

Parish Council Meeting 10th February 2020,

County Councillor's report.

OPEN FOR Business.

Worcester county council has said trains will be calling at [Worcestershire Parkway](#) as soon as it opens and services will appear on timetables when safety tests are completed. Worcestershire County Council has said services will be stopping at the £22 million Worcestershire Parkway as soon as it is open and that trains do not yet appear on some timetables would be 'hidden' by railway companies until the opening date for the station was confirmed. The county council said it expects to open "well before" the new timetable is released in May but has still not yet given a definite date. Worcestershire County Council said train timetables had to be agreed months, if not years, before new stations opened so it could be shown that services could call there without impacting other routes and stations across the railway network. A spokesman said: "New timetables are published in December and May each year. All of the services that will call at Worcestershire Parkway are included in the December 2019 timetable and will begin stopping there as soon as the 'Entry into Service' (EIS) process is completed and the station is open. "Because services are not calling there at the moment, the train operating companies sometimes hide that part of the December timetable so that passengers are aware those services are not currently calling. "As soon as EIS is completed and the station opening date is announced, the timetable will become visible again. "The May 2020 timetable is visible in some places and shows services calling at Worcestershire Parkway because the station is expected to be open well before that date."

New proposals designed to reduce congestion and improve connectivity on the A38 in Bromsgrove, will be explained at five information sessions for the public starting on February 5th. The proposals form the Bromsgrove Route Enhancement Programme (BREP), which aims to provide additional highway capacity and promote walking and cycling alternatives, through a range of improvements along the whole corridor.

The programme follows work that began last year to make improvements to the junctions of the A38 with Barley Mow Lane, M5 Junction 4 and M42 Junction 1.

MORE than 30 premises in the city center have been issued with enforcement action notices after failing to meet fire safety standards, the [Worcester News](#) can reveal. Hereford and Worcester Fire Rescue Service (HWFRS) recently carried out inspections at 165 premises, with the owners at 37 of them ordered to carry out improvements to their fire provisions. The fire service has not said where the 37 premises are, and it is unclear if they are all business premises or if some are accommodation. Amy Bailey, station commander from the HWFRS community risk department, said: "Tragedies like Grenfell have really put into focus the horrific consequences of

fire. We are continually working to ensure that, as well as providing education and support, we are doing all we can to ensure compliance with fire safety regulations. The Home Office says all fire and rescue authorities must have in place a risk-based inspection programmed to ensure buildings comply with fire safety standards, with £2.3 billion provided to them for the period of 2019 to 2020 to carry out this work.

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Proposals to review the service provided by the **Medical Education Team** (MET) were approved at Cabinet on 30 January.

The MET provides a service for children who are unable to attend school because of medical difficulties. This is currently offered at 3 bases in the county, Kidderminster Worcester and Redditch, and in some cases is provided through home tuition.

The review, which will be led by Worcestershire Children First, will consider the service and how it can be improved and will look at ways to offer a high quality of service alongside resource and cost implications.

Worcestershire Children First will work with parents and carers, young people, teaching staff, schools and medical professionals to understand what works and what needs to change.

The review and its recommendations will be considered by Cabinet in June.

The Department for Education has been working to secure a provider to open a new school in Kidderminster for children who do not attend mainstream education. Cabinet have approved the proposed location for the school and revenue funding for places commissioned on behalf of the Council for children. The new school will improve access to alternative provision for families living in the Wyre Forest area, who have previously struggled to access provision closer to home.

HEALTH AND WELL-BEING.

Worcestershire is to become the first county in the UK to offer access to specialist Dementia Meeting Centres to all its residents; putting the county at the forefront of this new way of supporting those living with the condition and their families.

Working with the University of Worcester's Association for Dementia Studies, which first brought the Meeting Centres concept to the UK, Worcestershire County Council and the six district councils of Worcestershire are investing £540,000 to help local communities across the county to set up Meeting Centres.

This investment is being funded from the County's 75% Business Rates pilot, which has meant more money from business rates gathered in Worcestershire in the past year has remained in the

County.

Worcestershire County Council is encouraging residents to get vaccinated against flu.

The vaccine provides protection from the virus and is especially important for people 65 years and older, those with a serious illness and those caring for them.

Some people get a flu jab each year because they are more at risk of severe illness and complications, and your GP or pharmacist can advise you on your eligibility. It's advisable to call before attending, to check vaccine availability.

Free flu jabs are also available to people who work in social care, such as social workers and care workers.

THE ENVIROMENT

Worcestershire County Council is looking for new places for mineral extraction in the county.

Land owners are invited to suggest new sites between 16th January 2020 to 13th March 2020.

The consultation will help with allocating specific sites and preferred areas for mineral extraction in the future.

An additional £5m of funding has been announced to continue the relieving congestion programme across the county, in the draft budget for 2020/21.

This proposed funding is additional to the £5 million in previous years and the £6.6 million awarded by the Department for Transport (DfT) via the National Productivity Investment Fund.

The money is being earmarked to support schemes being developed for Bromsgrove Town Centre, Evesham Town Centre, the roundabout at Hoobrook in Kidderminster and A38/A4104 staggered junction in Upton-Upon-Severn. All of which will be progressed this year.

Phil Grove.