



# Members Update

## Top 5

JULY 2020



### Open for Business

Building on the success of the works on The Shambles in Worcester, improvement works started last week on **Pump Street**, as part of the Town Centre Improvement Programme.

The works include the installation of new footways and trees and clearer markings to differentiate areas for vehicles and pedestrians.

The works will follow the Highway Sector's Site Operating Procedures with regard to the control of Covid-19.

The latest phase of improvement works is now also underway at St John's, Worcester

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Work is set to begin later this month to install the brand-new **Broomhall Way Footbridge** over part of Worcester's Southern Link Road.

The footbridge, which will also be suitable for cyclists, will link the new commercial and housing development to the south of the A4440, where work is due to start later this year, with Power Park in St Peter's on the northern side.



### Children and Families

9 out of 10 schools in Worcestershire are now open daily to reception, year one, year six and year ten or twelve students, following the wider re-opening of schools throughout June.

There are 239 schools across the county currently providing education to reception, year one, year six and year ten or twelve pupils. Every one of them has completed a detailed risk assessment to prepare for the return of pupils.

Attendance across the county's schools has risen to 17.7% of the total proportion of children in school, higher than the national average of 15.6%.

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Last week saw the one-year anniversary of the creation of the **Get Safe Partnership** which works to tackle child criminal exploitation in Worcestershire.

Over the last 12 months the Get Safe Partnership has continued the work to strengthen the responses that children receive when there are concerns of criminal exploitation.

This year a new 'Get Safe' risk assessment has been developed that all professionals working with children and young people can use.

[For more information visit the Get Safe website.](#)

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As you may be aware the **Learning and Achievement Services**, which were delivered by Babcock Prime, transferred to Worcestershire Children First on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2020.

The main reason for this transfer is to have one joined up unified service for children, young people and families in Worcestershire. Everybody working as one organisation to ensure our services can work closely together valuing families, ensuring a good education for all children and young people and protecting children when needed.

## Health and Wellbeing



The County Council has been developing its Outbreak Control Plan, as part of delivering the **NHS Test and Trace** programme in Worcestershire.

The plan launched on 1<sup>st</sup> July and sets out how an outbreak will be responded to, and the measures being taken to prevent outbreaks.

As the County begins to adjust to the easing of some lockdown restrictions, the Council will need to identify local outbreaks of Covid-19 and act quickly to prevent the virus from spreading.

The Outbreak Control Plan sets out the protocols and actions necessary both to respond to an outbreak and to prevent further outbreaks from happening.

The plan can be downloaded at:

[http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20769/coronavirus\\_covid-19](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20769/coronavirus_covid-19)

## The Environment



The **Natural Networks** project has played a huge part in keeping Worcestershire open for wildlife, and lockdown has allowed many more places to visit on the county's wildlife map.

The recent lockdown period has allowed several new projects to progress or be completed. 80 projects have applied to the Natural Networks scheme since it launched 18 months ago, and there is still £1 million of grant funding to be applied for.

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Worcestershire's roads remained safe for those essential vehicles who needed to travel during the Coronavirus lockdown – thanks to our road maintenance team.

Now that travelling on the roads is beginning to return to normal, the breakdown in numbers brings the teams efforts during the pandemic right to the forefront.

Nearly 365 miles have been surface dressed as part of the yearly programme so far, and over 35,000 square metres of roads have been resurfaced.

During the pandemic, the team has repaired over 6,000 carriageway defects, emptied over 8,000 gullies, cut nearly 5,000 miles of grass verges and responded to over 100 out of hours calls, across the county.

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It's just been announced that Worcestershire County Council has been awarded £135,500 to support cycling and walking in the county.

The funding has been allocated from Tranche 1 of Central Government's **Emergency Active Travel Fund**, and it will help support increased walking and cycling routes on a number of key commuter routes across the county.

## Council News Update



Six of Worcestershire's libraries are re-opening on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> July, in line with phase three of Central Government's relaxing of lockdown restrictions. Libraries re-opening to customers during the first phase are: **The Hive, Redditch, Kidderminster, Malvern, Bromsgrove, Evesham.**

The re-opening of the county's libraries will be carefully phased, managed and monitored and only limited services will be available until social distancing restrictions are relaxed or removed.

Nearly fifty thousand e-books, audio books and e-magazines (47,703) have been downloaded from Worcestershire County Council's digital library service in the last three months. This is an increase of 100% on the same period last year. More than a thousand people have joined the library service as digital members since the beginning of the lockdown.

Find out more online:  
[www.worcestershire.gov.uk](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk)

