

Worcestershire County Council Report
Meeting of Knighton on Teme Parish Council, 1st March 2022

1. Latest Covid Figures as at 1st March 2022 are:
 - a. Worcestershire is showing an infection rate of 403 cases per 100,000.
 - b. The infection rate in the Malvern Hills District is 431 cases per 100,000.
 - c. The direction of travel is down in all Worcestershire Districts.
 - d. Worcester City has the highest infection rate in Worcestershire with 484 cases per 100,000. Wyre Forest has the lowest infection rate with 327 cases per 100,000.
 - e. The rate of infection in England as a whole is 354 cases per 100,000.
2. A full programme of events is being planned by the County Council, to celebrate The Queen's Platinum Jubilee this year, and in particular, over the Bank Holiday weekend in June. Over 5,500 trees have already been planted in Worcestershire as part of the Queen's Green Canopy, with many more being planted during the course of the year.
3. Worcestershire County Council have received £52million of Government Grants for Covid support, including:
 - £21million for the most vulnerable in our communities.
 - £9million on testing, tracing and support for outbreak control.
 - £3million on support for free school meals.
 - £3million support of businesses.
4. Worcestershire County Council's Budget for 2022/23 was approved on Thursday 17th February.
 - a. There will be the following increase in Council Tax: the Precept will increase by 0.94%; in addition, there will be a 1% Adult Social Care Levy; in addition, there will be a 2% Adult Social Care Levy that was carried forward from 2021/22.
 - b. This additional funding for Adult Social Care will ensure the most vulnerable in society are protected.
 - c. The above increases in Council Tax will give an additional £11.3million in Council Tax revenue for 2022/23.
 - d. This will result in an increase of £52.95 per annum on a Band D property.
5. It has been agreed that Local Members' Highway Fund of £22,000 and Councillor's Divisional Fund of £10,000 will be extended to the next financial year. If there are any community projects that you believe would benefit from financial support, then please let me know from April onwards.
6. WCC has agreed that grants to Parish Councils will be increased by 15%, with regards to the Lengthsman Scheme.

7. The Worcestershire Health and Wellbeing strategy consultation 2022 – 2032, has been launched. Formal consultation will run until 2nd May 2022. Good mental health and wellbeing may mean different things to different people. Your thoughts and feelings are welcomed, to help WCC shape the future of health and wellbeing over the next ten years. The consultation survey is open to everyone and will help build up a picture of what Wellbeing means to people of all ages across the county. More details can be found at: www.worcestershire.gov.uk/HWBStrategy2022
8. For those aged 15 to 24 and would like advice on careers, apprenticeships, 6th Forms, full-time college courses, university and more, a number of Careers events are being held throughout Worcestershire between 2nd March and 7th April, each between 4pm and 8pm. There is no need to book, just drop into any of the events at any time to suit you. Further details can be obtained from:
careersworcs@worcestershire.gov.uk

David Chambers
County Councillor, Tenbury Division.