



# Members Update

## Top 5

NOVEMBER 2020



### Open for Business

The scheme to make improvements to Pinvin Junction continues. Works have recently focussed on the extension of the A44 north-west of the junction to accommodate an additional right-hand turn. Works have also taken place on the kerbing and installation of a new footpath on the south-east side of the A44 towards White Logistics. Surfacing works are planned to take place on the A44, Terrace Road and Main Street from 9<sup>th</sup> November. This will include up to four night-time closures (8pm-6am).

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Works to improve traffic flow in the Churchfields area of Kidderminster are also ongoing, with an important part of the scheme already in operation.

One of the key elements of the Churchfields Highway Improvement Scheme is the new link access from the A456 Ringway roundabout through to Churchfields, which opened in August. Works have also taken place to convert part of Churchfields into an A-road and works to redesign the gyratory at the Horsefair and change Blackwell Street to a one-way system are ongoing.

Surfacing works are set to take place on this scheme, starting on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> November, with night-time closures (8pm-5am) in place for up to 10 nights, not including weekends.

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Over the last week, the final sections of steel girders have been craned into position across the River Severn at Carrington Bridge. Works are progressing well and precast concrete sections will now be placed onto the steel to form the bridge deck.

Cranes will be returning to Sabrina bridge shortly to continue the next phase of the refurbishment scheme, with the bridge set to reopen in December.

At the St John's congestion scheme in Worcester, the road has recently reopened westbound and work will cease in approximately 2 weeks for the run-up to Christmas, returning to complete in the New Year.

## Children and Families



This week is National Care Leavers' Week and the theme this year is Care Leavers in Careers.

National Care Leavers' Week is an opportunity to showcase and celebrate the successes of care leavers from across the UK, and to inspire them to achieve their full potential. It's also an opportunity to challenge negative perceptions and change the narrative of the care system.

[Find out more on the Children's Commissioners Website.](#)



This week is half term in Worcestershire. Prior to half term just under 90% of pupils in Worcestershire were in school which is above the national average.

Despite it being half-term we are continuing to provide communications and advice to our schools about when pupils and staff should get tested. As with all county residents, the advice remains to only get tested if you are showing symptoms or if advised to do so by their GP or Local Authority or Public Health England.

The Council has been working together with the District Councils from across the county to make sure that every vulnerable child in Worcestershire has had access to a meal every day during the half term holidays.

## Health and Wellbeing



The County Council has this week launched a new reablement approach to help adults in need of social care to remain in their own homes. The new look service was originally due to be launched after Easter but it had to be delayed due to Covid. To achieve the best outcomes for people, we have changed our Homecare teams to become a single Reablement Service.

We have redesigned our systems, processes and organisational structure to enable the Reablement Service to focus on promoting independence across all pathways, to enable people to continue to live in the own homes and to work with people to maximise their abilities and avoid the need for long-term care and support.



Limited visits to care home residents can be arranged in the county once more, providing strict safety measures are in place to protect vulnerable residents. Extra Care and Supported Living are also being advised that they can open to limited family visits.

## The Environment



Three of our parklands have once again been ranked among the best in the UK.

Worcester Woods Country Park, Waseley Hills Country Park in Rubery and St. Wulstan's Local Nature Reserve have all been awarded Green Flag status.

The international award means these spaces boast the highest environmental standards, are beautifully maintained and have excellent visitor facilities.



Whilst no severe winter weather is currently predicted, from 15<sup>th</sup> October, WCC's Winter Service teams have been officially on standby. When gritting is required, actions will be updated daily on the @WorcsTravel Twitter account using the hashtag #GritterTwitter.

The fleet of 32 gritting vehicles has been supplemented by 3 brand new vehicles, with another 3 to be updated as the season progresses.

Over 11,750 tonnes of salt is ready to be used ahead of the new season and this will be replenished when necessary.

We have also checked the county's 1,320 grit bins to ensure they are full. The grit bins are available across the county and are maintained with stocks of a salt/grit mixture. They are provided for use on the public highway only (including footways).

There's also a variety of information about our gritting operations online, including interactive maps which show designated gritting routes and where residents can also locate their nearest grit bin and report it for refilling as we move through the winter:

[www.worcestershire.gov.uk/gritting](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/gritting)

## Council News Update



Further support has launched for Worcestershire start-ups and entrepreneurs. Enterprising Worcestershire will offer support to new and early stage businesses in the region, after securing a further three years of funding. Match-funded grants between £1,000 - £15,000 will be available from November for eligible businesses under three years old, allowing them to get their ideas off the ground.

Individuals wishing to start their own business can also receive free support to develop their ideas, whilst early-stage businesses can progress with free business coaching and development sessions.

Find out more about the grant funding available at the upcoming free online grant workshop: <https://businesseventsworcestershire.com/events-search/details/?id=187>



The Chairman's Remembrance Day Service on Wednesday, November 11 is being webcast only this year due to Covid-19 restrictions. For anyone who would like to join, here is the webcast link: [https://worcestershire.public-i.tv/core/portal/webcast\\_interactive/519434](https://worcestershire.public-i.tv/core/portal/webcast_interactive/519434)

The Service will start at 10.55am.

Find out more online:  
[www.worcestershire.gov.uk](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk)

