

MINUTES OF MEETING OF BROADWAY PARISH COUNCIL
(conducted via 'Zoom')
Thursday, 21st January 2021, at 7.00 pm

PRESENT: Councillor B. M. Parmenter (Chairman), Councillors G. J. Franks, Miss D. Hardiman, A.A.L.Holmes, Mrs. J. Hudson, Mrs. F.E.A.Phillips, N.D.A.Robinson (Vice-Chairman), A. P. Riley Mrs. R. Rogers, Dr. E. Wilks

Also in attendance: County and District Councillor Mrs. E. Eyre
 West Mercia Police
 One member of the public

- (1) APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Councillor F. Penny (currently in hospital)
 R.Bennett MBE
 Broadway Trust representative
- (2) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:
- (a) Register of Interests: councillors are reminded of the need to update their register of interest;
 - (b) To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests in items on the agenda and their nature;
 - (c) To declare any Other Disclosable Interests in items on the agenda – and their nature.

Councillors who have declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest, or an Other Disclosable Interest which falls within the terms of paragraph 12(4) (b) of the code of conduct must leave the room for the relevant items. Failure to register or declare a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest may result in the commission of a criminal offence.

- (3) POLICE REPORT:
- The Chairman read out the latest crime reports for Broadway received since the last meeting –
- 30/11 to 13/12 - outbuilding broken into in High Street overnight 08:12:20 - two strimmers stolen
 - 05/01 to 11/01 – persons unknown broke into shed on farm premises in Snowhill Road - tools including strimmers, chainsaws, leaf blower and hedge cutter stolen

PC Jackson was in attendance via 'Zoom' and had no further items to report. The Clerk reported that an email had been received from a concerned resident regarding possible drug use within the Activity Park and surrounding tree areas, and had forwarded the information to PC Jackson. In response PC Jackson stated that more information – e.g. times etc. - was required before any action could be taken, but added that if any such activity was witnessed the best course of action was to quickly contact the police via '101' or the police website, so that all such incidents could be recorded immediately.

Safety and Security:

The initial meeting of this new committee was held on Thursday, 14th January, via 'Zoom', attended by representatives from the Police, the District Council and the Parish Council. The following matters were discussed:

It was agreed that the village **CCTV** was effective, but could benefit from being upgraded, but costs etc. would need to be investigated further, and that the lighting in the High Street was also restricting the effectiveness of the cameras. A possible solution might be that cameras could be installed on the roads into and out of the village, but this again required further investigation costings, etc.

Councillor Mrs. Eyre suggested that when the two new crossings (Station Road and Leamington Road) were installed, better lighting would be required for safety reasons which could be a possible siting for additional cameras on these two major roads in and out of the village. Councillor Mrs. Eyre reported that the District Council had undertaken a review of all of its CCTV sites, and had concluded that Broadway's CCTV was in need of improvement, adding that liaison with local businesses with CCTV cameras could identify areas in need of CCTV coverage. It was agreed that more discussion was required at the next meeting of the committee to take this matter forward, and to make recommendations.

It was suggested that **Neighbourhood Watch** and **Smartwater** be launched together, subject to the Council's agreement regarding the funding of the Smartwater packs which cost £8.90 per pack. The Police and Crime Commissioner could provide up to 25% for free subject to an 80% uptake. There was a need to obtain the number of households already covered, and also if Rooftop Housing was able to donate towards the cost of its properties. The Finance Working Group had discussed this at its recent meeting and would like to recommend in principal that funding be made available to fund the Smartwater project. This was unanimously supported by the Parish Council. The Clerk reported there were a number of different options regarding the purchase and distribution of Smartwater which required further discussion by the committee. At the Safety and Security committee meeting it was agreed that figures would be obtained to ascertain the number of households already registered for Smartwater, and whether Rooftop Housing Group could make a donation towards the cost in relation to its properties so that an accurate figure of how many packs would be required. Councillor Riley added that if the whole village was registered it would provide a better deterrent to would be criminals. PC Jackson fully supported this and added that there was evidence that villages with Smartwater had lower crime rate figures. Combining the launch of both Neighbourhood Watch and Smartwater could also provide a better distribution source to deliver/register the Smartwater packs. The Clerk reported that the Parish Council had registered the village for a Neighbourhood Watch scheme, but was aware there were a number of groups already in existence and that there was a need to co-ordinate these together, and also to establish which areas needed covering if required by the residents. Councillor Mrs. Hudson asked if there was any available data etc. regarding, for example, how long it would take to register each road, and also added that the project needed to be fully explained to everyone prior to its launch. It was suggested that an article in the Broadway Newsletter could be undertaken as, unfortunately, due to the Coronavirus Pandemic, it would not be appropriate to hold an event in the Lifford Hall to promote this.

The ongoing concerns regarding **Speeding** was also discussed – all the entrance/exit roads into the village had issues with speeding, but with the installation of the crossings in Leamington Road and Station Road this may reduce speeding in both of these locations. There was still a need to reduce speeding on Cheltenham Road, Snowhill Road, and Childswickham Road, and it was suggested that the police be asked to assess all of these roads for the Community Speed Watch scheme which would involve a small group of volunteers being

trained to use the equipment and safety aspects of the scheme. Councillor Mrs. Eyre added however, there were problems as Community Speed Watch could only be used in locations where the average speed was less than 34 mph. In such locations, therefore, the Safety Partnership team could be used, but only if there were over two hundred vehicles per day. Councillor Mrs. Eyre confirmed that when the Coronavirus Pandemic receded speed checks on all the entrance /exit roads would be undertaken, but added that this was a very difficult issue to address. PC Jackson stated that the Safety Partnership team must have a safe area to park its vehicle(s) which was very difficult in built-up areas within villages.

It was agreed that a representative from the Fire Service regarding Fire Station updates etc., and that Broadway's First Responder regarding defibrillators, should be invited to the next meeting when the updates/actions discussed above could be taken forward.

The Chairman thanked everyone concerned for their input into this new committee, and the Clerk would arrange the next meeting and notify all committee members accordingly.

The Chairman thanked PC Jackson for her report and participation in the Safety and Security Committee report/update. PC Jackson left the meeting at 7.40 pm.

(4) CO-OPTION OF TWO NEW COUNCILLORS:

The Chairman warmly welcomed both Mrs. Jeannette Hudson and Mr. Roger Bennett to the Parish Council. Unfortunately, Roger Bennett was unable to attend as he was moving house on this date.

The Clerk confirmed that both new councillors had completed and signed their Declarations of Acceptance of Office, and Register of Members' Interest forms. The Clerk would complete the Notification of Co-option form (N5) for each councillor and forward them to the District Council's Monitoring Officer, together with the Register of Members' Interest forms.

All councillors welcomed Councillor Mrs. Hudson, and Councillor Bennett (in his absence), and looked forward to working with them both

Following the resignation of Mr. Fred. Hartley, the District Council Electoral Services Officer had notified the Clerk that no request from ten electors for an election had been received and, therefore, the Parish Council could now co-opt a replacement member. After discussion, it was agreed that the Parish Council would consider this at its meeting to be held on 13th May, and that the date by which applications should be submitted would be 1st May. An article would be placed in the next issue of the Broadway Newsletter advertising the vacancy, so that all residents were aware that there was a vacant position on the council.

(5) MINUTES OF MEETING OF PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 10:12:20:

Proposed by Councillor Miss Hardiman, and seconded by Councillor Mrs. Rogers, the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 10th December 2020 were unanimously approved by those present as a true record. The Clerk would ensure, due to the meeting being undertaken remotely, that the minutes were duly signed and dated by the Chairman.

(6) COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS:

Copies of reports from County and District Councillor Mrs. Eyre and District Councillor Robinson had been circulated to all councillors, and a full copy of each report was attached to these minutes.

County/District Councillor Mrs. Eyre's Report:

The report highlighted the following issues –

County/District Matters: There was an update regarding **County Council Finances**, including a proposed increase in Council Tax for Worcestershire, and detailing proposed increases in spending on Highways, and Children's Social Care.

Covid – information regarding communication including posters explaining rules etc., infection rates (unfortunately the highest to date within Worcestershire), hospitals, vaccinations – from 4th January GP-led Primary Care Network would commence running Covid 19 vaccine clinics for eligible patients. Patients were reminded they would be contacted by the NHS with an invitation for the vaccination.

Those in need of help accessing food/other essentials should contact the County Council's '**Here2Help**' service.

There were updates regarding **Library Services, Business Support and Education.**

Local Matters:

There were updates regarding Broadway Youth Club, the Station Road and Leamington Road crossings, and Highway Works in and around the village. The Chairman thanked the County Council for the excellent work undertaken in Lifford Garden, and Councillor Mrs. Eyre had received thanks for the work undertaken in Fleece Road.

District Councillor Robinson's Report:

The report highlighted the following issues –

An update on local Coronavirus issues, including available additional grants for businesses and community groups during the latest lockdown period.

Update regarding Street Trading Licences.

Councillor Mrs. Phillips had raised concerns regarding the amount of larger rubbish items, such as mattresses / furniture etc., being left along paths / outside garages, particularly around the Avenues. Councillor Robinson reported that Rooftop Housing Group was undertaking a clear up of such items in and around Shear House car park. Councillor Mrs. Eyre added that there was a procedure to follow for illegal dumping of rubbish, and if anyone saw such rubbish to take photographs and report the matter to either her or the Clerk, who could then take the appropriate actions.

There being no further questions/comments for either councillor, the Chairman thanked both for their reports, and for all their hard work and commitment.

(7) **CLERK' REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE:**

Letters of thanks had been received in respect of annual donations made in December.

The latest Activity Park Inspection Report had been received, a copy of which was available in the parish office. The maintenance team had been instructed to attend to the immediate matters raised, and to report back when work was completed. A meeting of the Activity Park committee to discuss ongoing maintenance/tree works would be arranged.

The County Council had issued the following notices –

Collin Lane – temporary closure from its junction with A44 Bypass Roundabout for a distance of 1230 metres in a north-easterly direction to the County Boundary to undertake carriageway works commencing 18th January for an anticipated duration of 19 days.

Snowhill Road - temporary closure from its junction with U45402 West End Lane for a distance of 1900 metres in a southerly direction to undertake carriageway works commencing 1st February for an anticipated duration of 19 days.

Station Road - temporary closure from its junction with B4632 Evesham Road to its junction with B4632 Cheltenham Road for S278 Development Works by

Doocey Traffic Management commencing 15th February for an anticipated duration of 26 days.

Bloxham Road / Morris Road – amendments to prohibit waiting at any time on the following lengths and sides of roads. Bloxham Road (south side) from a point 22 metres west of its junction with Leamington Road for a distance of 64 metres in a westerly direction. Bloxham Road (north side) from a point 17 metres east of its junction with Sands Close for a distance of 10 metres in an easterly direction. Morris Road (east side) from a point 10 metres south of its junction with Averill Close for a distance of 5 metres in a southerly direction. Any objections/representations must be submitted to WCC by 11th February.

(8) **SETTING OF PRECEPT & BUDGET 2021/2022:**

The Finance Working Group met on Tuesday, 19th January, via ‘Zoom’ when the Clerk, as Responsible Finance Officer, produced the three quarter year financial accounts to the 31st December 2020, together with the proposed budget figures for 2021/2022, copies of which had been circulated to all councillors. The accounts and budgets were fully explained by the Clerk and discussed. The Group would like to recommend the approval of the budget for 2021/2022 and the setting of the precept at £93,000, which was an increase of £1,500. These recommendations were proposed by Councillor Miss Hardiman, seconded by Councillor Mrs Phillips, and unanimously agreed.

(9) **REPORTS FROM VARIOUS GROUPS AND COMMITTEES:**

Broadway Visitor Management Group:

A meeting was held via ‘Zoom’ on Monday 14th December, at which the following matters were discussed –

Cllr. Robinson was pursuing matters in relation to Shear House.

Cllr. Robison had been advised that any future Street Trading Licences would be turned down by Worcestershire Regulatory Services.

Car Parking – there was currently free car parking, but it was felt that this was probably detrimental to businesses at the moment, as the main users appeared to be shop staff, meaning visitors were not always able to use the short stay car park. BBA members were to be contacted suggesting its staff use the Milestone / Shear House car parks instead. It was also suggested that social media be used to advise walkers to use the long stay car parks.

A-Boards were still a major ongoing issue, but Councillor. Mrs Eyre would continue to seek advice and guidance on this matter and report back accordingly.

Date of the next meeting – 1st March, 2021

Finance Working Group:

A meeting was held on Tuesday, 19th January, via ‘Zoom’, at which the following items were discussed in addition to those already reported under Item (8)

Broadway Arts Festival had previously received support from the Parish Council for its Biennial event which was cancelled in 2020 due to the Coronavirus Pandemic, but despite the ongoing uncertainties was actively planning a Festival in June 2021. The Arts Festival Committee was continuing its work with the local schools, and was planning a week of school activities during the Festival, and was also working on extending its schools programme into a year round series of workshops. The committee had requested a grant to assist with this proposed work with the local schools. After discussion, the Finance Working Group would like to

recommend that a donation of £1,000 be made. This recommendation was proposed by Councillor Miss Hardiman, seconded by Councillor Holmes, and unanimously agreed. Last year the Parish Council agreed to support the Nomad Community Bus committee with help to support the ongoing running costs of this project, and had agreed an annual grant of £1,500 be awarded for three years. The Clerk would contact Mr. Mark Pickering to ascertain the present situation as it was understood that the bus had not been running due to the Coronavirus Pandemic, and would report back accordingly.

Councillor Miss Hardiman had been asked to pass on thanks from the Broadway Newsletter for awarding a grant to help support the production of the new newsletter.

Neighbourhood Plan:

Councillor Franks reported that good progress was being made producing the draft Consultation Statement, which involved a great deal of detailed work by all concerned. The Strategic Environmental Assessment had now been commissioned and started on 4th January and should be completed by March which would, however, delay progression to the next stage – Regulation 16, but it was still hoped to undertake the referendum in late summer. Councillor Franks confirmed that a £2,475 grant application to Groundworks UK had been successful, and that the Letter of Acceptance had been submitted.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Franks for the report/update and also for all the hard work and commitment of the Group, particularly Messrs. Wakelin, Bloch and Williams who were currently undertaking the work on the Consultation Statement.

Restructuring of Committees:

Following the agreement at the last meeting to discuss the restructuring of the committees, a separate Parish Council meeting would be held in February to discuss this in detail. It was agreed that this meeting would take place on Thursday 18th February at 7.00 pm

Proposals on this restructuring / suggested committees etc. would be sent to all councillors prior to the meeting.

(10) PLANNING:

A meeting of all councillors with Councillor Mrs Eyre to further understand Section 106 monies, and to discuss the spending of available monies, had been arranged for Tuesday 26th January, commencing at 2.00 pm. The Clerk would forward all applicable Section 106 agreements to all councillors prior to the meeting.

Members of the Planning Committee attended the District Council's Planning Training Event which was held on 11th January via 'Zoom'. All those who attended found the presentation useful, if a little long, but it highlighted the importance of having an understanding and the need to take into account the list of material reasons when objecting to a planning application. The Planning Committee continue to be concerned and frustrated at the number of retrospective planning applications being submitted, and after listening to issues regarding this raised at the Training Event, and that the District Council's Planning Department had very little power at District level to discourage such applications, it was agreed that the Chairman would write to the local MP highlighting the Parish Council's concerns on this matter.

Following a question from Councillor Holmes, the Chairman updated councillors regarding to ongoing issue in respect of the removal of two trees at 'Stoneyroyd' in Station Road. This had been referred to the Head of Planning, the District Tree Officer and the Case Officer concerned, and in summary the two trees were removed without consent, but District

Council had decided to take no further action since there were some discrepancies on the approved plans with regard to showing retained trees, or not, as part of site landscaping.

Councillor Holmes asked if there were any updates regarding planning applications by the Lygon Arms Hotel and Amber Retirement Ltd (land off Cheltenham Road). In response, Councillor Mrs. Eyre replied that she had not heard of any updates regarding Amber Retirement, but would chase this up, and regarding the Lygon Arms Hotel, the Planning Officers had asked for more information to be submitted regarding certain aspects of the applications. This additional work was currently being undertaken by the applicant.

Parish Council comments:

MEETING 11:01:21

Application 20/02482/FUL

MR. K BEASLEY

Broadway Youth Club, Leamington Road
Replacement Youth Club

Broadway Parish Council is greatly involved with this application, so it is therefore not appropriate to make comments in relation to this application.

Application 20/02762/FUL

MR. W MARCHANT

The Gallops, Cheltenham Road
Temporary agricultural worker's dwelling (part retrospective)

The Parish Council raise no objections to this application, but would like to raise its concerns that this is yet another retrospective application.

Application 20/02739/ADV
& Assoc. 20/02719/LB

COTSWOLD DISTILLING COMPANY LTD

33 High Street
Display of hanging shop sign affixed to front elevation

The Parish Council wish to object to this application and supports the comments of the Conservation officer, who states that having another larger sign is an inappropriate increase and does not reflect the adopted shop front design guide or the Broadway conservation area appraisal guidance. The officer suggests that the large lettered sign above the pentice roof be removed and then it would be acceptable to have the proposed hanging sign. Also, the height of the top of the bracket should be no higher than the bracket on the adjoining building. If the applicant does not wish to remove the other sign then it is considered that proposal does not comply with the national planning policies set out in NPPF 2012 (revised February 2019) Section 16, sub-paragraphs 182-201 and the Local Plan policies SWDP6 and SWDP24 pertaining to the Historic Environment and its management. These require the conservation and enhancement of heritage assets. The Parish Council would like to add that it would prefer that the original signage remain as it is.

Application 20/02870/CLE

MR. and MRS. HICKS

Smallbrook Cottage, Leamington Road
Certificate of Lawfulness for existing use of domestic garden and stables for domestic use

The Parish Council wish to object to all of the applications submitted in respect of this location 20/02870, 20/02871, and 20/02872 for the following reasons –

The site is located outside the village boundary, is in open countryside, and is within the AONB.

The driveway to this site is just before a bend in the road, which then leads on to the roundabout at the bottom of Fish Hill, and is a busy entrance/exit road to the village.

The site has been developed over a period of time, particularly since 2017, and is now a substantial collection of buildings. The Parish Council are supportive of local businesses, but in this case the applicant has not followed the correct procedures by not submitting planning applications for any of the buildings when they were built/installed, and therefore not allowing the Parish Council or any other person to submit comments at any stage prior to these applications. The Parish Council will be asking its District Councillors to call these applications in so that all can be discussed more fully by the District Planning Committee.

Application 20/02871/CU

MR. and MRS. HICKS

Smallbrook Cottage, Leamington Road

Change of Use from paddock to domestic garden retrospective)

The Parish Council wish to object to all of the applications submitted in respect of this location 20/02870, 20/02871, and 20/02872 for the following reasons –

The site is located outside the village boundary, is in open countryside, and is within the AONB.

The driveway to this site is just before a bend in the road, which then leads on to the roundabout at the bottom of Fish Hill, and is a busy entrance/exit road to the village.

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Application 20/02872/FUL

MR. and MRS. HICKS

Smallbrook Cottage, Leamington Road

Retention of Portacabin, Storage Container, Garden Room and

Hardstanding for use as Artisan Leather Workshop and Hay Store

(Retrospective)

The Parish Council wish to object to all of the applications submitted in respect of this location 20/02870, 20/02871, and 20/02872 for the following reasons –

The site is located outside the village boundary, is in open countryside, and is within the AONB.

The driveway to this site is just before a bend in the road, which then leads on to the roundabout at the bottom of Fish Hill, and is a busy entrance/exit road to the village.

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Wychavon Approvals:

Application 20/01691/HP
& Assoc. 20/01692/LB

MR. & MRS. ENTICKNAP

149 High Street

Conversion of listed barn to ancillary accommodation and provision of link extension to proposed new pool building. New single storey rear extension to the main dwelling and new tree-bay car port.

Application 20/02503/HP

MR. & MRS. TONGUE

14 Cheltenham Road

Erection of two storey side extension and rear single storey replacement extension.

Application 20/01167/HP

MR. M UFFINDELL

Honeysuckle Cottage, Snowhill Road

Alterations and additions.

Application 20/02242/HP

MR. R THOMPSON

Chippings, Springfield Lane

New entrance screen, extension to front and extension to existing garage

Application 20/02414/HP

MR. M ELMAGDOUB

Briardene, Station Road

Proposed greenhouse

Application 20/02287/FUL

TRACEY HEMMING

St. Mary's RC Primary School, Leamington Road

Retention of existing mobile classrooms for 5 years

Wychavon Refusals:

None

Wychavon Withdrawals:

Application 20/02246/FUL & Assoc. 20/02247/LB	TRINITY HOUSE PAINTINGS 35 High Street Second Storey rear extension with flat roof	Withdrawn	17 th December 2020
Application 20/02258/HP & Assoc. 20/02259/LB	MRS. S ZACHARIAH St Saviour and Passionist Residence, 26 Leamington Road Proposed rear extension, new access through existing wall with new timber gates.	Withdrawn	18 th January 2021

(11) SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS/RECEIPTS: from 01:12:20 to 31:12:20

Payments:	verified by the Clerk together with two nominated signatories	net of VAT
E-on / village green electricity		25.31
Cotswold Building Supplies Ltd / general maintenance		12.48
RJ Agricultural Services / millennium garden		100.00
Signpost / annual donation		1,000.00
Evesham Volunteer Centre / annual donation		1,000.00
Citizens Advice Bureau South Worcs / annual donation		500.00
Broadway Tourist Information Centre / annual donation		500.00
Worcestershire County Council / pension contribution		535.45
Justice Fire & Security / office security		158.97
Wychavon District Council / annual bin cleaning re Fish Hill		151.62
Wychavon District Council / annual bin cleaning re Station Road		75.81
Maurice Parkinson Contracts / lengthsman scheme		402.00
Maurice Parkinson Contracts / lengthsman scheme		32.00
Maurice Parkinson Contracts / bench maintenance		175.00
Worcestershire County Council / salt for grit bins		103.93
K. Beasley / clerk's salary – December		1,394.27
G. A. Tomkins / assistant clerk's salary – December		471.00
H.M.Revenue & Customs / PAYE		1,344.84
LexisNexis / local council administration book		149.99
Postages / cash		33.26
Milk, coffee, sugar / cash		6.97
Office supplies / cash		1.69
Receipts:		
Lloyds Bank / gross interest		0.72
Wychavon District Council / Christmas Lights Grant		500.00

(12) COUNCILLORS' REPORTS AND ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA:

Councillor Holmes reported he was awaiting the outcome of the planning application for the redevelopment of the Youth Club, and advised both new councillors that if they required detailed information on this project to contact him accordingly.

Councillor Mrs. Phillips asked if the hand sanitizer in the Activity Park was being replaced as it was no longer in situ. In response the Clerk notified councillors that, unfortunately, it had been removed/stolen and asked if councillors wished to purchase a replacement. Councillor Riley reported that he had a supply of sanitizers for his business and was happy to donate a replacement. The Council thanked Councillor Riley for this kind offer.

Councillor Mrs. Hudson raised concerns about an ongoing issue regarding dog fouling in and around the village. It was agreed that an article be placed in the Broadway Newsletter highlighting the problem again asking everyone to pick up after their dogs

Councillor Dr. Wilks asked if councillors had any information/news they wished to put in the Parish Council section of the next issue of the Broadway Newsletter to forward it to the Clerk by 5th February. Councillor Dr. Wilks, the Parish Council representative on the Broadway Museum and Art Gallery, notified the Council that the Museum was undertaking a review of the marketing of the museum, especially in connection with the educational aspect of the museum and relaying the story of the history of the village, and it may be seeking some financial support in respect of this project in the near future from the Parish Council.

Councillor Miss Hardiman asked who was responsible for cleaning the layby outside St. Saviour's Church in Leamington Road. The Clerk/Councillor Mrs. Eyre would check and report back accordingly.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.40 pm and opened the PUBLIC INFORMATION SESSION –

There were no questions / comments from the public, and the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.45 pm.

Date /Time Next Meeting: Thursday, 18th March 2021, at 7.00 pm (via 'Zoom')
(Followed by Annual Parish Meeting)

County Issues

WCC Finance - Worcestershire County Council, confirmed it expects to have spent £100 million on additional costs due to Coronavirus since April 2020. As part of a plan to narrow the £26.5m gap in its budget, Worcestershire County Council is looking to increase the Council Tax in Worcestershire. The draft Budget is in the public domain. We are proposing an increase in spending on Highways – to £7.2m for footways, from £12m to £20m on roads, and four footway gangs will become ten or twelve, three paver machines will increase to four, an extra 2.5m is proposed for gully cleaning. Active Travel and Congestion reduction are key themes, reducing our Carbon footprint through our LED street lighting programme and other initiatives. Extra funding is proposed for Children’s Social Care.

Covid – as of 5 January 2021

Communications: WDC is ramping up its communications on social media, and signs are being printed to put around our parks and public spaces urging people to stay apart and limit the time they spend outdoors. The separately attached poster explains the rules.

I will be on social media and am sending posters to you with a request for you put up locally; including a Covid-19 advice leaflet. WDC will be using supermarkets to get the bulk of them out and ask our voluntary sector, town and parish councillors to support us with this.

Worcestershire’s infection rates are at the highest we have ever seen. In the past seven days alone, the County has 1,888 positive Covid-19 cases, which is more than all positive cases seen during May, June, July, August and September 2020 combined

Hospitals As well as an increase in the community, we have a number of Covid-positive in-patients in our hospitals. This is causing significant pressures on our local services. There have been no new Coronavirus-related deaths in hospitals in Worcestershire.

Vaccination From 4 January GP-led Primary Care Networks (PCNs) across Worcestershire will now have started running Covid-19 vaccine clinics for their eligible patients. PCNs are groups of general practices working more closely together, meaning that patients may be invited to receive the vaccine from a different location to their registered practice but one that will still be nearby to where they live. Patients are reminded that the NHS will contact people in priority groups when it is their turn to receive the vaccine, and they should not contact their GP practice directly asking for an appointment.

Care home vaccinations: PCNs across Herefordshire and Worcestershire have also now started to vaccinate local care home residents and staff, who are being prioritised with people aged 80 and above as part of this first phase of the vaccination programme.

Oxford AstraZeneca vaccine the NHS started the rollout of the new Oxford AstraZeneca coronavirus vaccine in some parts of the country. The first Oxford AstraZeneca vaccinations are being delivered at a small number of hospitals for the first few days for surveillance purposes, as is standard practice before we expect to receive supplies in Worcestershire. The new Oxford vaccine is easier to transport and store than the Pfizer jab, which has to be kept at minus 70 degrees until shortly before it is used, which will make it easier to deliver in settings such as care homes.

Community: Use of village and community halls: The guidance on village and community halls has been updated. While most must close, there are a small number of activities that can still be used in a Covid-19 Secure way; this includes hosting blood donation sessions, polling stations, etc. WDC is sharing guidance with parish and town councils to pass on to relevant contacts where they do not directly operate the hall, but please feel free to circulate as well. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-the-safe-use-of-multi-purpose-community-facilities/covid-19-guidance-for-the-safe-use-of-multi-purpose-community-facilities>

People in need of help

If people need help accessing food or other essentials, please ask them to contact **Worcestershire County Council's Here2Help** service is available to anyone who needs support or is clinically extremely vulnerable (shielding). If you have no-one to turn to for help, our service can respond and provide help

such as collecting medicines and getting shopping. You can reach the service online; <https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/here2help> They will then direct them to support locally.

During the first Lockdown, we sadly saw an increase in incidents of domestic violence. It is important to stress that fleeing domestic abuse is a reason to be outside your home in law. Our housing team can offer support and signpost people to the right help if they need it. There is also advice at www.wychavon.gov.uk/support

Libraries will remain open from 5 January to provide access to computers and the internet for people who cannot get online at home. The mobile library service will be suspended, and study desks will be unavailable until further notice. Customers will be able to return books into drop boxes at library entrances. Return dates for all existing loans will be extended until 28 February 2021, and no fines or reservation fees will be applied. Revised opening hours may be implemented at some libraries see [local library online](#) or by calling the customer contact centre on 01905 822722

A free 'Reserve and Collect' service will replace browsing and borrowing.

All computer sessions will be reduced to 50-minute slots and must be booked in advance.

Online services continue to grow. [The Digital Library Hub](#) is home to a growing collection of e-books, e audiobooks and e-magazines and a wide [range](#) of online resources. It also provides 24/7 access to a range of library services, events and activities. Current online library activities include Digital Book Groups, Storytimes, Bounce & Rhyme sessions, Lego Challenges, Coding Clubs, Wacky Wednesday family learning, Business and Employability Webinars, exclusive Poetry Performances, Virtual Language Cafes and Connect Bubbles; launched in November 2020 provides a safe way for Worcestershire residents to connect with other people online over a shared interest or activity. Library Digital Champion volunteers are providing 1:1 support with 'Introduction to Zoom' sessions. Connect bubbles and 'Introduction to Zoom' sessions can be booked via the [Libraries Eventbrite page](#) (<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/worcestershire-libraries-18603259594>)

Library membership is free, and it is quick and easy to sign up for [digital membership online](https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20313/join_the_library)
([https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20313/join the library](https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20313/join_the_library))

Worcestershire Libraries www.worcestershire.gov.uk/Libraries

Business - A new campaign, 'New Year, New Start, New Opportunities', to support start-up businesses and entrepreneurs has been launched by Enterprising Worcestershire.

Business support- The Chancellor has announced one-off top-up grants for retail, hospitality and leisure businesses worth up to £9,000 per property to help enterprises to through to the spring. Another £594 million is being made available to councils to support businesses that do not qualify for the grants but might be affected by the restrictions (businesses in the hospitality supply chain, for example). This is on top of any existing funding businesses were receiving during the tiering system. There are now several support schemes operating, and we are trying to make sense of the guidance as fast as possible so that we can start getting these payments out to businesses. The furlough scheme has also been extended to April 2021, and the 100% government-backed loans have been extended until March 2021. Our town centre recovery officers are working with businesses on a new campaign to encourage people to support local traders from their own home's safety.

Education - Worcestershire County Council has welcomed the latest increase in funding for schools from central government. The County Council has received an expansion of the **financing for Worcestershire's schools** from Central Government. Over the last two years, funding policy has seen over £300 million allocated from Central Government to support the County's schools. The Council has seen a significant increase in the Schools Block Dedicated Schools Grant, which has risen from £314.6m in 2018-19 to £369.5m for 2021-22.

The local formula will continue in Worcestershire, as required, to include the DfE's statutory Minimum Funding Levels, which are increasing in 2021-22 to £4,180 from £3,750 for primary and to £5,415 from £5,000 for secondary.

Following the recent news that Catherine Driscoll will be leaving Worcestershire to become the new Director of Children's Services at Dudley,

Tina Russell has been appointed Interim Chief Executive of Worcestershire Children First and Interim Director of Children's Services initially for nine months, after following all appropriate governance arrangements. Tina is currently Director of Social Care & Safeguarding and has delivered significant Children's Social Care improvements since joining us four years ago. The recruitment process to appoint a permanent replacement for Catherine will begin in Summer 2021.

Transport- The Governance of West of Midlands Rail Ltd has changed to strengthen its position. The West Midlands Mayor was appointed as non-voting Chairman of West of Midlands Rail Ltd. The options were do nothing, Mayor as an observer, Mayor as non-voting director, voting director and voting chair.

Environment - 16,500 LED lanterns have now been installed across Worcestershire, marking the completion of the Council's **LED street light replacement project**. The quality of the white lighting produced by the LED luminaires provides a more controlled standard of illumination and minimal light pollution. Besides, the conversions to LED lights will result in a significant and welcome reduction in the County's energy consumption. As part of the project, the Council has also replaced 750 concrete columns. Street lighting upgrades also continue to be delivered as part of the Council's Major Infrastructure Projects. Lighting improvements have already been made across many schemes, including Southern Link Road Phase 4, and Pinvin Crossroads with more to follow as other schemes progress. Besides, lighting improvements have also been made at several locations where new zebra installations are being introduced.

Highways: New Highways arrangements during Lockdown Following the Government's announcement of another national lockdown, WCC has been obliged to take the decision not to hold meetings with members of the public or Members themselves. The Liaison Engineers will continue to hold virtual meetings with members, so that face to face discussions can continue via Teams, and they will still carry out site visits alone to look at my issues and will, of course, report back to me. This is yet another challenge for us all, which I hope will not impact on our ability to deliver highway services for residents. These measures are in place until mid-February, in line with Government advice, when WCC will review the situation.

Parish Lengthsman scheme. WCC are now in a much better position for this latest Lockdown, and we are *not* proposing to fully suspend this again. WCC will write to Parishes to encourage them to revisit their earlier risk assessments with their Lengthsman to ensure that they have taken into account any change in circumstances and turn to WCC if they need more support.

Gullies - The Council cleared nearly 60,000 **gullies** in 2020 - over half of all the County's gullies! Keeping the gullies clear is an essential part of highways maintenance and ensures that the overall drainage system will not become blocked. It also helps to reduce the likelihood of flooding and helps surface water drain away quicker.

Winter maintenance teams were particularly active over the Christmas and New Year period, and wintry weather is set to continue so the teams will remain on high alert.

Weather and drainage: The vast majority of road closures associated with flooding have now reopened, and flood defences and pumps have either been removed or are in the process of being so – nevertheless, with groundwater tables at a high level, teams will remain in close contact with Environment Agency partners. The combination of wet and wintry weather looks set to present challenges that officers and contractors are ready to meet.

Local Issues:

Broadway Youth Club - Build concerns from residents – management plan for the build to avoid impact on residents, Hours of opening concerns – which will link to regulatory services. Concerns re parking in that area – this will link to comments from Highways.

Lifford Gardens should be completed for 2020/21 by 20 Jan

Requested zoom with PC re spend of S106 monies.

Requested a zoom from WCC to discuss any plans re cycleway funds.

School crossing Leamington Road cost 70k. The new infrastructure plan has been shared with the parish chairman, vice chairman, and clerk. Plan in the

office. It is possible to install minimal lighting levels at this location, which will be four new lighting columns with directional LED lamp heads plus the orange Belisha Beacons. Post-construction, a stage 3 nighttime audit, will double-check that there is no need for additional lighting. The crossing will remain closed until the lighting is correct. There may be a need for an additional 1 or 2 lamp columns. By taking this cautious approach, the CC can hopefully keep the impact of lighting to a minimum.

The school crossing St Mary's did not pass the criteria because of lower road use or fewer children on one day- in the diary for next summer.

Collin Lane safety changes have been implemented.

Medical centre progressing

(B4632 Station Road, Broadway)(Temporary Closure) Order 2021 - that part of B4632 Station Road from its junction with B4632 Evesham Road to its junction with B4632 Cheltenham Road. **Reason:** S278 Development Works by Doocey Traffic Management. **Exemptions:** to permit access to any land or premises fronting the highway affected Diversion signposted Maximum duration: 18 Months. Anticipated duration: **26 days** Commencing: **15 February 2021**

Footpath behind Sands - 645B/522B planned for spring 2020, delayed due to Covid - too tight a site, pressing for work before Xmas - think kore likely 2021 so another bad winter situation but continuing to press, its a major job'

Chasing up when

Fleece Road surfacing 9th December. Bloxham Road finished off.

Snowhill and Collin Lane patching soon, surface dressing sometime between Spring and Summer.

Lifford Gardens - Footway reconstruction between 1st Dec and 7th January 2021. There is a phase 1 and phase 2.

Safety and Security concerns

A neighbourhood watch arrangement needed.

Community smart water programme offer of financial support.

Upgrade of the cameras in the High street needed.

Speeding around the village

- community speed watch wherever the location meets the criteria (speeds must be under 34mph)
- regular enforcement.

Fish Hill. – needs partnership for bids

- trial site for an acoustic camera (enforcement linked to noise pollution.
- Home Office supported camera on Fish Hill to collect the rear plate numbers sufficient to achieve speeding prosecutions.
- Improved reporting back mechanism
- Action to prevent online companies from promoting unsafe behaviour on motorbikes in specific demanding locations.

District Councillor Nigel Robinson's Report – January 2021

The level of Coronavirus in this part of the District (Broadway, Childswickham, Wickhamford and Sedgeberrow) has for the week ended 12th January 2021 reached record levels. Forty seven people were diagnosed with the virus which represents about 750 per 100,000 people, a level 50% above the national average. We do seem to still see too many visitors in Broadway at times and the police are more active in dealing with the public. A football match was cleared in the Activity Park and motorists questioned on Fish Hill.

Since the virus started Wychavon District Council has been very active in helping rough sleepers and 36 have been assisted since last Spring. I understand there has been a rough sleeper in Broadway. If we see anyone requiring help the contact details are telephone number 0300-500-0914.

At the last Broadway Visitor Management Committee Meeting, the Chairman, Chris Brooks indicated a shortage of volunteers at the Tourist Information Centre. I have managed to find a book-keeper who lives in Broadway to help with the accounts and administration and others have come forward to volunteer. Chris Brooks is now extremely busy dealing with grants and other assistance during the current lockdown and we will need to wait to confirm further progress.

As in the previous lockdowns Wychavon District Council will be paying grants to all eligible businesses and community groups. I have informed The Lifford Hall, Broadway Youth Club, Broadway Cricket Club and Broadway Bowling Club. The furlough scheme will continue until 31st March 2021 and the self-employed will again be claim financial support based on a share of the previous years profits.

The Housing and Communities Department of Wychavon District Council are not interested in helping me rectify the condition of Andrew Browns home in Bibsworth Avenue and have referred me to Worcestershire Regulatory Services. I am awaiting a response from them to see how we can make progress. I have informed Andrew Brown.

As you are aware there was a planning dispute regarding a fence erected behind several homes in Springfield Lane. Of the seven homeowners, three applied for retrospective planning permission, which was granted on the understanding that bushes were planted to eventually hide the fence. This is now being done but only against the fence of the the three applicants! The other parts of the fence remain bare and consequently the visual impact is still dreadful. Should and can Wychavon District Council enforce the planting of bushes along the whole length of the fence?

Elizabeth informed me that she read that a Jack Durham was proposing to sell burgers and hotdogs from a van in Broadway and he had the necessary permission. Enquiries were made with the Street Trading Licence Department at Worcestershire Regulatory Services and no such licence had been granted. We need to be vigilant in controlling this type of trading and WRS are fully aware of our views.

Nigel Robinson