

## **Report for May 2018 meeting**

### **Ward Budget Scheme**

I have £500 to allocate to local community projects in my Ward (the parishes of Bayton, Knighton, Lindridge, Mamble and Stockton). I would appreciate it if any interested organisations could contact me sooner rather than later. My email is: [chris.dell@malvernhillsgdc.net](mailto:chris.dell@malvernhillsgdc.net)

### **Reception at the Council House**

The reception facility at Council House in Malvern was axed some years ago. Work on a small extension to the Council House is planned to start in September. This will allow us to bring telephone and face-to-face customer services back in-house, where they will be handled by our own staff. In recent years these services have been contracted out. The projected saving is £100,000 a year.

### **Affordable Homes**

MHDC has secured £169,100 of government funding to help encourage community-led housing and deliver more affordable homes. Community Led Housing (CLH) encourages communities to get involved with and be at the heart of schemes that will help deliver affordable housing to meet the needs of people who live and work locally.

### **Employment**

The April 2018 edition of the Worcestershire Monthly County Economic Summary showed that the claimant count in Malvern Hills for those aged 18-64 stood at 540. This is down by 5 on the previous month, but about 90 more than it was 12 months ago. The claimant count proportion\* in Malvern Hills is 1.3% of the 16-64 population, which is the second joint lowest across Worcestershire (Worcestershire 1.5%, West Midlands 2.7% and England 2.1%).

### **Economic Development**

After years of stagnation at Tenbury Business Park, the last 12 months have seen planning permission granted for a number of business units, which will increase the number of jobs on the Park.

### **Waste changes**

Most households have now changed from a black bag to a black wheeled bin for non-recyclable waste and over 27,000 black wheeled bins have been delivered to households. Bins are 180 or 240 litres, depending on the household. Anyone who has any problems, or anyone who hasn't received a black wheeled bin but already has a green wheeled bin for recyclable waste can ring the waste changes phone number: 01684 862490. Residents who are remaining on a sack collection for both waste and recycling should have a roll of black sacks and cherry recycling sacks delivered to them in May or June

### **Planning**

MHDC has two planning committees, "Northern" and "Southern" and every councillor is entitled to serve on the relevant committee. A proposal to abolish these and replace them with one committee, covering the whole district and containing only a selected number of councillors, was defeated following a vote.

### **Surplus Buildings**

Following a reduction in staff numbers and a reconfiguration of accommodation at the Council House, MHDC is in the process of selling off redundant buildings in Malvern. It is hoped that this will raise over £2,000,000 which will help secure the Council's financial position for the future.

District Councillor C Dell