

Malvern Hills District Council Report (September 2024)

Cllr Lesley Bruton (Tenbury Ward)

Annual Residents' Survey

The Annual Residents' Survey was launched on Sunday 1 September – please spread the word! The District Council would like residents' views on a variety of different topics, including what they think of their local area and the services the Council provide and their priorities for the district.

The survey will run until the deadline at midnight on 29 September 2024.

A £75.00 voucher for a local, independent restaurant or shop could be won (terms and conditions apply). The survey takes approximately 15 minutes to complete but progress can be saved so the survey can be completed in stages.

<https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/MHRSWeb2024/>

Active Travel

The District Council is committed to encouraging Active Travel. Active Travel contribute to the vision of the five-year strategic plan 'to enhance the Malvern Hills District as a destination to explore and an outstanding place to live and work'.

Active Travel journeys are those made by using some physical activity like; walking, cycling, e-cycles, scootering or wheeling. They are usually short journeys to a destination i.e. shopping, dropping children off to school, clubs, travelling to work, to appointments, or visiting family and friends. Active Travel can form part of a longer journey i.e. to the bus stop or train station or picking up a lift in a car.

To encourage active travel the District Council organised two events in Tenbury where residents could have their bicycles repaired free of charge. Both events were extremely successful.



In addition, the Council ran a Bike Boost Scheme where residents could apply for a £50.00 voucher to encourage people to cycle more. Cyclists of any skill level were reimbursed £50 towards the costs of a bicycle check or service, replacement parts, tools, locks, accessories or even a new bicycle.

<https://www.malvern.co.uk/community/active-travel>

Apprentice Bursary 2024

The Council recognises that apprentices and trainees may struggle to cover the cost of travel or equipment to access work or college and in turn this may prevent them from applying for certain jobs.

An Upskilling Bursary Scheme is available to support trainees where they are earning less than £250.00 per week and are Malvern Hills residents.

£500.00 is available to help cover the cost of travel, equipment, tools and clothing necessary to access training. For those interested in using active travel methods (walking/cycling) for their commute to work this may be put towards the cost of equipment such as purchase of a bicycle or e-bike.

The bursaries are administered via Worcestershire Apprenticeships on behalf of Malvern Hills District Council.

<https://www.malvern hills.gov.uk/business/skills-and-training/apprenticeships-and-training-opportunities>

Malvern Hills Upskilling Grant

The District Council is also helping local businesses through an Upskilling Grant Scheme. Funding up to £1,500 is available to help businesses with the cost of training new staff (i.e. apprenticeships, trainee or other).

To qualify the business must:

- Be based in the Malvern Hills district postcode area
- Employ fewer than 250 people
- Pay at least minimum wage to the trainee for a post of at least 30 hours a week including training leading to a recognised qualification
- The apprentice/trainee must have started their training after 1 October 2023 and have at least a 12-month signed employment contract.

Home Upgrade Grant

If your annual household income is £36k or less and you are not connected to mains gas for heating, then you could be eligible for the Home Upgrade that offers free improvements such as all types of home insulation, Air Source Heat Pumps, Solar PV etc.

<https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/council-services/environment/sustainability-and-carbon-reduction/tackling-fuel-poverty/home-upgrade-grant-scheme-hug2>

Community Arts Grants Programme

Severn Arts and Malvern Hills District Council have launched round two of the Community Arts Grants Programme.

As part of the programme, individual artists, arts organisations, venues and community groups can apply for Community Arts Funding. The Grants Programme aims to strengthen community connections, offering a range of art activities, providing creative opportunities for all residents of the District and have an impact on local communities.

You can apply for up to £2,500 for your community arts projects, which must take place before March 2025. The deadline for applications is 9am on Friday 20th September.

Please email l.farley@severnarts.org.uk if you have any questions regarding the grant programme.

Planning Decision

The Northern Area Planning Committee, at its meeting held on 4 September, consider the Reserved Matters application for 25 holiday lodges and associated car parking at Cadmore Lodge.

The application was refused unanimously on the following grounds:

The proposed development would, by reason of the type of lodges (static caravans) layout, appearance, landscaping and the amount of supporting infrastructure, including parking spaces and service roads; result in a visually intrusive form of development, lacking in quality, which would result in harm to the character and appearance of the area, the setting of the hotel and cause noise and light pollution to dwellings on the opposing eastern side of the valley which would be exacerbated in the autumn and winter months.