch is used as a rat run and residents worry about the speed of some motorists, especially during peak rush hours. Speed enforcement is a matter for the police. I do all that I can from a highways perspective to try and make the lane safe."

Churchill



Marcus attended the licensing service for the new vicar in July

Marcus was very pleased to attend St James' the Great Church, Churchill in July for the licensing of the new vicar, Rev. Shaun Armstrong, for the parishes of Churchill, Blakedown and Broome.

Marcus and Robin attended the Churchill village fête in July. It was a great opportunity to talk to local residents and enjoy the fun. Well done to the organisers as village events like these are a great way for the community to meet each other.

Working together, **Marcus and the Parish Council have funded an additional flashing vehicle activated speed sign on Stakenbridge Lane just past the crossroads.** Residents continue to raise speeding as an issue with Marcus and indeed the Churchill crossroads junction. Marcus continues to raise this with the police as the police have hitherto refused to do any speed enforcement on the stretch of road. Marcus has requested a meeting with the Police and Crime Commissioner for West Mercia later in September to try and make progress on this issue.

Marcus has asked WCC's road safety team again to look at whether it is **feasible to change the junction priority at Churchill Crossroads.** This comes as a direct request from residents.

Marcus has been advised again that to change the priority would make this junction more dangerous and that DfT guidelines state that the priority must be for the busier road. Any change would lead to more shunt type accidents.

Marcus was pleased to ensure that a dropped kerb was installed at the junction of Churchill Lane and Mill Lane to improve accessibility.

Station Drive Blakedown

Reporting back, Marcus is delighted that the **minor highway scheme to alleviate the constant water ponding has now been completed.**

Marcus has also responded to the request from the Parish Council to have the WCC land 'officially marked out' to demarcate the spaces.

There is no date as yet as we go to print for the full planning application for houses on the field off Station Drive. Remember outline consent has already been granted back in 2023.



Churchill's village fête was a great success and a tribute to the organisers

Broome

Marcus is pleased to report back that **safety defects have been attended to in Little Lane.** Patching work will take place in October and the lane will be completely resurfaced in 2025. Marcus was appalled at the state of the lane and he thanks residents for their patience.