



MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

held at CATSHILL VILLAGE HALL

GOLDEN CROSS LANE, CATSHILL, B61 0JZ

THURSDAY 30th March 2017, 7.30pm

Present : Cllrs O Sweeting (Chair), B McEldowney (Vice Chair), P Baker, M Ball, T Gillespie, M Knight, P Masters, N Ward

In attendance: Clerk – R Powell;

- 17/03-01** Chairman's welcome
Cllr O Sweeting welcomed all present to the meeting.
- 17/03-02** Members' Apologies for absence
Apologies were received from Cllrs J Bate, G Blackmoor and M Shephard and County Cllr S Blagg
- 17/03-03** Co-option
It was noted that there were two vacant seats on the Council. The Co-option that was an Agenda Item for discussion at this meeting had been postponed. No decision was needed from Members.
- 17/03-04** Open Forum
- 4.1 Members of the Public**
There were no Members of the Public present
- 4.2 Worcs County Councillor for the Woodvale Division**
County Councillor Sheila Blagg had sent her apologies and her report had been circulated (see attached)
- 4.3 Bromsgrove District Councillors for North Catshill, South Catshill and Marlbrook Wards.**
District Councillor, Shirley Webb was present at the meeting. It was explained that when the Baptist Church was nearly complete the electric would be established, probably at the front of the building, for the installation of the next defibrillator. It was noted that the Hunters Walk sign was on a list to be moved to turn and face out onto Meadow Road. The Social Club and the School were having issues with the other entrance to the Social Club car park and were looking for funds, however, there were none available. It had been suggested the gate be closed so it was unable to be used. Hopefully the work at the Crown car park would be completed soon, with Virgin Media levelling it off and tidying it up.
District Councillor, Brian Cooper, was present at the meeting. The Council had passed the Bromsgrove District Plan, which was different to the Bromsgrove Planning Plan that had been passed in January. The budget for 2017/18 had been approved which represented a modest increase in Council Tax, with the budget being balanced using savings and reserves. Cllr Cooper reported that he was soon to become Finance Portfolio holder and therefore had had to give up Membership to other Committees.
Members expressed concern with the use of herbicide by contractors around the verges of the grass throughout the Parish. Cllr Cooper and Cllr Webb agreed to find out who was using it and how often.
Cllr Webb and Cllr Cooper left the meeting at 19:44hrs
- 4.4 Any other community representative**
No community representatives were present.
- 17/03-05** The meeting was closed for Open-Forum and re-opened.
- 17/03-06** Declarations of Interest
No member stated any declarable interest.
- 17/03-07** Dispensations

No new requests for dispensations had been received.

17/03-08 Approval of Minutes of previous council meeting

It was agreed to accept the minutes of the Full Parish Council meeting held 23/02/17. The minutes were duly signed by the Chairman.

17/03-09 Members' Questions

No questions were received.

17/03-10 Chairman's Report

The Chairman provided a report which outlined the need within the past month to close the office on a Monday to allow the Clerk to care for her Mother and Father who had been ill. The Clerk continued to work from home and the Assistant Clerk remained in the office on a Tuesday at the usual times. Cllr Sweeting had attended the CALC meeting on 8th of the month which had commenced with a talk from the leader of Bromsgrove Council. Numerous Councillors from Parishes in the locality had been talking about parking, speeding and inconsiderate motoring. Neighbourhood Plans were a constant and consistent Agenda Item for CALC as most Parishes were struggling to get them off the ground. It was established that smaller settlements cannot work on their own without involving Neighbouring larger settlements because of the shared infrastructure and were therefore looking to combine Parishes. Catshill and North Marlbrook were very lucky that theirs was progressing so well, with agreed dates for consultation and venues booked. Sue Baxter, the very busy chair of the local CALC, would be retiring from CALC in May. Both she and the Chief Executive of NALC were expecting Cllr Sweeting to take over. Cllr Sweeting reported that he was considering the situation but needed to look at the Chairmanships he currently held.

It was noted that Cllr Sweeting had been approached by John Ruck for £50 donation towards a leaving gift for County Councillor Sheila Blagg which, due to it being within the delegated financial limit, he had approved. Members agreed with the approval of the donation, noting that the Parish Council had been very fortunate to have County Councillor Blagg and that she had been very good at her role.

Cllr Sweeting continued that numerous organisations were currently speaking at the meetings he attends regarding the elderly. Cllr Sweeting noted that he had numerous pamphlets explaining happenings throughout the borough. One in particular of interest was the strength and balance classes which were designed to assist the elderly in preventing falls. If the Parish Council could gather the interest of 20 people someone would come along and run the classes on their behalf.

The Village Hall had held their AGM with resignations received from 3 of the trustees and 4 members of the Management Committee. They had also gained two new Members in their 30's. Claire Wing, the new Hall Manager, was doing an excellent job and had become a volunteer member of the Management Committee and the Neighbourhood Plan Group.

17/03-11 Clerk's Report: Emergency Actions, Update and List of Communications

11.1 Parishioner Correspondence – To inform Members of the correspondence received during the last two months.

The Clerk reported concerns received from the Secretary of the Baptist Church as to the process of the donations and grants procedure. The Clerk had met with Cllr Sweeting to look through the document and it was established that due to religious and school groups usually having access to their own funding streams, this was the reason that requests from these areas would not usually attract a donation. The Secretary of the Baptist Church had been informed.

Further contact had been received from a Member of the NWWA regarding weeds on the play area and if these could be attended. The Clerk had made contact with the Lengthsman in relation to this.

11.2 Garden and Lengthsman Contracts

The Clerk reported that both contracts had now been signed and returned. The Lengthsman had also informed the Clerk he is available for odd jobs so as the usual gentleman that the Parish Council used is busy, the Clerk would be using the Lengthsman to install the dog units, re-vitalise the bench at Ivy Cottage and paint the vandalised bus stop

11.3 Catshill Baptist Church Garden - To include a decision as to how to progress with holding back the soil and bark in this area *Decisions required*

The Clerk had contacted Highways about the dropped kerb stones but had not received a response. Since this however, it had been established that this is probably not the issue for the bark falling into the road area and the Parish Council will need to look at another approach. The Environment & Highways Committee had talked about planting around the edge or gravel boards. There is also the option of a low fence.

It was agreed that Members should have a look at the area in order to understand the problem properly, prior to making any decisions.

11.4 Speed Survey – Stourbridge Road

Unfortunately, the Clerk had made no more progress with this issue. The speed survey that had been reported on recently was established to not be the one that was to be carried out by Highways and was completed in the 40 mph speed limit rather than the 30mph area which was requested. The Clerk was awaiting a response from Richard Clewer as to when this will be completed.

11.5 Velo Bike ride 24th September 2017

The Clerk reported that there is a bike ride that will be carried out on the 24th September that will close roads around the Catshill and North Marlbrook area. Richard Levett at CALC had asked for a copy of the briefing that will be sent to County Councillors and will filter this down. Worcestershire County Council will be looking to advertise the closures 3 months in advance of the event (in June 2017). WCC will receive any representations at this time and will try and mitigate any issues if they are raised. A map of the road closures which will be in place is at https://www.velobirmingham.com/theroute/roadclosures/?_ga=1.41924770.1090960317.1488375852. The routes closest to Catshill will be closed from 08:00 to 19:00 on this day so will have an affect on the area. The Clerk will advertise on the website and in the notice boards where possible.

11.6 Newsletter

This was now ready to go to production. The Clerk thanked Cllr P Masters and Mr Dave Webb for their hard work. It is a full edition with a special pull out feature regarding the Neighbourhood Plan and had taken some design and organising. The quote for the additional pages was £420 – only £15 more than last edition. However, it would take the Parish Council £150 over budget and therefore needed permission to be produced.

Cllr Masters projected a copy of the newsletter for Members to see, onto the wall. It was noted that due to the period of Purdah that we were currently in some of the articles needed amending.

It was agreed that the additional funding could be spent to produce the newsletter.

11.7 Co-op Savings Account

The Co-op Savings Account matured on 17th March. As the Council had not yet identified a new Savings Account the money had been left with the Co-op who will transfer it to an Instant Access Business Savings account and forward the details. The Clerk and Cllr Sweeting had been looking into the money the Council had and the Finance and Staffing Committee would be discussing and finalising this in their meeting in May, including the amount to save for emergencies

11.8 Pensions and Automatic Enrolment

The Clerk had researched the Auto Enrolment. The Parish Council's staging date was 1st April but no member of staff was eligible to be automatically enrolled into a Pension Scheme. The Clerk had produced letters that will be sent to all employees with these details following the 1st April. Employees can still request to be put into a scheme and the Council had previously identified LGPS for this. The Clerk had contacted them to find out if they can be used for automatic

enrolment and also to gain some details from them needed to complete a Declaration of Compliance by August 2017.

11.9 Annual Parish Meeting Progress

The Clerk had secured a speaker from Alzheimer's Society; Mike Webley who was a Volunteer Local Representative and a Dementia Friends Champion. This would link with the Parish Council's new initiative regarding the elderly in the Village and he would give a talk about what it looks like to live in a Dementia Friendly Community and how we can help. This would hopefully provide some ideas for moving forward. Dr Chris Fabray would also be carrying out a Neighbourhood Plan presentation at the end of the evening and have a stand in the room with promotional material. All letters had been produced to invite local community groups and the Agendas would be going up in the notice boards on Saturday mornings once they had been signed by the Chairman. The Clerk was hoping it would be a successful evening.

Relevant correspondence available from the Clerk: includes weekly CALC updates March 2017; weekly updates from BDC Planning lists, WCC road works lists, Neighbourhood Watch Alerts, M5 J4A to J6 updates and newsletters, NRSWA, PCC Newsletter, Lickey Hills Society Newsletter 155, Bromsgrove Advertiser updates, PEEL: Police Effectiveness 2016 Report, Superfast Worcestershire Spring Newsletter, Worcestershire Voices, PACT Bromsgrove North and Rural February News, Wellbeing in Partnership Newsletter, CPRE Campaigns.

17/03-12 Committee and Representatives Reports

Background papers available

12.1 Environment and Highways Committee– 09/03/17 (Cllr M Shepherd) To include agreement for the purchase of a noticeboard as recommended by the Committee at the cost of £1697.46 plus installation (£625 min for a 2 man team) (quote document circulated)

As Cllr Shepherd was not present Cllr Sweeting noted the distribution of the minutes from the meeting and led the discussion in relation to the acquisition of a notice board for erection in the lower area of the Parish, as per the recommendation of the Committee. Members discussed the material the boards were made from, which of the current boards was the best and the price of the quotes provided.

It was agreed that the Clerk should bring additional quotes to the next meeting of the Full Parish Council for consideration.

12.2 Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group – Meeting held 22/03/17 (Cllr B McEldowney)

To include discussion regarding the funding previously provided to the group and agreement to continue with the proposed £2000 budget as an amount available should funding applied for be insufficient to cover needs

Cllr McEldowney reported that the purpose of meeting was to agree final posters and three different teams were tasked with preparing displays for the consultation events. There are currently two working group leaders and there was still a need to identify a leader for the Environment group. Cllr Shepherd and Cllr Knight would currently be assisting Melanie Andrews with this display. The Steering Group looked at logistics of stands and who would do which tasks etc. A mock workshop would be held on 29th April, with the proper events on 13th May and 24th June. The purpose of these was to encourage villagers to come and give their views, have the Neighbourhood Plan process explained and get them to fill in questionnaires prior to issuing more comprehensive questionnaires in the second stage. Another Steering Group would be held following the consultation events to debrief. Any volunteers for groups would be welcome, particularly any Members of public. Initial analysis of completed questionnaires showed that aged 50+ residents were completing them so the spread of questionnaires needed to be wider. Current concerns were reported as traffic and parking. The Clerk explained to Members that any money already provided by the Parish Council could not be reimbursed by the Steering Group as any grant they obtain did not allow funding for money already spent. It was suggested however, that the £2000 remain in the budget for the following year to allow for any miscalculations or gaps in the grant once applied for.

It was agreed to keep the £2000 within the Parish Council budget to assist with the Neighbourhood Plan.

12.3 Any other report from Parish Council representatives including those for:

- **Bromsgrove Area CALC Committee – 08/03/17 (Cllr O Sweeting)**
Cllr Sweeting had reported on this within his Chairs report.
- **Village Hall Management Committee and AGM – 16/03/17 (Cllr J Bate)**
Cllr Sweeting had reported on some of this item within his Chairs report. With the absence of Cllr Bate, Cllr Sweeting added that the lights within the Village Hall would be changed to LED shortly. Half a dozen cameras had now been installed around the hall and a further two would be added. The information is recorded and held within a locked room in the Village Hall. The Gents toilet work would be commenced within the next two to three weeks and in addition the back of the hall would be cleared and the guttering replaced.
- **Connecting Families Partnership Event Bromsgrove – 03/03/17 (Cllr G Blackmoor)**
Cllr Blackmoor was not present to report on this event.
- **Clerks Gathering – Finance and Audit – 06/03/17 (Cllr T Gillespie)**
It was reported that the meeting was very informative and included information regarding audit, audit procedures, putting together Parish Council Accounts, what can and can't be done, new processes for next year, transparency codes for smaller Councils and issues with untrained auditors.
- **Internal Accounts Audit – 06/03/17 (Cllr T Gillespie)**
Cllr Gillespie reported that she had met with the Clerk two weeks ago and carried out the Internal Accounts Audit. The Accounts were very clear, precise and easy to understand. Cllr Gillespie congratulated the Clerk on an excellent job
- **North West Ward Association AGM – 29/03/17 (Cllr G Blackmoor)**
Cllr Blackmoor was not present to report on this event.
- **Update regarding the ongoing situation of the resident garden in Barley Mow Lane and Gibb Lane (Cllr M Ball)**
Cllr Ball reported that in relation to Barley mow lane the lorry had now got an MOT and had been taxed to allow the resident to move everything. He would be leaving the caravan there so he could move in while having extension built. Cllr Ball would now visit every three months instead of monthly. The resident was quite approachable. In relation to Gibb Lane it was thought that there may not be anyone living there. Cllr Ball couldn't get an answer. The property had 7 vehicles and a pile of tires.
It was noted that there was a need for ID badges in these situations.
It was discussed that this may now be a matter for the police. The electoral role could be looked at to establish who was living at the property.

17/03-13 Finance

13.1 To receive the payments and receipts report of the Responsible Finance Officer and to approve bills for payment; spreadsheet for March circulated

The current financial situation, including comparison of budget to actual income and expenditure to date, was noted. The payment schedules for March, as below, were approved.

13.2 To consider and agree the request for a grant from the North West Ward Association to assist with the purchase of lighting for the siting of the new defibrillator on the Pavillion (documents circulated)

It was agreed to provide the grant of £296.00 as requested by the North West Ward Association.

13.3 To receive a report from Cllr P Baker regarding relevant Savings Account options for the deposit of the Emergency Fund for the Parish Council, as currently held by the Co-op Bank. To include, if relevant, a decision as to which option should be used

Cllr Baker's research was ongoing. Funds in previously suggested accounts would be completely locked and therefore not viable. Cllr Baker would look further into the Cambridge Building Society and report to the next meeting.

13.4 To note the advice of the Independent Remuneration Panel in relation to the Chairman's allowance and travel and subsistence allowances.

The Clerk reported that the basic allowance for the Bromsgrove District Councillors for 2017/18 was £4,326 and to pay a Parish Council Chairman in line with this advice would be 11% of this figure (£475.86). The amount paid to Catshill and North Marlbrook Parish Council Chairman was less than this figure. The travel and subsistence allowances remain the same as previous years.

13.5 To consider the quotes obtained in relation to First Aid at this year's bonfire event and agree a package to be purchased (information circulated)

Members discussed the options provided.

It was agreed to pay for option 1 at a price of £200 as this was felt to be adequate cover for the event.

17/03-14 To receive comments and updates on the following consultations

- **Worcestershire's Local Transport Plan 4 (LTP4) 2017-2030 – Cllr N Ward to report on comments made**

Closing Date for Consultation: 17th March 2017

All information about the Consultation is available at:

http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20055/strategies_plans_and_bids/806/the_local_transport_plan

Cllr N Ward reported that, following the discussion at the previous Full Parish Council in relation to this consultation, he had provided a response on behalf of the Council using the format provided. It included that as a transport plan, the Council were in broad agreement in terms of the methods proposed for traffic congestion, investment in alternative transport, improvements to A38 and Junction 1 of M42. Cllr Ward had also made reference to the lack of detail in the plan as to how air quality was to be improved, environmental impact and the lack of detail in relation to the huge amount of housing figures and the effects on green belt development that this will have. He also commented about the importance of protection of habitat and that every effort should be made in this area. Further comments made included the types of housing and that more concentration should be given to smaller households rather than 4 and 5 bedroom developments and the impact that 'buy to let' has when these are often lying empty which doesn't help the housing shortage.

- **Wolverhampton Half Penny Green Airport – Introduction of Instrument Approval Procedures – public consultation (document circulated) – Cllr O Sweeting to report**

Closing Date for Consultation: 30/04/17

Cllr Sweeting reported that in the 80s this airport was to be used for commercial transport operations; a beacon was erected and it had air traffic control. There followed a large protest from local residents and the plan had to be cancelled. 70% of aircraft are from training schools, there is no commercial transport with only a few private light aircraft landing there. The airport couldn't afford air traffic control so it had to be taken away and the beacons became defunct. Currently aircraft are landing using 100% visual aid, however, with funding from the EU the airport can now has an enhanced GPS system which will mean aircraft can land even in bad weather. The airport have to inform local communities about the plan and provide details of the flight paths. From the documentation it can be seen that the GPS system doesn't cause aircraft to fly over Catshill as such and neither do deferred routes. In addition, the holding area is not directly over Catshill either so the plans do not affect the Parish and can only be an improvement on what already goes over Catshill. No Comment need be made to the consultation.

- **Consultation on Penalty Points Scheme for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licence Holders – Bromsgrove – Cllr P Baker to report (document circulated)**

Closing Date for Consultation: 30/04/17

All information about the consultation and feedback form is available at:

www.bromsgrove.gov.uk/consultations

Cllr Baker had circulated a report regarding this consultation (see attached). Cllr Baker reported that it seemed a reasonable way of dealing with the issues. Cllr Baker had made some suggestions

as to where points should be lowered or highered and suggested if all Councillors were happy with this, the comment could be submitted to the District Council.

It was agreed that Cllr Baker's suggested comments be submitted in response to the consultation.

17/03-15 An opportunity for discussion and update regarding any progress made with understanding of the Perryfields development and its impact on the Parish – Cllrs P Baker and M Knight to lead

Members discussed the issue including the fact that there were no additional reports from Highways on the Bromsgrove Planning Portal. The Planning Application would not go through until this further report and survey had been completed. The plans for the development seemed to suggest a 20mph speed limit through the area. Members were still concerned about the volume of traffic that would pass through the Parish as a result. Attempts to gain a meeting with all interested parties in the locality to discuss the impact of the development had not been successful to date.

Members were keen to establish what input the Parish Council could still have on the development to help improve or amend the plans. It was noted that there were numerous complaints from residents near the area on the Planning Portal.

It was noted that the Assistant Clerk was attempting to make contact with the Planning Officer to organise a meeting with him and Highways to establish the current position of the development.

17/03-16 Items for the next meeting

Members are requested to submit any suggestions to the Clerk prior to the next meeting. Cllrs M Knight and M Ball requested an item on Anti-Social behaviour and a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme.

17/03-17 Date and time of next meetings:

- Planning Committee 13/04/17
 - Annual Parish Meeting 20/04/17
 - Full Parish Council 27/04/17
- * All Parish Committees and Meetings at 7:30pm, Catshill Village Hall

This meeting ended at 21:30 hrs

Signed Date.....
Chairman of Catshill & North Marlbrook Parish Council

Minute no. 17/03-13.1

Excerpt from accounts day-book to show payments and receipts for March 2017:

Date	Payment Voucher no.	Receipt Voucher no.	Chq No	Details	Receipts	Payments (gross)	VAT Paid
01/03/2017	148		online	Bullivant Media - Advert for Garden Contract		345.60	
	149		online	Worcestershire CALC - Training for two Councillors		20.00	
	150		d/d	Talk Talk - Office Phone and Broadband (Feb)		41.00	
	151		d/d	EE Office Mobile - March		20.88	3.48
	152		online	Dr C Fabray - Posters for NP and payment for online survey tool		92.40	15.40
	153		online	Allen Farnsworth Lengthsman - February 2017		192.00	
	154		online	SLCC - Local Council Administration (10th edition) Member rate inc postage		76.60	
	155-157		online and s/o	Salaries including overtime		1,154.15	
	158		online	HMRC - PAYE/NI fourth quarter 2016/17		212.74	
		R17		HMRC VAT refund	1,805.88		
				sub-total	49,817.25	36,805.76	1,760.74

Attached Reports:

17/03-4 Worcester County Councillor March Report

PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE

Bournheath

Fairfield & Belbroughton

Catshill & Marlbrook

Dodford & Grafton

March 2017

IBA PROCESSING & RECOVERY HILL & MOOR PERSHORE

The Mercia Waste Management planning application for the processing of Incinerator Bottom Ash for up to 50,000 tonnes per annum was submitted on the 8th November 2016. On the 17th January 2017 notice was given by Worcestershire County Council to say that planning permission had been granted for an Incinerator Bottom Ash (IBA) Processing & Recovery Facility at Hill and Moor Landfill site, Piddle Brook Lane, Wyre Piddle, Near Pershore Worcestershire.

The bottom ash will be transported from the Hartlebury EfW Facility, which is undergoing construction and "hot commissioning" (i.e. testing whilst incineration of waste is taking place). The EfW is now fully operational and is currently generating IBA, Both the EfW facility and the landfill site form key residual waste treatment facilities for Herefordshire Council and Worcestershire County Council under their joint waste contract.



The permission will see the Hartlebury IBA taken to the facility within the Hill and Moor operational landfill cells, which measure about 5.6 hectares in area. Approximately once every 6 months it is proposed to operate mobile processing plant for about a 6 week period (including mobilisation and demobilisation) within the active landfill cell. The plant would process the IBA in order to recover metals, which can be recycled, and also separate the remaining material into various grades, which have the potential to be used as a secondary aggregate in the construction industry.

Hill and Moor Landfill site is located approximately 3 kilometres northeast of Pershore. The landfill site measures approximately 130 hectares in area and is bound to the north by the former Throckmorton Airfield beyond which is the village of Throckmorton. To the east are agricultural fields beyond which is the settlement of Hill. To the south are agricultural fields, beyond which is the Wyre Piddle Bypass (A44) and the village of Wyre Piddle; and to the west are further agricultural fields, beyond which is the village of Pinvin. Access to the Hill and Moor Landfill site is located from Piddle Brook Lane, which connects to the A44 (Wyre Piddle Bypass).

Planning permission was granted as a delegated matter. In summary, The Head of Strategic Infrastructure and Economy considers that the applicant has demonstrated a clear operational relationship between the Hill and Moor landfill and proposed EfW facility, in accordance with Policy WCS6 of the Worcestershire Waste Core Strategy.

The development would not have an unacceptable impact upon the character and appearance of the local area, or ecology and biodiversity at the site and the surrounding area, subject to the imposition of appropriate conditions and there will be no adverse noise, dust or lighting impacts upon residential amenity or that of human health.

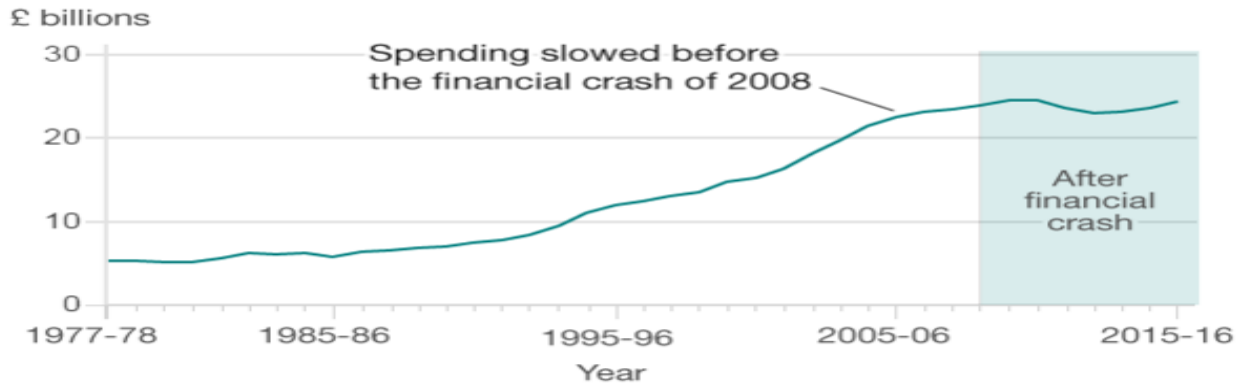
ADULT SOCIAL CARE FEBRUARY 2017

Social care is a broad term that covers everything from children's social workers and fostering through to services for disabled adults and the care provided to people in their old age. The need for social care is expected to rise with the growth in the population, the fact people are living longer and those with disabilities are more likely to survive to an older age are all contributory factors. Local authorities do not fund all social care needs. The 2014 Care Act legislation lays out the statutory duty placed upon local authorities to support people that have insufficient finances or capital to fund their own care. The duty requires people to be supported if they have insufficient finances or capital to fund their own care.

Government funding cuts to local authorities have resulted in less money being available to meet their statutory duty to provide Adult Social Care. Some Councils have been affected more than others as only upper tier and unitary authorities provide social care services and also each local authority will have a different funding grant therefore having a different base line. Each area will have a different demographic meaning some areas have more call on their support than others. Economic prosperity will also effect how many people pass the eligibility threshold for means tested support.

The rise in local authority spending on social care

Real terms spending (in 2016-17 prices)



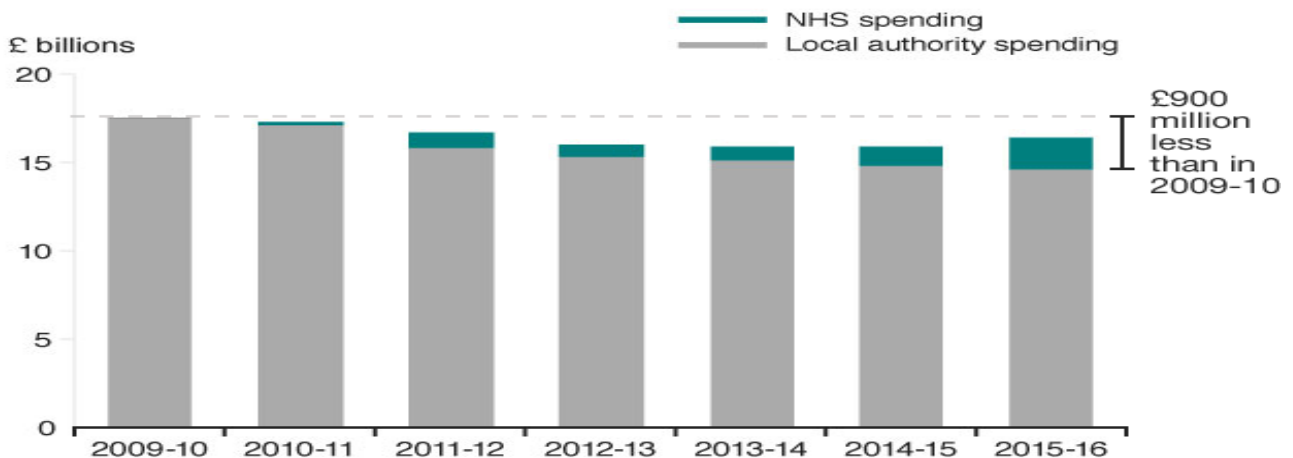
Source: IFS

BBC

Councils have tried to protect social care and the proportion of budget being spent on these services has increased over the years and is now well over half of the budget. Social Care is means tested and currently those that have asked for funded support within Worcestershire are equal to less than 2% of the population. This means that many of the people who ask for NHS help will not be eligible for Local Authority funded support. The exception to this rule is through the 2003 Community Care Delayed Discharges Act. Through the Act Local Authorities have a duty to provide 6 weeks of out of hospital support. This created a financial gap for councils, which was partly filled by the Better Care Fund (BCF).

Is the NHS filling the social care gap in England?

Public social care spending on adults' services (in 2016-17 prices)



Source: IFS

BBC

The fund was created in the June 2013 Spending Round and was known initially as the Integration Transformation Fund. The £3.8 billion fund was described as 'a single pooled budget for health and social care services to work more closely together in local areas, based on a plan agreed between the NHS and local authorities.' This was not new money £1.1 billion was a transfer from health to social care, £130 million Careers' Breaks funding, £300 million CCG re-ablement funding, £350 million capital grant funding (including £220 million Disabled Facilities Grant) and £1.9 billion from NHS allocations.

Plans for spending the Better Care Fund money have to show how it has delivered:

- ✚ Protection for social care services
- ✚ 7 day services in health and social care to support patients being discharged and prevent unnecessary admissions at weekends
- ✚ Better data sharing between health and social care, based on the NHS number
- ✚ A joint approach to assessments and care planning

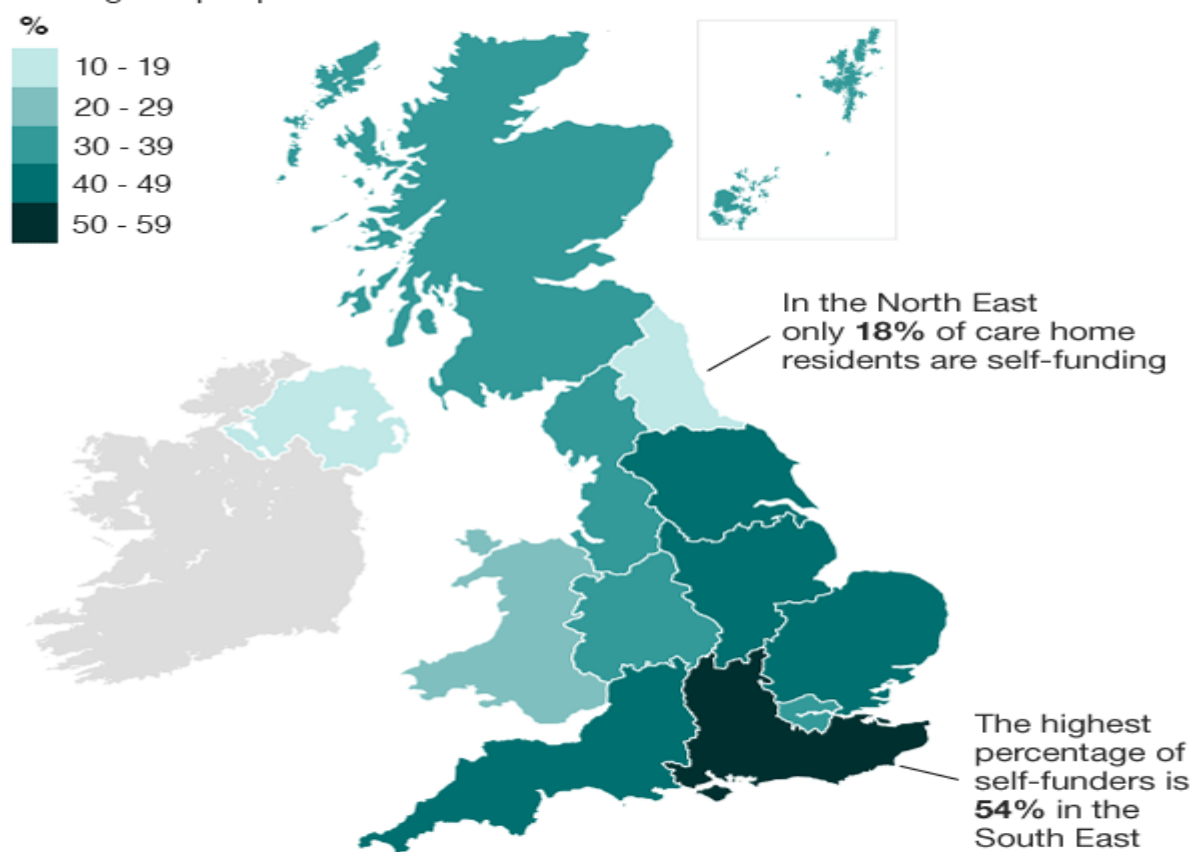
- Agreement on the consequential impact of changes in the acute sector, with an analysis, provider- by-provider, of what the impact will be in their local area alongside public and patient and service user engagement in this planning, and plans for political buy-in.

Not all hospital discharges are classified as the responsibility of local councils as some are the responsibility of the health service due to the nature of a persons support need they could be entitled to continuing health care (CHC). To be eligible for CHC you must be over the age of 18 and have substantial and ongoing care needs. You must have been assessed as having a "primary health need", which means that your main or primary need for care must relate to your health.

In Worcestershire, to ease the flow of patients through the Acute sector, the County Council and the NHS used the BCF to create a Patient Flow Centre. The Patient Flow Pathway helps patients to return home with appropriate support in place. If a patient cannot return home then they are found an intermediary setting in the community and if there is no prospect at all of the patient returning home they will be found a care home placement. Care home placements are not all funded by Local Authorities, as the majority of people are not eligible for means tested support.

Paying their own way

Percentage of people in care homes who are self-funders



Source: LaingBuisson

BBC

People who do not fit the eligibility criteria for local authority funded means tested support or the criteria for CHC will have to pay for their own care or rely upon family and friends to help them. These people are known as self-funders and they make up the majority of people using care services or living in care homes. The map of the UK shows self-funders are more likely to be found in care homes in the South East of England.

It is claimed that Councils are looking after fewer older people but this is not necessarily a result of funding cuts or savings. The 2014 Care Act legislation brought in a national eligibility framework. Previous to the 2014 legislation a council could choose which of four thresholds they use to test eligibility. The 2014 Act set the national guidance at the top two thresholds, substantial or Critical and this will have altered the number of people eligible for care from some Council's.

The **Care Quality Commission (CQC)** registers all providers, monitors, inspects and rates registered providers to ensure there is consistent quality. CQC has the powers to close providers when needed and gives early warning to local authorities in the event of business failure and cessation of service. Local Authorities work closely with the CQC on a monthly basis and they also make cold calls to check on providers. Cold calls can be the result of either whistleblowing or contact from cares, family or friends that have concerns. Worcestershire was recently ranked by the CQC as having the second best care home provision in the Country.

Council tax bills are rising to help councils cope with funding Adult Social Care. This year, councils have been allowed to increase household bills by 2% but this is only a short-term fix.

How much will the new council tax precepts add to the social care budget in England?



Source: DCLG/LGA



By 2020, the Local Government Association believes, there will be a shortfall of £2.6bn in funding. It wants more substantial reform - and many in academia, in the health service and in the charity sector agree. Health Secretary Jeremy Hunt has said this is on the government's agenda but no Government has been brave enough to tackle this. The present social care system was created in 1948 and has hardly changed since. Change must happen and this will be better and long lasting if it is well thought through planned change.

This is my last year as an elected Councillor and I wanted to use this last update to put a full stop on the two major topics that have taken so much of my time, IBA and Adult Social Care. There have been many individual enquiries, concerns and complaints to address but by far the most time consuming issues have been relative to the threat of a bottom ash processing plant at Sandy Lane and, as Cabinet Member, managing the demands of Adult Social Care.

During my time as an elected Councillor I have valued much joint working and cooperation from Local Councillors, Parish Councillors and residents through the local Associations. Together we have had a greater beneficial impact and influence for the community. Our combined experience, skills and areas of influence made us strong.

Thank You All..... Good Health, Good Luck and Good Bye.

County Councillor Sheila Blagg
Woodvale Bromsgrove 2005 – 2017

17/03-14 Cllr Baker’s report on Consultation on Penalty Points Scheme for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licence Holders

Having reviewed the document "Hackney Carriage And Private Hire Penalty Points System"

Catshill & North Marlbrook has the following comments:

- 1 Section 7 refers to "There is a right of appeal to the Licensing and Support Services Manager at Worcestershire Regulatory Services against any points that are issued". Should the Licensing sub-committee not deal with appeals or a separate members group rather than a County officer?
- 2 Section 13 is not clear. Does this mean that if the sub-committee revokes any points they will be considered spent?
- 3 Section 16 - What other breaches will be considered. These should be listed
- 4 Item 9 should read "or" not "of"
- 5 All points are 3 or 4 - why are some not lower or even higher?
- 6 Suggested changes:
 - a. #2 - 2 points
 - b. #6 - 2 points
 - c. #9 - 5 points
 - d. #20 - 5 points
 - e. #25 - 2 points
 - f. #27 - 5 points
 - g. #28 - 4 points
 - h. #29 - 1 points
 - i. #31 - 4 points

draft