

Broadwas & Cotheridge Parish Council Meeting – District Council Report – March

Current Coronavirus rates can be seen online at:

<https://app.powerbi.com/view?r=eyJrIjojOTc3MDU3MjAtM2VjNy00NmVjLWFkZGEtZDlyNmUzZTg2NDYwliwidCI6ImFjZjQxODg3LWJkMzctNDVhMy05ZTY1LTQ3Y2RINDhkYzg1YSIsImMiOjh9&pageName=ReportSection7933c8e59bfa92dd663e>

Numbers, as are widely reported, continue to fall and are below where they were last month. We did see a slight rise in numbers the week before last, across Malvern, but that now has now fallen and the 7 day rate (as of Saturday) was 94 per 100,000. This is the first time we've been in double figures for a while. This is expected to fall again but the message is very much to continue to listen to advice and follow the recommendations.

As a District Council we are now working with the County Council on messaging aimed to guide people through the lockdown easing stages.

We are working with the Economic Development team on a new campaign to support the reopening of non-essential retail and personal care services on 12 April and the reopening of indoor hospitality on 17 May.

There was no specific mention in the briefing about when office working would be allowed. Although the Stay at Home message will be legally lifted on 29 March, this will be replaced with Stay Local and minimise travel. The guidance will still be for people to work from home if they can – but office working is possible with measures in place. The Prime Minister also announced a review of social distancing which would set out when measures such as 2m distance, face coverings, hand sanitising etc could be relaxed. We don't have a date yet for when that will report.

It would be nice to think that people continue wanting to wash their hands more regularly, anyway!

There are no plans for staff to return to the office in significant numbers under after 21st June when it's suggested that restrictions on social contact are dropped. I suspect this could be the first date that Parish Councils look at non virtual meetings from.

The Council House reception will open on 12th April for pre-booked appointments. Everything, as always, remains under review and as we move into this new period we'll look to re-establish the Covid Recovery group who's main focuses will be on the vulnerable, who's numbers will have grown through unemployment, and businesses.

The Vaccine roll out is going well and as you'll have seen in the news over 250,000 people have now received the vaccine between Herefordshire and Worcestershire. This includes almost everyone over 70 and 80% of people between 65 and 69.

Also, in the new - Tuesday 2 March will see the two counties fourth vaccination centre open at the Three Counties Showground in Malvern. Centres are already operating at the Artrix in Bromsgrove, Elgar House in Hereford and St Peter's Baptist Church in Worcester.

On top of this an extensive network of local facilities are operating including 17 GP-led vaccination services and a community pharmacy at Redditch.

As an Asthma sufferer, although really not that badly, I had my Jab on a week ago on Friday. I did feel a bit guilty being so early but it was a great process and very easy.

We are still signposting people to the relevant business support and happy to help any local businesses who may need support or advice.

Away from Covid - Census day 2021 is fast approaching. This year it will take place on 21 March and mainly online. An invitation with a unique code to fill out the census will be sent to every household in early March. Find out more about the Census at <https://www.malvern hills.gov.uk/community/census-2021-information>.

Way back on the 3rd February we had a Northern Area Planning Committee where an application for 120 houses to be built at Rushwick (adjacent to Claphill Lane) was rejected by all councillors. That Application has now gone to appeal and so we have two sizeable developments in Rushwick under appeal.

I met with Economic Development officers and the leader of the council wanting to ensure that we have enough warehouse space for future businesses in Malvern Hills. Given the nature of ecommerce over the last 10 years, but also it's dramatic increase over the last 12 months I feel it's important that we don't lose our entrepreneurs and small businesses due to lack of small units. As well as ecommerce the rise of online as also seen an increase in small scale manufacturing and assembly. At the moment we have next to no available space and when ever units become available they are snapped up. Even neighbouring councils suffer the same issues. For us, of course, some of this could come from farm diversification.

Our Full Council meeting took place on the 23rd Feb.

As reported in the newspapers it was an eventful meeting with one Liberal Democrat member choosing to display a sign in the meeting on behalf of one of his residents which then brought the meeting into a few minutes of chaos before it settled back down.

We approved the Council Tax rise of £5 and the 2021-2022 budget.

Coming back to Broadwas I met with Richard, Aaron and Adrian on the 10th Feb to look at Church Lane in the aftermath of several drainage issues. The purpose of this is to rectify Church Lane going forward. I want to thank Adrian for his time and for taking us through everything which has proven very useful.

There will be a follow up report on Monday prior to the Parish Council meeting with updates from WLDP and Highways but as of the visit itself this is a summary of the report I sent out at the time. My role is now to continue to ensure that these two agencies are pushed to ensure that the work required is carried out. It has been less than a month since that meeting and I do expect this, because of the agencies involved, to take some time.

From what I saw at Church Lane yesterday I would say that we need the following actions from the two people, Highways and WLDP.

Highways - To clear the drains on the A44 and to ensure that the drain on the corner of the A44 and Church Lane isn't being bypassed as we've witnessed and is taking on any water from Church Lane.

To re-dig out the channel that runs between the field and the road. This needs to be significantly deep and clear the whole way down. The run off from the field needs to be clear and at the bottom of it is has only a thin pipe - can this be cleared or even replaced. A lot of water from Broadwas is making it's way to this point so this would hugely help.

The drain at the bottom of Church Lane needs a regular clean out. Does not need replacing - just needs cleaning all the way to the river.

WLDP - To look at the levels on Zourka and give thoughts. We need to particularly focus on remedying around the Bat Barn and that entrance/ exit where water is coming through. We have taken the levels but we require this to be able to move this on.

Also, Jack or Bob's (WLDP) input on the above reference Highways and what needs to be done on Church Lane.

Onto Zourka, specifically, we received two applications. A NMA and a live application which is open for comments.

21/00212/NMA - Non-material amendment to permission 17/00169/FUL (allowed on appeal) to alter elevations of plots 2 and 3, window style and positions. Garage to plot 3 repositioned.

21/00213/FUL - The development proposed is for the demolition of bungalow and outbuildings and erection of three dwellings and garages, alterations to existing and formation of access to Church Lane, internal private footway adjoin the A44 and bat barn with associated landscaping - Variation of condition 2) of allowed on appeal APP/J1860/W/17/3191631 (planning reference 17/00169/FUL) to alter plot 1 to include habitable accommodation in roof space with associated external alterations.