

School funding in Worcestershire going up!

The Education Secretary announced [£2.6 billion in extra school funding](#) over the next two years, including a commitment to rise the per pupil funding of all secondary schools in the UK to £4,800 per year. Schools in Worcestershire have average per pupil funding of £4,319 so this announcement will have a huge and welcome impact in the county.

Improvement funding announced for Worcestershire Hospitals

An extra £29million has been announced for Worcestershire NHS Acute Hospital trust. At the Alexandra in Redditch, the funding is set to improve the operating theatres so that the hospital can be developed into a centre of excellence for planned surgery, as well as provide a new children's outpatient department, women's centre and improved endoscopy facilities. At the Worcestershire Royal, the funding will provide 81 new general and acute beds and increase car parking capacity by 140 spaces.

Riverside Shopping Centre

A Stratford upon Avon company, Chase Commercial, has purchased the Riverside Shopping Centre in Evesham, and there are high hopes they can bring this town centre area back to life.

Highways

- 1. Main Street/B4085 and pavements, re-surfacing and new kerbs** are done
- 2. £6m pavement fund** – the WCC is finalising which pavements in the area will be re-surfaced in the 2017/18 and 2018/19 financial year. I attended a tour of my Division with 2 Highways Engineers on Monday 11th Sept. They confirmed that building a new pavement at the entrance to the Green was being considered. Whilst walking around all the pavements in the Division, it was noted that a lot of pavements were being damaged by grass and weeds growing on them. As a consequence, I did send a reminder to all Parishes to use their lengthsman to keep weeds and grass off pavements by regularly applying weedkiller.
- 3. New Warwickshire Signage** – At last Warwickshire have erected their signs around the area to divert HGV's from using the Bidford upon Avon bridge. Worcestershire erected their HGV signs about 6 months ago. So on all routes from A46 Badsey junction to Buckle Street there are clearer HGV signs warning of weight limits and weak bridges.
- 4. Narrow pavement by village hall.** I tried to get this widened as part of the recent works, and even to suggest that this could be used as part of a traffic calming project with a "Priority over oncoming traffic" as per Welford. Highways are looking into this for me and have said "Further to our meeting regarding your request for the pinch point in Cleeve Prior to be considered for improvements to provide a missing section of footway which will facilitate better access on foot to the school, I am able to provide an update. We are currently gathering data on vehicle speed, volume and type, as well as pedestrian usage figures. Various design options are in early development considering whether lighting is required, what footway width is achievable and how best to cater for existing highway drainage/gullies and the rear side access to the walled property.

We will be able to report back more fully to you on the feasibility of introducing a footway at this location and an indication of potential costs by end of 2017.” So no promises, but I am working on it.

As always, if you have any issues on any Highways matters, please report it on the WCC website http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/homepage/98/report_it Also remember a photo of the Highways problem is as good as “a thousand words” so always take a photo where possible.

Mobile Speed cameras in Station Rd, Honeybourne

Safer Road Partnerships agreed to put a mobile speed camera in Honeybourne at the end of August. By the middle of September 23 people have been caught speeding. So slow down through Honeybourne, or risk getting a speeding ticket!

Two Fatal accidents along Buckle Street

As I am writing this, as the front page news of the Evesham Journal and Stratford Herald have news of 2 horrific car accidents on Buckle Street not far from the glider airfield. My thoughts are with the families and loved ones of the young men that lost their lives.

Buckle Street is a dangerous road with many junctions and house/farm entrances, and many folk do drive too fast when using it. I have been working to get a TRO for a 40mph speed limit through Ullington, but in the meantime please can I ask all drivers to slow down through Ullington; residents pulling out of their drives have reported terrifying stories of near misses. The Safer Road Partnership, the Police and the Highways Authorities are also carrying out various investigations currently along the length of this road. I will keep you informed.

Divisional Fund

The divisional fund is now open for business again, and offering help in providing small grants to help community voluntary organisation. So if you need a grant to help the community, then please email me details of what you need.

A good example of how the divisional fund works is the following:-

Matt & Sue Henson wanted a grant to help start a new under11 football team. The new club is called Honeybourne Harriers and they wanted a grant for the kid's Football kit & training equipment – I managed to obtain a grant of £650 to help them.

Also this month I have given a small grant of £50 to the Evesham Rambling Club for signs they are erecting on footpath signs around the area. They walked the footpaths around the area and help keep them cleared. If you are interested in joining them, then please contact them on <https://eveshamramblingclub.org.uk/>

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