



# Members Update

## Top 5

MARCH 2021



### Open for Business

As we begin to exit the lockdown our support for businesses continues. **Visit Worcestershire** has been offering support for tourism businesses alongside Worcestershire Business Central and The Hospitality Partnership.

The Peer to Peer network for tourism was launched at the beginning of the month and will encourage a group of hospitality businesses to learn from each other, whilst also providing business coaching for the group. You can find out more about peer to peer groups for other sectors in the county <https://www.business-central.co.uk/peer-networks/>

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**Sabrina Bridge** in Worcester will be closed for up to 5 days on 1<sup>st</sup> March for finishing works including installation of dampers.

The congestion scheme at **St John's** in Worcester will be completed by mid-March, with improved crossing facilities, new block paving and realigned road space to facilitate better passage of traffic.

Works to improve the busy **Hoobrook Junction** in Kidderminster are ongoing as is the town centre improvement scheme in **Market Place**, Redditch

Works are also continuing along the **A38 corridor** in Bromsgrove, with forthcoming road closures near to the M42 roundabout. Meanwhile vegetation clearance works are underway at **Wyre Road**, Pershore as part of the northern link road scheme.



### Children and Families

3000 Worcestershire school students have been supported through the recent half-term holidays by the County Council's **Ready Steady Worcestershire** initiative.

The initiative provided information about food, activities and help available during the school holidays and worked with partners to deliver this support to school pupils.

34 organisations have been funded by Ready Steady Worcestershire to deliver food and personal care packages to Worcestershire families.

The food packages consist of ingredients and recipe cards to enable families to cook healthy meals at home.

Through February half-term, the initiative has helped the most children to date, going from 750 in Summer 2020 to 3000 this month.

1100 British Library fun packs have also been distributed to families across the county by partners, including Oasis Community Hub, Warndon, as part of the half-term hampers funded by Ready Steady Worcestershire.

Visit the [Ready Steady Worcestershire webpage](#) for more information.

## Health and Wellbeing



The County Council has launched the second round of funding for charities and organisations to make a real difference in their communities.

**Crowdfund Worcestershire** was set up to build on the success of the Here2Help community campaign. It gives residents who have ideas about how to improve their community, the opportunity to gain much needed funding.

So far since the launch of the initiative last summer, over 1,200 residents, businesses and other organisations have come together alongside the council to get behind 41 ideas, with over £200,000 raised across the county.

The deadline to submit an idea for the Spring round of funding is March 24<sup>th</sup> 2021. For more go to: [www.spacehive.com/movement/worcs](http://www.spacehive.com/movement/worcs)

Please call 0300 666 3666 or email [careersworcs@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:careersworcs@worcestershire.gov.uk) to find out more.

## The Environment



As part of the County Council's commitment to protect the environment, we have officially signed the **Tree Charter**, a campaign led by the Woodland Trust which helps people understand the values of trees and what they can do to help them.

The Tree Charter launched in November 2017 and since then, Woodland Trust have partnered up with other organisations and community groups to help demonstrate the important roles that trees play in society.

By signing up to the Tree Charter, we're agreeing to carry out certain environmental commitments for the county such as, promoting public accessibility to woodlands, protecting irreplaceable trees, planning greener landscapes, helping to sustain wildlife, and planting more trees. In recent years, we have carried out all of these commitments and continue to reinforce this by pledging to plant 150,000 trees over the next five years.

In December 2020, we teamed up with Woodland Trust to kickstart our tree-planting pledge by creating a new woodland area and plant 3,000 trees.



The **Natural Networks Programme** is still available to organisations and businesses across the county. The team are there to support those who want to use their land to create welcoming haven for wildlife and visitors. The team's ultimate goal is to create a network of nature across Worcestershire.

Advice and financial support will be available at a webinar which will guide organisations and businesses with their wildlife next step. If you know of any landowners, that may be able to benefit from applying to the scheme, please encourage them to follow this link to register for more information: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/free-webinar-creating-a-welcoming-space-for-humans-and-wildlife-tickets-139845103469>

## Council News Update



Temperatures fell again last night meaning that the gritters were back out across the county.

The current weather pattern looks set to see fine, dry days with chilly nights so winter maintenance teams will continue to monitor forecasts and react accordingly.

The teams will remain on standby until mid-April.

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

