

## Additional bollards Bewdley Primary School

In response to a request by the Primary School Head Teacher, Ian invited the County Highways Liaison Engineer to visit and help with an ongoing issue; some vehicle owners who have Blue Badges, which entitle them to park on Double Yellow lines in front of the school, are inconsiderately parking on the actual pavement where children are walking to / from school which is a safety hazard.

The Highways Liaison Engineer proposed additional bollards to be installed on the kerb-edge of the pavement here in order to prevent vehicles mounting the pavement; Ian is supportive of this solution and has agreed to use his Councillor's Highway Fund to cover the cost of these. This will of course be actioned and scheduled for a time when the children are on holiday as a soon as practicable.

## 'Habberley Park' development

Cllrs John Byng and Paul Harrison report that Wyre Forest District Council is undertaking a Community Governance Review at the request of Kidderminster Foreign Parish Council. The Parish Council has requested that the new development at Low Habberley be moved from Kidderminster Foreign Parish into Kidderminster Town.

## Kidderminster Road verge - near New Road

Cllr Ian Hardiman has agreed to use his Councillor's Devolved Highways Fund to cover the cost of installing bollards along this grass verge where

inconsiderate vehicle owners are driving and parking on the verge, typically by driving along the pavement to the left of the New Road entrance; this

presents a hazard for pedestrians and a problem for other road users when exiting New Road.

## Mayor Ian Latimer and Chairman John Byng

Congratulations to Wribbenhall Councillors, Ian Latimer and John Byng, who have become the Mayor of Bewdley and Chairman of the District Council respectively. We hope they both have a good year.

## Three Building Sites

The developments under construction at Kidderminster Road, Habberley Road, and Low Habberley are all subject to Construction Environmental Management Plans limiting their working times, and providing water bowsers to dampen the dust on their sites during dry periods and road sweepers to clean the roads of mud in wet periods.



## 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.

## To contact YOUR local Conservative team



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## Wribbenhall

October 2024

# MATTERS

Update from your local Cookley, Wolverley & Wribbenhall Division Conservative team



**A456 Highways review**  
**See inside for details**

 **Conservatives**

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# A456

## Working to make your roads safer!



Following the results of the A456 investigation requested by your local County Councillors, Ian Hardiman in Wribbenhall and Bewdley's, Dan Morehead working with local MP, Mark Garnier, the WCC Road Safety Team and the Civil Engineering Consultant, Jacobs, recommended that a temporary 50mph limit on the Bewdley Bypass be introduced which also includes a 'no overtaking' order on the downward lane.

Alongside this, a process has now started which proposes that the remainder of the A456 through to the Safari Park be reduced to 50mph permanently.

This is now going through the full statutory process which will take 6-9 months. The temporary limits on Callow Hill (30mph) and the Bypass (50mph) will remain in place throughout the process.

As part of this, an improved signage scheme for the whole A456 is included. All of these measures will of course be monitored and reviewed throughout this time to understand their impact on making our roads safer and residents will have the opportunity to share their views at the public consultation stage of the process in late 2024/early 2025.

## Bewdley Bridge's poor condition

Ian was contacted by Bewdley Civic Society who expressed their concerns regarding the poor condition of some of the Bridge's balustrades and stonework, and the vegetation growth on many sections of the Bridge. He therefore arranged a meeting with the Highways Liaison Engineer and Bewdley County Councillor Dan Morehead which proved beneficial as agreement was provided that the issues raised would be attended to as soon as possible.

## Kidderminster Road damaged street light

In response to communication from Bewdley Town Council, Ian inspected the badly damaged street light, by the junction with Grey Green Lane, which along with an adjacent telegraph pole had been damaged by a vehicle collision some months ago. Upon checking with County Highways, he found that this issue had not been reported to the Highways Department; however, he has been assured that attention will now be given and a new light should be installed a.s.a.p..

# Your Conservative led district council - UPDATE

## National Planning Policy Framework

### Objections to Labour's proposals

The Conservative led district council have opposed the new proposed standard methodology (the formula) that allocates housing figures to each area.

The Labour Government's proposals would see Wyre Forest's annual dwellings per annum rise from 276 to a staggering 617. Marcus says, "This is totally unacceptable and would see further green belt land having to be

used as there simply will not be enough brownfield land. We totally oppose unnecessary release of further green belt land."

The Cabinet have sent a formal response back to Government and they proposed a notice of motion at full council opposing the proposals in the NPPF.



## Plan to regenerate redundant brown field sites

The Conservative led District Council are considering options for the re-development of brown field sites within the town centre. We are looking at re-development options for the former

Glades leisure centre site and part of the Bromsgrove Street car park. Marcus says, "I would like to see residential development on this site. We need to revitalise our town centre and create

urban living. We are also looking at options for the redundant land in Market Street and the former Crown House site."

## Kidderminster Town Centre Regeneration



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

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 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 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..

**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.**