

**Andrew Willmott
District Councillor
Tenbury Ward**

**Report on Items of Interest
23 September 2024**

Flood Defences, Tenbury Wells

The latest Environment Agency review of the Scheme calculated that the savings from averting Tenbury flooding made the Scheme robust. The new Government has decided to review the Scheme again in its reallocation of funding.

Planning. MHDC

We await the results of the improvements introduced on 1 April. To date, planning officers are still advising of delays in responding.

Speeding

West Mercia Police have agreed to Operation Snap and the signs are up in the Rochford area and more recently we have added Hanley. Other communities are showing interest. An application to include Berrington Green is in process.

parkrun

A tentative course has been mapped out on Palmers Meadow in discussion with and support of the Football Club, the Community Pool and the Scouts. An initial meeting of volunteers has been held but more volunteers are still needed.

Teme Bridge

The recent evaluations by the Environment Agency on the Flood Relief Scheme include their moving the services currently buried in the Bridge pavements. This has led to Highways' re-evaluation of whether the pavement areas actually can take vehicle weight, to date they have maintained not. This will have a knock-on effect on the viability of a footbridge.

Road Works

Roadworks methodology, how and when works are undertaken, is a local and national problem with roads closed and interrupted for long periods with no work being undertaken. I have asked, and Government has agreed, to consider legislation to redress the balance with adequate incentives to reduce current disruption.

Tenbury Pharmacy

Rowlands HQ has admitted to problems at the Tenbury Pharmacy. There has been patchy improvement. I am in discussions with Rowlands HQ.

Neighbourhood Plan

New developments attract Section 106 and Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) contributions from developers. Under a suitably framed Tenbury / Burford Neighbourhood Plan (TBNP) and concomitant levy agreements, developments on the Shropshire side of the Teme, impacting on Tenbury, could have those development levies directed to Tenbury Town projects. A TBNP would also increase the CIL contribution retained for the locality. (Source: MHDC Planning Policy) TTC was unable, at the time of writing, to give a date for the next vote on this matter.

TSB Closing

The Town's last bank is closing next May. I have pressed Government for a banking hub to replace it, similar to the one in Pershore. MHDC has also joined the push for a replacement banking facility in Tenbury.

Parking Strategy

Given the developing problems in the Town, the Tenbury Traders Group has asked that a Parking Strategy be developed and adopted by Worcestershire CC Highways. There is logic in a Town Parking Strategy being in accord with a possible Neighbourhood Plan - we await the next vote on this by Tenbury Town Council.

St Michael's College

This local heritage asset and school has just changed hands, having been empty for some years. The new owner is a UK company who intend to refurbish and reopen the school next year.

Increased Government Housing Targets

The annual house building target for Malvern Hills District has been raised by 65% from 368 each year to 609 under the new Planning Framework. The new instructions also mean that our existing plan for MHDC, currently with the Planning Inspectorate, hoped to be agreed next year, will probably have to be reviewed immediately after it is approved.