

## **Broadwas & Cotheridge Parish Council – District Council Report March 2022**

For this month's report I just wanted to pull out a few things which have been useful over the last month.

The first is also covered in Vic's roundup:

We are providing funding to community projects which aim to make a greener and more sustainable district.

The Destination Zero Community Fund is a dedicated funding pot available through the crowdfunding platform, Spacehive, to support local, community-led projects that help to reduce carbon emissions.

The £100,000 fund, which is aimed at community groups, charities, local councils, schools and individuals to help bring forward projects that would have a wider community benefit.

We are interested in projects that contribute towards the aims of the Destination Zero plan, focusing on reducing carbon emissions, tackling climate change, and enhancing biodiversity and habitats.

Projects with the following outcomes are being encouraged:

- Improved energy efficiency of homes through community action
- Increased low carbon travel for community benefit
- Community campaigns that support reduce, reuse, and recycle initiatives
- Natural measures to capture and store carbon (e.g., tree planting, pollinator sites, wetlands, wildflower meadows)

Examples of projects could be a community garden, e-bike hire schemes, community repair café, swap shop events, local renewable energy schemes, but there are many more possibilities.

We will review all project campaigns and successful projects can expect to receive a pledge of up to £10,000 (max. 50% of the campaign target).

The size of the pledge will depend on the size of the project, how it delivers against fund criteria and Destination Zero objectives, the impact it will have, and the buy-in from the community.

I think there is an opportunity here for the ward to look at potential projects that we can help support.

I also chaired a Transport Summit last month to look at how the various organisations offering both public transport and community transport can be brought together to create a more joined up transport network in the district. There was representation from County there as well. One of the biggest takeaways for me was the potential use of Apps and technology where users can request transport or indicate when they require transport allowing the various organisations to build up a picture of what is needed and then supply as best is possible. This will allow groups to create regular routes which will be used and at times they will be utilised.

For car hire organisations and community transport this will be invaluable to support communities. Certainly all organisations working together is the way forward and there will be more on this.

We are about to launch our first 'Village Office' - a co-working space based in Lindridge village hall. This format, if it works in Lindridge, – will be rolled out to other village halls as an offer with support from the District Council and Community Action.

With so many people still working from home or having set up new businesses we have lots of individual workers in our villages so these spaces allow people to come together and co-work.

At full council we presented the council tax and budget for 2022/23. It was voted for that council tax would be see a £5 increase (at band D equivalent).

A vote was also taken on a response to the Local Boundary Commission recommendation. The four responses were:

That councillors are surprised and disappointed that a visit to the area by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England was not conducted in line with the Commission's guidance prior to the draft recommendations being published and hope that a visit can be made prior to final recommendations being made.

That the proposal for the Martley and Teme Valley 2-member ward would create a ward that would be too large, including unrelated communities, and 2 single member wards is preferred.

That the proposals for Tenbury and Lindridge wards are supported.

That there is no support for splitting parish councils across wards unless absolutely essential and with good justification.

I abstained on the vote as I've already put forward my thoughts and believe that the four suggestions alone didn't cover the Council's full view on the recommendation.

In regards to ongoing planning issues:

Gladwish - the note has been sent to Gladwish and to owners that are known. We've asked for to display the notice on their website and to share with prospective purchasers but this is down to them.

In regards to The Track Aaron has met with the landowners son who is dealing with matters present. Prosecution is likely if those on the land without permission are not removed urgently.