

Worcestershire County Council Report
Meeting of The Shelsleys Parish Council 15th November 2022

1. Concerns remain regarding the long delays that ambulances continue to wait outside the Worcester Royal Hospital. The poor flow of patients from ambulance to the Emergency Department, to Wards and then to discharge, also remains a major concern. On the 1st December, the next meeting of the Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee (of which I am a member), will be held at the Worcester Royal Hospital. Following the meeting we will be given a tour of the new Emergency Department, which is due to open shortly and where we will be able to question and assess any likely potential improvement to the services mentioned above.
2. On Sunday 6th November, as a Member of the Fire Authority, I attended an emergency services exercise at Worcester Cathedral. Hereford & Worcestershire Fire and Rescue Service, the Ambulance Service and the Police all took part. Some 100 officers from the various services were in attendance, some active on the exercise and others as observers. The exercise lasted almost three hours based on a fire in the lower ground floor of the cathedral, the evacuation of the injured, the removal of precious archives based in the roof section of the cathedral and so on.

Specialist appliances were mobilised including an appliance with a 30 metre extending ladder with platform, which could reach the roof area of the cathedral. There was also an appliance which was deployed at the river, enabling water to be pumped out of the river up to where the fire engines were located; this one appliance was able to supply five fire engines with a constant supply of water.

This type of exercise takes place several times each year at different locations. Mindful of the Manchester Arena disaster, which is very much in the news at present, this can give reassurance that our own emergency services are planning for potential serious eventualities.

David Chambers
County Councillor, Tenbury Division.