

COUNTY and DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT November /December 2011
BROADWAY DIVISION – Cllr LIZ EYRE - Date of report 14th December 2011

Lead Member for Children's Services with responsibility for Worcestershire's Children's Social Care.

Key areas of work:

Adoption Panel -Observer and preparation for Adoption Inspection Jan 9th.
Worcestershire Children's Homes - recent Ofsted outcomes very pleasing
Development of the Health and Wellbeing Board continues.
Children's Trust: Early Help strategy detailed design continuing.
Further work on the Looked after Children Placement budget which is rising.

The county's speech therapy review which influenced better outcomes from joint commissioning with Health was recently commended as outstanding work nationally.

Cabinet items

- Family Care Policy and Kinship arrangements
- Broadband
- Ashmolean in Broadway
- The start of the budget preparations

Budget Reductions: Cabinet is now talking about saving more than 70 million by the year 2015 as the coalition continues with its drive to reduce the country's debt. Full-time equivalent posts removed since the beginning of the last financial year to September: District councils 193, County Council 193 Total to 386. Half of these are compulsory redundancies. It is expected 800+ jobs in total will go by 2015

Economy

£20m plan to speed up the county: The County Council broadband programme aims by 2015 that 90 per cent of businesses across Worcestershire have access to superfast broadband of at least 24Mbps and everyone benefits from download speeds of at least 2Mbps.

Ashmolean at Keil's Tudor House Broadway: this project has been worked on for a couple of years and is now moving beyond the feasibility stage. A company has been set up, planning and listed building changes are being progressed with English Heritage and Building Control, a community event has shown real resident enthusiasm for the project. The final amount to convert to a museum is being raised. Watch this space.

Broadway Quarry feasibility proposals – work is going on with landowners as a first step.

Claimants: We are beginning to see unemployment turn around. Claimant count decreased by 177 claimants to 10,666. The claimant count rate is 3.8% of the economically active population (West Midlands 6.6%, England 5.4%) 18-24 year olds claiming for up to 1 year fell by 120 claimants to 3,100 (7.5%) (West Midlands 8.9%, England 7.2%)

New Homes Bonus www.wychavon.gov.uk/newhomesbonus. From 2012 rather than just topping up council the money will also support local communities, infrastructure around Worcester and affordable housing and investment in housing

Worcester Technology Park The County Council is supporting through feasibility/design work to provide 50 hectares of serviced employment land.

Energy: A solar photo voltaic array is to be installed at County Hall to reduce emissions (payback 8 years)

Winter

Please go to www.warmerworcestershire.com to pick up a checklist of tips to help you get through the winter or ring the advice line 0800 988 2811

Energy Advice and Fuel Debt surgeries and Wychavon District Council's bulk-buying initiatives please contact me,

Gritting: The authority has 15,000 tonnes of salt ready to be used and has also equipped 12 of its 31 vehicles with the latest technology that involves using a brine solution on salt before it is placed on the roads

Free Nursery education: the number of free nursery education places for disadvantaged children in Worcestershire looks set to increase from 250 to 1,100.

Library Broadway: Consultation on proposal to reprovide on same site with others in consultation with Parish Council. Community approach.

Blue Badge scheme changes: increase in cost to £10 from £1 Jan 2012. Changes to eligibility and issue arrangements.

Councillors' Divisional Fund another reminder please raise awareness locally: reviewing bid £2,000 to support play area Wickhamford . Awaiting plan and matched funding business plan.

Flooding - Badsey Brook Scheme Community Funding Committee

In Nov/Dec I worked with local solicitors, Anthony Homer, to set up a Broadway/ Childswickham - Murcot Community Charitable Trust for the respective Council's community funding group. This charity could facilitate gift aiding contributions made by residents towards a £312,000 shortfall for the Environment Agency's £3m Badsey Brook Flood protection scheme. The scheme has been shown to be technically and environmentally feasible. Early January an EA newsletter setting out where we are with the Badsey Brook scheme, a funding request letter and a gift aid form will be distributed to all households in the two villages.

Wickhamford Meeting 12th October 2011 – parish council is being proactive.

Buses

559 Childswickham loop – I am delighted a local operator has come forward to fulfil a local need for Childswickham. I wish Cresswells every success with their commercial venture. Cllr Smith Cabinet Member for Environmental Services wrote to Parishes asking if they in partnership would like to go further and proactively work on better community transport schemes for their villages.

Worcestershire is looking at the creation of a multi- operator bus ticketing system.

Regulatory Services : The Government has consulted on changes to the licensing regime established under the Licensing Act 2003 (changes set out in the Police Reform and Social

Responsibility Act, which obtained Royal Assent on 15th September). The amendments will impact on both operators and licensing authorities and are aimed to deal with: giving more local powers, dealing with late-night drinking and temporary events, protecting children from harm, reducing burden and bureaucracy and covering costs.

Highways

Hundreds of manhole covers have been stolen in the past months: the year's total is more than 500. It has cost the county council £85,000. We have replaced now the covers with hinged ones that are more difficult to remove and where appropriate resorted to replacing covers with non-metal ones.

Salt, in total 15,000 tonnes, has been stockpiled across Worcestershire in readiness for more severe weather this winter. I am looking to source a local grit supply.

Broadway Drains/culverts adj Leamington Road Broadway being looked at by lengthman Evesham United's now in a position to move forward with its highway work to link club and road network.

A dip in the verge outside the first school, causing injury, is to be tarmac.

Trees outside the first school are to be cut back

My highway budget is funding much of the refurbishment of the area outside Lloyds bank Road flooding alleviation work in the High Street are nearing completion

Murcot Turn now becomes part of the primary gritting route.

Fladbury Parish Council s working with the County on a potential "turn off street lighting project.

Meeting on 16th re EVG and the planning condition re anaerobic digester

Car Parking. Broadway - I negotiated extra help for Xmas (Late night shopping) and further help for the quite month of February to support businesses.

Wickhamford Social Club. Meetings between sports club and parish council being facilitated to help re the lease.

Youth Bus For more information please contact: Rob on 01905 775233 /07773031205 or email spa-youthzone@live.co.uk

Venues for Hire Add your venue to www.wychavon.gov/venuesforhire or contact Tracy Grubb@wychavon.gov.uk

Museum gems to take centre stage

Shakespeare's marriage bond and a letter from the Titanic will take centre stage at an open day to mark a key stage in the move of the Worcestershire record office.

Wychavon is closer to getting the £1.5 million of tax payers' money deposited in a failed Icelandic bank **back**

Olympic flame to come to the Vale: the Olympic Torch passes through 11am – Noon Evesham, Wickhamford and Broadway.