

# REPORT TO HANLEY COUNCIL CLLR'S ANDREA MORGAN & MARTIN ALLEN, MAY 2021



Covid has been the overriding problem for the whole of the year and it has severely restricted MHDC's ability to move forward with its plans. As the economy in many sectors shut down, the council have done all that they could do to help. So far the council has spent more than £30 million supporting businesses through the last 12 months of lockdowns and disrupted trading. Several million more will be paid out under the new Restart Grant scheme, which offers payments of up to £6,000 for non-essential retailers or £18,000 for hospitality and leisure businesses, and is due to go live soon. This has been a mammoth task that has been carried out very efficiently by our Officers.

Towards the end of 2020, MHDC appointed Sophie Jackson to work on Urban Regeneration and Town Centres Revitalisation. We can both see that as more people move to on-line shopping we need to find a way forward to support our businesses, especially as we now come out of lockdown. We will be asking Sophie to look in detail at how MHDC can help.

£54,000 has been provided by MHDC in funding to foodbanks, some of which has been given to Upton Baptist Church.



As the floods returned in early 2021  
Cllr's Andrea Morgan & Martin Allen ensured that  
Sandbags were available for all that needed them.



Your local Councillors pointing out problems to Cllr Sarah  
Rouse and newly appointed CEO Vic Alison of MHDC.

As the storms and rains came earlier in 2021, we ensured that there were sufficient sandbags available, with the majority in Tunnel Hill.

The SWDP continues on its merry way and it is now expected that we will get to vote on it in September 2021. Also, the South Worcestershire Traveller and Travelling Show People Site Allocations Plan has gone out to consultation. Martin did speak out against Hillbee Farm Traveller's site being included, but unfortunately we were out voted.

The Splash works have been completed, on time and within budget; this has been a worthwhile project that was brought forward to allow the work to be done during the forced closure due to Covid.

We have allocated all of our Ward Budget, the majority of which went this time to Hanley School to provide benches. In Upton, funds were given to Upton Baptist Church for the foodbank. Also, a Notice Board has been repositioned.

Moving forward during the year we would like to see MHDC put great efforts into supporting local businesses and, subject to Covid restrictions, opening the area up to tourism.

MHDC remains in a good financial position and continues on course with its 5-year plan and its move to becoming carbon neutral. The council feels that we should not put all this at risk now and will continue to support the residents and businesses located in the district as needed.

Regards  
Cllr's Andrea Morgan & Martin Allen  
Upton & Hanley  
MHDC