

*M I N U T E S
of PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
held at 5 Russell Square, High Street, Broadway,
on Thursday, 25th October 2012, at 7.00 pm*

PRESENT: Councillor D. W. Folkes (Chairman), Councillors Dr. R. Clements,
Miss D. Hardiman, R. Haslam, L. D. Keane, Mrs. A. Locker,
F. L. Penny, N. Robinson, Mrs. R. V. Rogers, Mrs. S. Stephenson,
Mrs. J. Stock, J. Williams, Mrs. C. Wilson

Also in attendance: Broadway Trust/J.Vincent, County and District Councillor
Mrs. E. Eyre, West Mercia Police, Evesham Journal

(1) APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: District Councillor B. Parmenter (apology
received and accepted).

(2) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: There were no declarations of interest.

(3) PRESENTATION OF GRANT CHEQUES:

It was agreed at the last meeting to make grants to Broadway First School towards IT projects, and to Broadway Youth Club towards running costs. Mr. Mike Appleby, Head Teacher of the School, accepted the cheque for £2,000, and thanked the Parish Council on behalf of all the children. Councillor Mrs. Eyre, as Treasurer of the Youth Club, accepted the cheque for £500 with thanks. The Clerk read out a card received from members of the Youth Club thanking the Parish Council for its kind donation and inviting any member of the Parish Council to call in between 6.00 and 8.00 pm on Thursdays to see the work of the Club.

(4) POLICE REPORT:

PC Emma Burrows informed the Parish Council that she was standing down and introduced PC Les. Pegler as her replacement. PC Burrows reported that in general there were no issues of concern in the village, but added that leaflets were available at the Police Station and at the Parish Council office to place in residents' windows requesting no Hallowe'en Trick or Treat calls.

She highlighted the hour change resulting in it being darker earlier, and asked parents to check that children cycling home from school had lights fitted on their bicycles and were using them. Also available from the Police Station are free luminous stickers to attach to clothing/backpacks, etc. for added visibility.

Councillor Mrs. Stephenson wished to advise the Police that she had had a 'near miss' in her car pulling out of a property in Station Road caused by the continued parking of vehicles in that area. PC Burrows stated that the local police had not raised objections to yellow lines being placed along the road and suggested that the Parish Council write to Mick Digger of the Police Traffic Management with its concerns.

(5) MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 23.08.12:

Proposed by Councillor Mrs. Stock, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Wilson, the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 23rd August 2012 were unanimously approved, and were duly signed and dated as a true record.

(6) BROADWAY COMMUNITY AWARD 2012:

The Chairman announced the winner of this year's award was Mrs. Joan Parfitt who for many years has been the driving force behind Broadway's entries for the Parish Games. Joan organises the various teams taking part in the events and actually participates in some of them herself. Although Broadway has not won the overall trophy, much treasured by Joan, it has won the Order of Merit trophy for the last two years, and in continuing to keep Broadway's participation it was felt that her efforts should be rewarded.

She said she was highly honoured to receive the Award which she hoped would raise awareness of the profile of the Parish Games within the village, and that more people would wish to participate.

The Chairman presented her with a cheque for £100 which she wished to donate to Children with Cancer in memory of her grandson who had died of leukaemia five years ago aged five and a half.

Other nominations received were for Mrs. Christine Waller, Mr. John Hankinson, and Mrs. Karalee Evans.

(7) COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS:

A copy of Councillor Mrs. Eyre's report was tabled for councillors' information and is available for reading at the Parish Council Office and also on Councillor Mrs. Eyre's blog site (www.lizeyreupdate.blogspot.co.uk). The following matters were highlighted:

- Council tax – consultation outcome
- South Worcestershire Development Plan – change to dates
- School funding – both schools in Broadway would be losing funding and Councillor Mrs. Eyre would be supporting both schools from her Divisional funding.
- Car parking – concessions are being offered in Evesham, Pershore, Droitwich and Broadway at Christmas.
- Flooding – the Badsey Brook scheme. The Environment Agency is in the process of awarding a contract to a consultant to carry out the detailed design work including the appointment of an independent Reservoir Engineer to supervise, design and build (safety requirement under the Reservoirs Act). The aim is to complete the detailed design work and Environmental Impact Assessment (requirement of Environment Act) by next summer ready to submit a planning application. The aim is to start construction in 2014 subject to funding. The scheme is in the national programme but it will not be known for sure until the end of 2013 whether it will receive funding, but the fund raising and design work

makes for a very strong position. Landowner issues are being progressed - the scheme relies on landowners agreeing to a fair and reasonable settlement. Inflated costs would be unhelpful and unfair to the taxpayer.

- The fundraising concert held at the Regal Cinema in aid of the flooding scheme raised £3,500.

In answer to Councillor Mrs. Wilson's request for the report to be received earlier, Councillor Mrs. Eyre said that it was difficult to supply a copy to the Clerk any earlier due to her commitments.

Councillor Robinson requested that the car parking concession details could be advertised in good time.

Councillor Mrs. Wilson stated that details of the candidates for the Police and Crime Commissioners' election on 15th November did not appear to be readily available, and was informed that the Government had made the decision to make the information available on the website, and information on the candidates for this area was also in the local Press.

(8) CLERK'S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE:

As instructed, the Clerk had contacted the District Council regarding the problem of garden waste being thrown into the ditch along Station Road. The Land Drainage Inspector had visited the site and reported that it was not, in fact, a ditch, with no sign of any watercourse, but was a steep grassed embankment which fell to field level. There was no risk of any obstruction to a watercourse as a result of this waste, but it did amount to fly-tipping by those responsible and could blight the area by killing the flora along the verge. The Clerk has placed an article in the next issue of the Broadway Newsletter highlighting the issue and asking people to dispose of their waste in the correct manner.

The Chairman and the Clerk attended the official opening of the new toilet block in the Activity Park on Thursday, 27th September.

The County Council had given notification of a temporary road closure along Snowhill Road from its junction with West End Lane for a distance of five hundred metres in a southerly direction, in order to facilitate essential water connections in the carriageway. Commencement would be on 3rd December and was anticipated to last five days.

Further to the agreement that the Parish Council would refurbish the War Memorial, the Clerk had completed the Expression of Interest form for a grant from the War Memorial Trust towards the cost, but as a condition of the application no work could commence until the grant had been agreed.

The Royal Air Force Association had written to thank the Parish Council for the opportunity to collect for their Welfare Funds in Broadway which raised the sum of £412.44.

The Chairman attended the award ceremony for Worcestershire Libraries and Summer Reading Challenge held at the Library on Saturday, 29th September, in order to present the children with certificates and medals.

The Audit Commission had confirmed the appointment of Grant Thornton UK LLP as the external auditors to audit the annual return of the Parish Council for a five year period commencing 2012/13.

The Clerk reported at the last meeting that the barrier had been removed from the emergency exit at Shear House car park and was instructed to clarify whether this was contrary to the planning application. The reply received from Heather Pearson, the District Council planning officer, was that while there was mention of a barrier in the design and access statement, and appeared in the plan for the site, there did not seem to be any evidence of where the requirement came from or that there was, indeed, a problem. Neither Highways nor the planners made it a condition of the planning permission, and the replacement of the barrier, therefore, was not an issue.

Earlier in the year the Parish Council agreed to continue its contribution to the Wychavon Bursary award which this year had been refreshed and renamed the Diamond Jubilee Community Recognition award. The District Council was now requesting a nomination from the Parish Council and it was decided that the name of the Community Award 2012 winner, Mrs. Joan Parfitt, should be put forward.

The County Council Parish Lighting Incentive Committee had confirmed that Prysmian Group plc had successfully retained the contract to maintain the parish lighting. Previously the contractor responded to faults reported as they were identified and charged accordingly. Under the new contract a lump sum amount will be paid to provide a number of services which are fault repairs, electrical testing, emergency attendance, replacement of damaged equipment, and a four weekly night inspection with find and fix repairs. The result of these changes is that the annual charge per column is £27.42, which is currently within the Parish Council's lighting precept for this year, but with energy costs likely to increase by as much as ten per cent the lighting precept may have to be increased for next year.

The District Council had advised that the Boundary Commission for England had published revised proposals for the new Parliamentary Constituency Boundaries, and copies are on display at the Civic Centre, Pershore, and also available for inspection at Evesham and Droitwich contact centres. Feedback would be welcomed by the Commission and the deadline for written representation was Monday, 10th December.

Concerns were reported to the Clerk regarding speeding vehicles along Back Lane from the High Street towards Budgens. The Clerk contacted Highways who have agreed to place speed survey equipment. Speeding is specifically identified between Walnut Close and the entry to Budgens.

(9) REPORTS OF VARIOUS COMMITTEES AND GROUPS:

P.A.C.T: A meeting was held on 18th September at Evesham Police Station.

The Herefordshire candidate for the Police Crime Commissioner role attended the meeting to give a short description of the role of a Police Commissioner and to see the working of a PACT group.

Broadway's approval of an additional VAS sign was noted and will be discussed further at the next meeting.

Speeding, especially on Station Road, was a subject of discussion.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 8th January, 2013

Library: The Library Committee met with representatives from the County Council Library Services on Tuesday, 9th October, at 1.30 pm, at the Parish Council office, and a subsequent meeting with County Councillor Mrs. Eyre and members of the Parish Council was held on Monday, 22nd October.

The Committee discussed four options put forward by the County Council, and after much consideration it was recommended that Option 2, which seemed to be the most feasible, be accepted in principle subject to further discussions taking place with the County Council on a number of matters. Option 2 is to deliver a community-led library which the Parish Council would lease and take responsibility for the outgoing costs of running the premises. The County Council library service would pay for the hiring of the library space, and further income could be obtained from letting or hiring office space/meeting areas within the building.

The Parish Council was still supportive of maintaining a library service within the village and accepted the above recommendation in principle with eleven votes in favour and one objection.

Councillor Dr. Clements objected as she felt that Option 3 should also be considered which proposed the purchase of the Police Station, but this option was not currently viable until the outcome of the Police Review was received which would be completed by the end of March 2013.

Visitor Management Group: At a meeting held on Wednesday, 5th September, at the Parish Office, the Chairman, Chris. Brooks, welcomed Councillor Miss Hardiman to the Group.

- It was reported that the toilet block in the Activity Park was due to be opened on 27th September.
- The Ashmolean in Broadway was on target for opening in March 2013.
- there are ongoing discussions regarding brown signs with the possibility of Evesham with Broadway being nominated as one of the areas for the brown sign pilots.
- it was felt that the markets had gone well this year and that they should continue in the same vein next year. Discussions were held about enhancing the Italian market which it was hoped would take place on the early May Bank Holiday next year.

- it was reported that some coaches were not using the designated drop-off/collection points, with an instance of one driver being extremely rude when asked to move to a correct drop-off point. The coach companies will be reminded of the correct procedure.
- there had been positive feedback regarding the Croft Villa map.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 5th December, at 10.00 am at the Parish Council office.

Save Broadway Campaign Group: The Chairman invited Mr. Gordon Franks (Chairman of the Group) and Mr. Eddie Vickers to give a short presentation to update the Parish Council on progress. Mr. Franks set out why the Group was formed and its objectives, and confirmed that Broadway was not unique as there were a number of other villages throughout the country in a similar situation. There was a massive groundswell of support with volunteers from the village coming forward to help, and Mr. Franks stressed how important it was that the Group worked closely with the Parish Council, as the elected representatives of the village, and the Broadway Trust. Mr. Vickers read out a draft letter from the Group which would be shortly sent to the Government and the District Council raising the many concerns regarding the proposed developments in Broadway.

A meeting was being organised by the Group for Tuesday, 6th November, at the Lifford Hall commencing at 7.30 pm in order to update villagers of progress, and all councillors were invited to attend. A website had been set up (www.savebroadway.co.uk) giving information about the campaign.

The Chairman of the Parish Council thanked Messrs. Franks and Vickers for their presentation and for all the hard work carried out by the Group.

He then read out the reply received from Mr Jack Hegarty, Managing Director of the District Council, in response to the Parish Council's letter regarding its concerns about the South Worcestershire Development Plan for Broadway, as follows :-
 "the Council is finding itself in an incredibly difficult position in relation to supporting growth and meeting the unequivocal demands of the Government which were to meet both a deadline for plan preparation and, equally importantly, a continuous five year housing supply. This has impacted on many of our communities to an extent which had not been expected. To this end I fully understand and share the views held in the village about its unique character and its high quality environment but it would be unrealistic of me to suggest that a zero tolerance approach to new development could be deliverable. What the plan needs to do is balance the competing demands for growth in the village which were played out in the recent consultation"

Councillor Robinson proposed that a vote be taken to support the objectives of the community-led Save Broadway Campaign group. The proposal was carried with nine votes in favour, two votes against, and two abstentions.

(10) PLANNING:

Parish Council comments:

MEETING: 28-08:12

- Application W/12/01564/PP **MR. A. CHARLTON**
5 Morris Road
Reposition existing fence to a position adjacent to the public footpath.
The Parish Council raised no objections to this proposal
- Application W/12/01300/PP **MR. & MRS. K. SMITH**
Stoneways, Evesham Road
Loft conversion with insertion of dormer and velux windows and first floor side extension over flat. Internal alterations including fenestration and new garage.
The Parish Council raised no objections to this proposal
- Application W/12/01499/CU **MR. R. DAVIES**
Land off Pry Lane
Proposed alterations and improvement of former bakery to form office and workroom
The Parish Council raised no objections to this proposal but stated that attention MUST be drawn to a possible increase in traffic levels at the junction of Pry Lane and Cheltenham Road

MEETING: 01:10:12

- Application W/12/01776/PP **MR. and MRS. HORTON**
Bannits, 11 Church Street
Provision of stable in grounds
Amendment to site plan to remove access through adjacent field and further annotation on plan and elevation drawing to explain tank system for the 'yard wash down' run off.
The Parish Council has no objections to this proposal in principle, but has concerns regarding the removal of access and ask where will the access be?
- Applications W/12/01706/PN
and W/12/01707/LB **MR. J. KEIL**
67 High Street
Replacement open timber bellcote with weathervane
Although this is attractive, it is a retrospective application which is not at all favoured by the Parish Council

MEETING: 15:10:12

- SMALL TALK, 32 High Street**
- (a) Application W/12/02023/PN - proposed rooflight to existing Grade II Listed Building
 - (b) Application W/12/02022/AA - proposed PREGO font on to existing fascia sign
 - (c) Application W/12/01914/LB - internal alterations and insertion of new rooflight to an existing Grade II Listed Building
- The Parish Council raised no objections to the above applications.
- Applications W/12/1832/PN - **MRS. E. SALMON,**
and W/12/1696/LB First floor flat, 25 High Street
Internal alterations and addition of a small bathroom window
The Parish Council raised no objections to these applications

Wychavon Approvals:

- Application W/12/01473/PP **Mr. D. James, Pye Corner Farm, West End Lane**
Replacement of six windows in existing openings

Application W/12/01557/LB	Lygon Arms, 28 High Street Construction of glazed hardwood fire screen and door to first floor landing of main staircase
Application W/12/01564/PP	Mr. A. Charlton, 5 Morris Road Repositioning of existing fence to position adjacent to public footpath
Application W/12/01776/PP	Mr. and Mrs. Horton, Bannits, 11 Church Street Provision of stables in grounds
Application W/12/01300/PP	Mr. & Mrs. K. Smith, Stoneways, Evesham Road Loft conversion with insertion of dormer and velux windows and first floor side extension over flat. Internal alterations including fenestration and new garage.

Wychavon Planning Appeal:

Applications W/12/00691/LB and W/12/00690/PP
Mr. B. Donoghue, Hensley House, 158 High Street
Proposed rear entrance hall and porch

Appeal start date: 11:09:12

(11) SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS from 15:08:12 to 17:10:12

<i>Payments:</i>	verified by the Clerk together with two nominated signatories	<i>net of VAT</i>
Unicom / telephone-internet		59.50
Eon / village green electricity		19.80
Eon / office electricity		140.73
B & W Hire Limited / hire of toilets in activity park		165.00
K. Beasley / Clerk's salary – August		1,177.60
G. A. Tomkins / Asst. Clerk's salary – August		609.20
G.B.D. (Evesham) Ltd / mowing		597.88
Worcestershire County Council / pension contribution		405.38
Unicom / telephone-internet		58.15
Lifford Memorial Hall – hire of Hall		24.00
Cotswold Bldg. Supplies / Activity Park maintenance		63.05
Maurice Parkinson (Lengthsman) general maintenance		150.00
Maurice Parkinson (Lengthsman) lengthsman scheme maintenance		278.00
Grassroots Garden Services / activity park maintenance		182.00
Worcestershire County Council / lighting initiative charge		6,400.00
PMC Polythene Limited / dog foul bags		150.00
Orchard Scaffolding / activity park maintenance		135.40
B & W Hire Limited / hire of toilets		18.00
K. Beasley / Clerk's salary / September		1,177.60
G. A. Tomkins / Asst. Clerk/s salary / September		560.90
Royal British Legion / remembrance wreath		16.50
HM Revenue and Customs / PAYE		1,106.30
EBC Group (UK) Ltd. / photocopier charges		23.71
Broadway United Football Club – donation re Jubilee		450.00
Broadway Cricket Club – donation re Jubilee		450.00
GWSR – donation re Jubilee		50.00
Broadway Youth Club – grant		500.00
Broadway First School – grant		2,000.00
Colwyn Thomas / activity park maintenance		348.75
Grassroots Garden Services / activity park maintenance		54.00
Wychavon District Council / refuse collection bin		106.65
Worcestershire County Council / pension contribution		405.38
C. Packman / purchase of benches		700.00
Prince Henry's High School / donation		50.00
GBD (Evesham) Limited – mowing contract		597.88

24/7 Security / security contract	89.00
Cotswold Building Services / activity park maintenance	21.75
Wychavon District Council / office service charge	317.26

Receipts:

Broadway Trust / contribution to planters	500.00
Signpost / contribution to office electricity	41.35
Rooftop Housing Group / sponsorship of toilets	117.00
Sketts & Co. / donation re Plum Market	50.00
Colwyn Thomas / ice cream sales	44.00
Sketts & Co. / donation re Apple Market	50.00
Signpost / contribution to office water	21.31

(12) COUNCILLORS' REPORTS AND ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA:

Councillor Mrs. Stephenson, referring back to the Police report, requested that a letter be written to Mr. Digger regarding the parking concerns in Station Road, and the Clerk was instructed accordingly.

Councillor Mrs. Rogers reported that a drainage cover had again lifted in Cheltenham Road. The Clerk replied that the matter would be reported again.

Councillor Mrs. Locker reported that a section of road above the turning circle in the upper High Street was in need of clearing. The Clerk stated a request had already been made to the District Council who would instruct contractors to ensure that this matter would be dealt with.

Councillor Mrs. Wilson questioned the excessive amount of coning on Fish Hill when wall repairs were being carried out. Councillor Mrs. Eyre stated that this was due to health and safety requirements.

Councillors Mrs. Hardiman and Mrs. Stock asked when the overgrown vegetation along Snowhill Road would be cut back as pedestrians were still being forced to walk in the road. The Clerk replied that this matter had been reported and would be chased up as a matter of urgency.

Councillor Haslam stated there were rumours that the Football Club had either been sold or was about to move, and he asked the Chairman if this was the case. As one of the Trustees of the Club, the Chairman replied that as far as he knew this was not so.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.15 pm and opened the

PUBLIC INFORMATION SESSION:

Mrs. Dottie Friedli said she was pleased to see how quickly the wall had been repaired by the Library, but did comment that perhaps this was because the wall had fallen on the Police Station side and not on the public footpath side as before when it had taken so long to be repaired.

Mrs. Friedli stated she had received a letter from a property developer interested in her property. Upon contacting this developer to state that the property was a listed building and also in the middle of the village, the response was "that there would be no difficulty in overturning these issues".

Mr. Vincent of the Broadway Trust stated that the Save Broadway Campaign and the Broadway Trust had been in discussion, and it was felt that the production of an up-to-date neighbourhood plan was important to protect the village from future development and confirmed that the Trust would be happy to assist in any way possible.

The Chairman finally closed the meeting at 8.25 pm

Date /Time Next Meeting: Thursday, 13th December, 7.00 pm

**COUNTY and DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT 25th October 2012 BROADWAY
DIVISION, BROADWAY AND WICKHAMFORD WARD – Cllr LIZ EYRE**

Council Tax proposals consultation

Wychavon's proposals for a new Council Tax Support Scheme and Council Tax discounts and exemptions have been consulted on. The Government is abolishing Council Tax Benefit (CTB) on 31 March 2013 and all councils have to replace it with their own Council Tax Support (CTS) scheme. Wychavon has to set up a new scheme from 1 April 2013 to help those on low incomes pay their Council Tax bill.

The Government is also making changes to the Council Tax regulations, giving local councils the chance to make changes to the rules about which properties are exempt from Council Tax and which qualify for a discount. For consistency, Wychavon are working closely with the other Worcestershire councils. For the first year there will be minimal change.

- Pensioners will not be affected by the changes
- The single person discount will remain the same.
- A Discretionary Hardship Fund will be established to provide support to those least able to pay.

The consultation for residents and interested groups took place between 17 September and 26 October.

Planning - South Worcestershire Development Plan - changes to Full Councils date.

There is a small slippage in the timetable of the work to prepare the South Worcestershire Development Plan. Arising from this the meetings of the three councils to consider the draft Plan will now take place on **10th December 2012**, rather than 27th November 2012.

JAP meetings on 29th October and 2nd November 2012 are cancelled. Replacement dates are Thursday 15th November (*tbc**)/ Friday 16th November (confirmed). Maybe a technical workshop session on 14/11/12 in place of 15/11/12.

Papers to Committee Secretaries at each Authority Thurs 22nd November for distribution Fri 23rd or Mon 26th November

Consultation: as early as possible in New Year for 6 weeks: 11th Jan – 22nd Feb 2013. (tbc)

Submission: end 1st week in April 2013

Localism - a reminder the bill covers more than big society:

- Community Right to Challenge
- Community Right to Bid
- Community Right to Build
- Neighbourhood Planning

- Protection by Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) at -1.5% per pupil for each of the next two years.
- Formal representation to the Secretary of State for Education by the Leader of the Council.

The County Council Cabinet on 18th October 2012 agreed a new formula for 2013-14 only to be reviewed during 2013 in light of the issues raised during the consultation

The 13/14 impact on my Division's local schools after the minimum funding guarantee is

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCH	186.0	683,838	665,628	(18,210)	-2.66%
BROADWAY FIRST SCHOOL	104.0	447,207	437,456	(9,751)	-2.18%
SEDGEBERROW C.E. FIRST SCHOOL	157.0	527,444	522,005	(5,439)	-1.03%
FLADBURY CE FIRST SCHOOL	68.0	312,185	320,384	8,199	2.63%

Car parking

In October 2011 Wychavon introduced half hour parking at a cost of 50p. There had been no change for car parking charges for four years and this was part of the £2m savings the council had to make. Statistics on weekly parking usage for short and long stay car parks based on two weeks in July 2011 and the same two weeks in July 2012 showed that there was an increase in short stay parking and a decrease in long stay parking. Wychavon will now be reviewing long stay car parking and will consider reducing the all day maximum charge and the costs of season tickets. Parking concessions are being offered in the three towns and Broadway at Christmas and also in Evesham during the period when the bridge refurbishment takes place.

Search for a new Lord Lieutenant

The Cabinet Office is consulting on who should be selected to act as a leader in the county following the death of Michael Brinton in April after a year-long battle with cancer.

Search for a new Secretary of State member for the Cotswold AONB : if you are interested or know of a suitable candidate please contact me.

Flooding – the Badsey Brook scheme

The EA is in the process of awarding a contract to a consultant to carry out the detailed design work, including the appointment of an independent Reservoir Engineer to supervise design and build (safety requirement under the Reservoirs Act). The aim is to complete the detailed design work and Environmental Impact Assessment (requirement of Environment Act) by next summer, ready to submit a planning application. The aim is to start construction in 2014, subject to funding. The scheme is in the national programme but we won't know whether it will receive funding for sure until the end of 2013, but the fund raising and design work put us in a very strong position.

Landowner issues are being progressed. The scheme relies on landowners agreeing to a fair and reasonable settlement. Inflated costs would be unhelpful and unfair to the taxpayer.

Max factor helps to raise £3,500 for flood scheme

The fundraising night backed by PR Guru Max Clifford at the Regal Cinema in Evesham raised £3,500. Particular thanks to the Regal for giving us the venue free, the Environment Agency for its posters, the businesses in Broadway for their raffle prizes, and not least Max Clifford and the artists.

Faster broadband

Worcestershire people are set to receive faster broadband by next year. BT has announced a further local investment, pledging to roll out its £2.4 billion high-speed fibre broadband network to nearly 4,000 more homes and businesses across the county...

County Council Peer Review

An inspection designed to provide the Council with the services of a 'critical friend' to assist in the process of developing and improving, and to inform and challenge options for the future. A team were onsite (18th – 20th July) they undertook over 40 individual interviews and group sessions with residents, partners, Members, services users and staff. Feedback from the Peer Team and it is available for you to read on our website www.worcestershire.gov.uk/peer reported demonstrable improvements at Worcestershire County Council over the last 18 months, endorsed the Council's progress in what are challenging times. The team felt:

1. Sound finances with robust financial planning in place,
2. An effective programme in place to deliver the savings the Council must make,
3. Strong political and managerial leadership,
4. A clear commitment across the organisation to our number one priority- Open for Business,
5. Good foundations in place to become an excellent commissioning based authority, ensuring the right service is provided by the right provider at the right price for the taxpayer,
6. A Localism framework to help strengthen communities and promote self-reliance.

A number of suggestions for improvement were highlighted in section 9 of the report.

Missing Children

A two day Ofsted thematic inspection: re missing children highlighted good work going on and identified further learning. Police and Council heads are joining forces to help tackle the problem of children missing from care homes. From now on, data on all the children's homes in the county will be freely available to police officers in a bid to quicken the process for finding youngsters who run away.