

Broadwas Parish Council - District Council Report November

As always the latest Covid Updates can be found at:

<https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/COVIDdashboard>

This shows Malvern Hills as often the lowest rate in the County but, as everywhere, there are big increases on the Spring/ Summer months so important that everyone plays their part and continues to stay safe. Our figures do go up and down and over the past few days we've been the lowest but then we've seen other areas fall below us as well. As I write the County as a whole is a little over the UK average on UK rate, but again this is not usually the case and the 7 day rate does jump and fall from day to day

I've also attached Vic's update which we ask for and summarises some of the other activities of the District Council.

Over the last month the District Council has taken part in a planning peer review at which I submitted evidence. This is in order to ensure that our planning department is working as best as it can and we expect the report over the coming months. It met with over 100 individuals. There was also involvement from Broadwas Parish Council and I believe there will be some positive things come from this report when it's published – which I believe is a couple of months away.

We had a Northern Area Planning Committee this Wednesday which covered the combined reserved matters reports for 21/00709/RM, 21/00712/RM, 21/00912/RM for the West of Worcester development. Those reports covered the initial 3 plots of building land on this SWDP development and cover 950 houses, the green infrastructure, and the economic land, as well as drainage and road infrastructure. It was passed. We have been told that the spine road through the development will be 6.7m wide throughout meaning less traffic on existing surrounding roads, such as Crown East Lane and there will be a spur from the new roundabout that is the entrance to the development for a potential further extension to the ring road.

This development will further go towards our 5 YHLS.

One interesting visit I was involved in was a visit to Stocks Farm in Suckley. The newspaper report can be found at : <https://www.malverngazette.co.uk/news/19676205.hundreds-tons-fruit-going-waste-farm-labour-shortage-continues/>

But due to shortages with staff (something many areas are struggling with) local fruit and vegetable farms are struggling to pick leading to concerns over shortages. 100 tonnes of unpicked apples in their orchards alone.

On the Boundary Commission review, which is looking at the current ward boundaries for District Councillors - the initial consultation has now closed and the draft recommendations of the Boundary Commission will be published in January 2022. This will be subject to further consultation. It's expected that given the increase in housing in both Lower Broadheath and Rushwick that mine and David's ward could be affected by this in some way. It is aimed to come into effect prior to the next local elections in 2023.

Finally, as reported in Vic's report, and timely for COP26, we have allocated £250,000 to the Destination Zero Fund to support the delivery of environmental actions in our Destination Zero plan.

£100k Destination Zero Crowdfunding pot to support environmental, community-led projects.

- £75k to fund additional officer resource to support the delivery of biodiversity/habitat improvement and carbon sequestration projects
- £15k to implement biodiversity projects
- £25k for Wildflower Verge Management across the district on council-owned land
- £35k for initiatives encouraging low carbon travel using sustainable transport