

County Councillor Report- Cleeve Prior

Month: February 2018

Prepared by Alastair Adams, Littletons Division, Worcestershire County Council

Road drains/Gullys

I visited the Highways depot at Lydiate Ash just off junction 4 on the M5 recently to be shown how the County Council keeps our roads clear of water. They use a clever computer system that shows all 126,000 road drains in the county, gives it a reference number, if there is any logged issue with an individual gully, and when it was last cleaned and even how full it was last time. GPS sensors on the special lorries used to clean these gullys, feedback live data to this computer, and the information is used to improve the cleaning rota. Some drains get silted up very quickly so have to be cleaned more regularly, whilst others need less cleaning. This interactive system is constantly being improved, which hopefully means that in the future all 126,000 road drains will be working at peak performance!

One of the things I have been trying to do is to get the County Council to share more of this live data with the parishes. Now, on a trial basis, County Highways have agreed to share their live information on gullys with the parish clerks so they can check on what is happening on any particular road drain in your parish.

Litter Picks

Does Cleeve Prior want to organise a community litter pick? Or do you have volunteers / residents want equipment to help litter pick? If so, WDC have agreed to supply litter pickers (standard size & extra long for ditches), gloves and high vis jackets free of charge. If so, contact me.

Council Tax 2018/19

It is that time of year when Council Budgets are approved and this has direct impact on the Council Tax you pay.

Your local tax demand is made up of 5 different bodies; the County Council, the District Council, the Parish Council, the Police, and the Fire & Rescue Services. Each of these can decide their own increase so when you get your council tax demand in March 2018, you will see the breakdown between these 5 organisations.

I list below the 3 councils and their approximate budget per year, and a summary of their main areas of responsibility:

- **Worcestershire County Council** - £324m/year - Highways, Education, Social Services (Adult & Children Services), Economic development, Environmental services
- **Wychavon District Council** -£10.6million/year - Planning, Waste collection, Street cleaning, Community services like leisure centres & parks, assessing and payment of housing benefits, and Social housing. Wychavon also invest in buildings and business parks like Vale Park in Evesham to help the economic development of the area.
- **Cleeve Prior Parish Council** – £21,000/year - grass cutting including cemetery. Maintenance of parish property including playground and street lighting.

Worcestershire County Council is proposing a 4.94% increase in council tax (3% ring-fenced for Adult Social Care, and 1.94% for other). As you have heard on national news, Social Care is consuming ever more of the budget of all county councils as people live longer. Currently Adult Social Services consumes over £125 million of the WCC budget (nearly 40%). As part of the new budget, they are proposing to increase spend on Children's services, increase spend on Adult Services, and have a substantial investment in Highway

infrastructure including improvements to the Southern bypass around Worcester by building a major new bridge.

Wychavon District Council have announced a council tax freeze - zero increase.

Wychavon already has one of the lowest District Council taxes in the country at £120.08 at Band D. However, they do manage to achieve a lot for the money they spend as you can see from the above list of responsibilities. They are also investing heavily around Evesham trying to kick start improvements to the town centre, and are developing business parks to encourage more businesses into the area to provide more jobs.

Cleeve Prior Parish Council is decreasing parish council tax by -5.74%

I attach a list of the Band D charges for each Parish council in Wychavon for 2017/18 and 2018/19, and the level D band for Bretforton is £68.91 . (the average across all 70 parishes in Wychavon is £44)

Highways

- 1. Street Cleaning** – the manager responsible for street cleaning (carried out by WDC but funded by WCC) visited the Division and agreed to use the machines to sweep the kerbs to remove the detritus and dead grass and weeds. He will review the schedule in these rural areas and may increase the frequency to help clear the weeds and grass from growing along the kerbside. If there are any particular roads that the PC want to flag up to me that need sweeping, please send me an email.
- 2. Narrow pavement by village hall.** I have been working to get the narrow pavement by the village hall widened, in conjunction with a traffic calming trial. A project was been designed., but has now been shelved at the request of the PC
- 3. New pavement for the entrance into the Close** – this has been given the go ahead. Waiting for date for work to start.
- 4. Cleeve Prior Footpath 553** – re-surfacing and improvements starting 12/2/18
- 5. Rubbish** - Behind the Gypsy site in Cleeve Prior there are currently 5 cars, one motor bike and innumerable amounts of domestic appliances/items in this woodland which is owned by WCC. This has been flagged up to WCC .
- 6. Kissing Gates** - path upgrade project for CP569 & CP559
- 7. Leylandii hedge on the left hand side as you travel towards Cleeve Prior centre along the B4085 just past the Gypsy site entrance need cutting** – I have asked Highways to arrange for the trees on Highways land – ie the verge – to be removed

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.

Divisional Fund

1. Cleeve Prior – grant requested for new computers for pre-school
2. Badsey – Freedom Day Centre for people with learning difficulties – grant requested for new computers
3. Offenham First school PTA - laptops for school.
4. Pebworth in Bloom have requested a grant to wards the replacement of the metal fence around the cemetery that were damaged many years ago
5. Mats for Cleeve Prior village hall for Yoga & Pilates

6. Littleton Junior Football Club – line marker
7. Offenham Cricket club – mobile pitch covers
8. Cleeve Prior – equipment for footpath warden
9. Long Lartin Residents Association – new play equipment for the new playground
10. Littleton Scout Hut – new doors

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.

Your District & County Councillor, Alastair Adams can be contacted on adams.pebworth@gmail.com or mobile 07725 979 277 or www.alastairadams.org