

## **County Councillor Report- Cleeve Prior**

**Month: APM 2018 – May 2018**

**Prepared by Alastair Adams, Littletons Division, Worcestershire County Council**

There have been a lot of improvements to our village and the surrounding area, many carried out with the help of the Parish, District and County Councils. Here is a reminder of some of the things that have happened over the last 12 months;-

### **In April 2017**

**The new Energy-from-Waste incinerator in Hartlebury** went fully operational –in April 2017. This means all the waste in the black wheelie bins that used to go to land fill will now generate electricity instead. It treats up to 200,000 tonnes of waste, producing 15.5 MW of electricity for export to the grid – enough to power all the homes in Kidderminster. The Energy-from-Waste facility is the largest single piece of capital infrastructure in Worcestershire and Herefordshire and marks the virtual elimination of landfill in the two counties.

**Neighbouring Villages** – I cover 8 parishes and I am always amazed on the number of clubs, and community groups that are organising events every month from rural cinema to short mat bowls, senior clubs to youth clubs, WI to Heritage Trusts; there is a lot going on. Each village has a website, and I recommended your website added all these village websites to your home page.

### **In May 2017**

**Speeding** – Our local policeman, PC Jamie Lee, carried out more speed checks around the area

**County Council elections** - occurred Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> May, and I was re-elected for the second term as your County Councillor.

**Improvements to railway** - GWR's regional development manager Tom Pierpoint said: "By the end of the year, we will have a much-improved baseline, with new trains, more capacity on those trains, some faster journey times and at least one per hour between Worcester and London." Good news for users of Honeybourne train service.

### **In August**

**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** - Chase Commercial purchased the Riverside Shopping Centre in Evesham, and there are high hopes they will develop it and bring this town centre area back to life.

**Mobile Speed cameras in Station Rd/Buckle Street Honeybourne** - After many years of lobbying, Safer Road Partnerships agreed to put a mobile speed camera on Station Rd Honeybourne on a regular basis, and are now issuing 12 speeding tickets an hour!

### In September

- 1. Main Street/B4085 and pavements, re-surfacing and new kerbs** all completed
- 2. £6m pavement fund** – the WCC was 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 11<sup>th</sup> 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 lengthsmen 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. However after a plan was developed by Highways, the Parish decided it was a low priority.

### In October

**Low unemployment in Wychavon** - The claimant count proportion in Wychavon is 0.9% of the 16-64 population, which is still the lowest across Worcestershire

**2 horrific car accidents Buckle Street** - the front page news of the Evesham Journal said it all. People do drive too fast along this road, so please slow down! Improvements made to the Pebworth Rd/BlakesHill junction with Buckle Street with white lining and better signage.

**£6m pavement fund** – The Project manager responsible for this scheme is asking whether the Parish see building a new pavement at the entrance to The Close is a priority for the village. At the moment there is no pavement. The Parish Council said yes, and it was agreed to build a new pavement in the close in the next financial year.

### In November & December

**New car park at Honeybourne Railway Station** – Wychavon District Council working with a local land owner to purchase the land to build a new car park for up to 200 extra spaces.

**Street Cleaning** – the manager responsible for street cleaning (carried out by WDC but funded by WCC) visited the Littletons 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.

**LPT4 Transport Plan** – this has now been approved by County Council, and the suggestions made about improved cycleways into Evesham have been acknowledged and incorporated.

**Divisional Fund - Cleeve Prior** – grant request for new computer for pre-school – grant approved.

### **In January & Feb 2018**

**Cleeve Prior Footpath 553** – re-surfacing and improvements completed

**Rubbish** - Behind the Gypsy site in Cleeve Prior there were 5 dumped cars, one motor bike and innumerable amounts of domestic appliances/items in this woodland which is owned by WCC. WCC liaised with tenant farmer and agreed he would arrange for them to be removed. .

**Kissing Gates** - path upgrade project for CP569 & CP559

**Divisional Fund** - Mats for Cleeve Prior village hall for Yoga & Pilates & Cleeve Prior – equipment for footpath warden

### **In March & April 2018**

**New Waste Collection Contract announced by WDC** - over the next 12 months improvements will be made in your waste collection which will add batteries and small electrical items to the list of goods which will be included in the kerbside collection – more information to follow.

**It was announced that Worcestershire has one of the fastest growing economies in the UK.** The District & County Councils have put the economy as one of their key priorities in their corporate plans. A good example of how the councils can attract new businesses into the area is **Boardman Bikes**, owned by Olympian Chris Boardman, who has built a new factory and shop in The Valley, Evesham which will make the Vale of Evesham a centre of Excellence for cycling.

**AND lots and lots of road improvements but that means traffic lights and road closures; for example**

5. **Closure of Offenham Rd to install a new storm drain** – the closure of the Offenham Rd has now been from 2nd April till 22 April, then traffic lights from 23rd April to 14th May, and then traffic lights from 16th May until 6th June.
6. **Repairs and re-tarmacking of footways Blacksmith Rd, South Littleton** -
7. **A46 Evesham Bypass Closed overnight in both directions by Highways England**  
To improve the road markings and signs and replacing the anti-skid surfacing on the roundabout approaches, and install a new pedestrian crossing point to make it safer for all users when crossing this busy road.
8. **Station Road Offenham/Blackminster** – Surface dressed – all completed.
9. **Honeybourne Road Closure C2049 Stratford Road, Honeybourne** - Network Rail are carrying out bridgeworks to bridge parapet
10. **Station Rd, Honeybourne** - Road Closure for 1 day for surface dressing sometime between 21/05 - 01/06
11. **1 day road closure B4085 Birmingham Road, Badsey** -for surface dressing sometime between 11/05 - 20/05

12. **M5 junction 6 improvement work from 30 April 2018 and last until Spring 2019 by Highways England.** As part of the improvement scheme to increase capacity of the junction by widening the roundabout, the slip roads and all the approaches. To improve the flow of traffic around the junction, and to install two new sets of traffic signals at the junction at the A4538 Pershore Lane South and the A449. Also put new road surface, road markings, signs and street lighting in place to make it safer around the junction. Highways England Customer Contact Centre on **0300 123 5000**. You can also email [info@highwaysengland.co.uk](mailto:info@highwaysengland.co.uk)

**So what a year! So much has happened and improved in the last 12 months. Wishing you all a very successful and happy next 12 months.**