

Cllr. Dan Botright WCC Report

Highways

Relatively quiet few weeks coming up but there are overnight closures on Allens Hill A44 3rd-11th September from 9pm to 6am.

14th September onwards you do have Wales and West Utilities conducting works within the village and this will cause some disruption with traffic lights. Residents should have received letters explaining the situation but if not, please let me know.

Local Government Reorganisation

We now know it will be two councils with a south and north Worcestershire. Elections for the shadow council will be May 2027. Each council division will have two councillors so Pershore Division will have two elected representatives. The full details of elections will be coming out over the next few months.

The councils have formed a joint committee to oversee the process. At the moment the key issues arising are the need to disaggregate the services (which is a legal necessity). The aim is to avoid as much disruption as possible but any issues, please do get in contact.

Still no details coming forward about a mayor. This is becoming increasingly frustrating as the county is now losing out to government funding in a huge number of areas including skills and apprenticeships. I recently wrote to the government to request they provided the same funding regardless of whether there is a regional mayor or not and we have a meeting coming up to discuss the issue. It is hugely restricting businesses access to funds and stopping young people access apprenticeships so hopefully we can find a way forward.

Oil and LPG support scheme

Might seem a tad irrelevant given the weather but low-income households who rely on heating oil or liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) and are struggling with rising energy costs may be eligible for dedicated support through the Oil and LPG Energy Support Scheme.

This scheme provides assistance to residents on a low income who are at immediate risk of running out of fuel, helping ensure they can continue to heat their homes and access hot water.

Eligible households can receive a one-off £300 contribution towards the cost of an oil or LPG delivery. Further details, including eligibility criteria and how to apply, are available via the Act on Energy:

<https://www.actonenergy.org.uk/support/worcestershire-crisis-resilience-fund>

More information can be found on the County Council website at

<https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/council-services/environment/sustainability/tackling-fuel-poverty/crisis-and-resilience-fund>

and general information can be found on the cost-of-living pages

<https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/council-services/communities/local-and-national-cost-living-support>

If you have any further questions, please email the team:

CRF@worcestershire.gov.uk .

Temporary suspension of fridge and freezer collections

Fridge, freezer and other cooling appliance collections have been temporarily suspended due to a national issue affecting specialist treatment and storage capacity.

Until further notice, these items cannot be accepted through the Bulky Waste Collection Service or at Household Recycling Centres. This is not a local service decision and there is currently no confirmed end date.

Residents with affected bookings will be contacted directly about refunds or alternative arrangements, so they do not need to contact the council unless they have not heard from them.

It is worth considering the retailer take-back option when buying a replacement appliance, or repair where practical. If you are getting a new fridge and have a working old one, there are always options to donate or sell on.

Anyone choosing to use a private waste carrier should check the carrier has a valid waste carrier licence and ask what will happen to the waste. Residents can also use WasteGuard through the Wychavon website to find reputable local businesses checked for a valid licence and responsible disposal practices at the time of listing.

Councillor Dr Dan Boatright-Greene

County Councillor for Pershore division (which includes the parishes of Bishampton and Throckmorton, Hill and Moor, Pinvin and Wyre Piddle)

Cabinet Member for Education, Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and Skills.

Group Leader Liberal Democrats

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