

LINDRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

13.09.17

COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT

- **County Council affairs**

At county level, we are very concerned about balancing the books for this current financial year. You will be aware that our Children's Services have been judged inadequate and the complicated and detailed remedial system that has been activated will cost many more millions of pounds than has been budgeted.

Despite this the results of our many road shows around the county and the Viewpoint surveys are reasonably encouraging and seem to endorse our priorities, namely vulnerable adult and children and maintaining the roads and pavements in good condition. While we are all rightly critical of poor performance in the latter, it is worth noting that this county has better road conditions than most of its near neighbours.

- **Tenbury Public Realm**

The final phase of the Public Realm work in Tenbury started this week, and we anticipate that it will be completed by the end of November. The intention is to start around the Regal and proceed along the west side of Teme Street as far as Crow corner. Work on the other side will be carried out starting next week.

The teams are aware of the need to make allowance for Applefest in October. There will be access for the necessary delivery vehicles on Friday 6th and no work going on over that weekend.

All changes to street lighting have been completed before the start of the footway work. These will take place during the working day on weekdays. When it comes time for the carriageway work, this will take place at night to minimise disruption.

I am assured that the raised tables will be re-laid in the specified red tarmac at this time, both in the new table at the pedestrian crossing, but also in all the existing raised tables.

The necessary Traffic Regulation Orders are in consultation at present. I trust that this phase of work will be less disruptive than the earlier ones. There will be no need for temporary traffic lights, so traffic should be kept flowing reasonably freely, although some traffic management will be required around Crow Corner.

- **Velo Birmingham Bike Race**

I would just like to confirm that the Velo Birmingham cycle event, a "sportive", will take place on the 24th September, involving some 15,000 riders. After all the controversy, I think most problems have been overcome and I hope it will be seen as a successful enterprise, particularly for the 1,400 riders from Worcestershire.

The changes that were made at the end of June came about because of the inherent problem

of enclosing so many homes and businesses within the planned figure of eight in the west of Worcestershire, as well as a reluctance to accept the disruption to Bromyard on behalf of Herefordshire Council.

There has been criticism of the organisers, CSM, being a profit making business. The County Council has many such relationships, most obviously with Ringway, who maintain the county's roads. It is not the fact that these companies wish to be profitable, as that they fulfil our requirements at a reasonable price. CSM are faced with two mass mailings, to 208,000 each, huge amounts of unique signage, many barriers and cones to be deployed, as well as costly provision of police support. While they may have taken well over £1 million in entry fees, I can believe them when they say they will not make a profit in 2017.

It is important to restate that this County Council has a very strong pro-cycling and walking policy, confirmed in the latest local transport plan (LTP4). This is demonstrated by our continued support for the Redditch bike race in May and the Tour of Britain. This started on Sunday, 3rd September in Edinburgh and finished on last Sunday, 11th September, with a leg that I watched starting in Croft Road, Worcester. It was shown live each day on ITV4.

Velo is, by contrast, not a race but a mass participation event, called a sportive, to promote general wellbeing and appreciation of the countryside. We are assured that it will also bring economic benefits to the county, as with the Wales Velothon, based in Cardiff, and also Ride London, now in its fifth year and requiring a lot of closed roads in London and Surrey.

- **Road and footway conditions**

I will be very happy to discuss any particular problems with road and footway conditions at the meeting, bearing in mind the importance of our £12m "Driving Home" project and the £6m being devoted to improving footways (pavements).

Some of the proposed changes in Eardiston intended to reduce speeds are in position and I would be keen to hear of any reaction from residents, as to their effectiveness.

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