



Members Update

Top 5

FEBRUARY 2021



Open for Business

Sabrina Bridge in Worcester re-opened on 29th January, following major works which included the removal, refurbishment and reinstallation of the main span of the bridge.

Some work will continue on Hylton Road to complete the landscaping and in coming weeks, works to install the bridge dampers will take place.

A major scheme to make improvements to transport links in the **Churchfields area of Kidderminster** is now complete.

Works to improve the busy **Hoobrook Junction in Kidderminster** commenced last month.

The improvement works, which are planned to be completed by the Autumn, include additional lanes and signalisation on the three main arms of the roundabout to improve the flow and manoeuvrability of traffic.

Market Place in Redditch is next in line to be improved as part of the Council's Town Centre Improvement Programme.

The scheme includes a full refresh of the paving at the junction of Evesham Walk and Market Place and down Market Place into Mercian Square. The refreshed paving will then link with previous improvement works on Alcester Street and Church Green East.

Works on three schemes to make improvements along the **A38 corridor in Bromsgrove** are set to go ahead, prior to the wider A38 Bromsgrove Route Enhancement Programme (BREP).

These three schemes aim to provide a high-quality walking and cycling corridor between the Artrix area and Charford Road. The works include a new Toucan Crossing of the A4448 Stratford Road, adjacent to Blackwood Road and Fordhouse Road, a segregated footway/cycleway between Harvington Road and Charford Lane and an upgrade to the northern footpath on Charford Road between the A38 and South Bromsgrove School, which will include a new Toucan Crossing.

Children and Families



Worcestershire Libraries are offering a helping hand to parents and students by providing access to free books, free online reference resources and free opportunities for children to participate in online educational activities. New library services have been launched to make it easier for parents and carers to access books and learning resources throughout lockdown.

These include, reserve and collect service, Children's Book Bundles, eBooks & eAudio and many more. A wide range of free digital events, activities and courses are also available throughout lockdown for all ages and can be accessed via [the Digital Library Hub](#).



Worcestershire Libraries have also revealed the most borrowed books of 2020 to inspire our residents to reap the health and wellbeing benefits of reading for pleasure. Lee Child's 'Past Tense' topped the list for the second consecutive year after it was borrowed a total of 443 times and for younger audiences, Liz Pichon's 'Spectacular School Trip' was the most borrowed children's title in 2020 with 190 issues.

Worcestershire residents can sign up for instant digital membership online via the libraries website www.worcestershire.gov.uk/Libraries

Health and Wellbeing



Building on the continued success of the Here2Help service, our vision is to provide a service that empowers people in our communities who may need support to help themselves and to be supported by their community. Using Here2Help as a dedicated Health and Wellbeing Hub, we want to encourage a community response for people in need of health and wellbeing support with the aim of focusing on the strengths of the individuals and the support network around them.

The hub will support all ages and will be available for residents, organisations and staff to access information, advice, tools, guidance and local support in an interactive way. To help shape this new service, we want to bring a group of residents together in a regular focus group where positive discussions about the services we provide will be welcomed. If you know someone with an interest in health and wellbeing, encourage them to be part of the focus group by visiting the webpage and completing the expression of interest form at www.worcestershire.gov.uk/here2helpfocusgroup



Schools and colleges may be closed, but the careers helpline set up to support young people during the pandemic remains open to young people in Worcestershire. Run by the County Council and Worcestershire LEP, the joint careers helpline is continuing to offer advice, information and guidance to young people across the county despite the latest lockdown measures. First launched in March 2020 during the first lockdown, careers services are still available via email and phone for all Worcestershire students, schools, parents, carers, job centres and those interested in finding out more about apprenticeships.

Please call 0300 666 3666 or email careersworcs@worcestershire.gov.uk to find out more.

The Environment



Last month saw Storm Christophe hit Worcestershire and the county's highways teams worked around the clock dealing with multiple occurrences of flash flooding. As the water found its way into catchments we saw numerous road closures associated with river flooding, particularly along the Severn and Avon; at the time of writing we still have several roads closed around Upton.

The value of recent road raising schemes was demonstrated however, as both New Road in Worcester (which operated as a contraflow) and A4104 ('Marina Road') at Upton, both stayed open where previously they would have had to close given the flood levels.

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This weekend is looking likely to bring further challenges in the way of snowfall. The Winter Maintenance Team will be watching forecasts closely and gritters are standing by ready for action.

Whilst the highway network will be gritted prior to any snow event, it is important to remember that salt is not a magic ingredient – salting will only slow down the freezing process; it will not make 3" of snow just disappear – the teams will continue to work with snow ploughs fitted to clear the county's road of any accumulations.

Council News Update



The County Council has launched a new round of funding for charities and organisations to make a real difference in their communities. The County Council, along with Malvern and Wychavon district councils, has set up **Crowdfund Worcestershire** as it was keen to build on the success of its Here2Help community campaign.

The scheme gives residents who have ideas about how to improve their community, the opportunity to gain much needed funding. The deadline to submit an idea for the Spring round of funding is April 21st 2021.

To find out more go to: <https://www.spacehive.com/movement/worcs>



It is sad this month to report another death of a former County Councillor.

Peter Pinfield was first elected as a County Councillor in 1981 and was Leader of the Worcestershire Labour Group for over ten years in the 1990's and early 2000's. He was both a County and District Councillor for Droitwich.

Peter was also governor of several schools. He had been involved with the Diabetic Association and launched Droitwich's first Music and Arts Festival. Peter headed up Healthwatch, Worcestershire's independent watchdog for all health and social care services, and also held a place on a number of NHS organisations, representing patients, carers and service users.

Find out more online:
www.worcestershire.gov.uk

