

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

**Month: Sept 2018**

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

### **Operation Snap announced by WEST Mercia Police**

Members of the public can now submit footage from dashcams and other devices through a secure online portal, to report a range of driving offences for the police to assess and take action. See <https://www.westmercia.police.uk/operationsnap> The introduction of Operation Snap means that officers no longer have to travel to collect footage, which has reduced the time spent on these investigations from an average of eight hours to just 20 minutes.

### **GCSE results for the county this year were an improvement on 2017**

Initial data provided by 30 schools shows 67% of students in the county achieved a standard pass in English and Maths. In 2017, the figure was 65.5%. A grade 4 (or standard pass) indicates a similar level of achievement to the old C grade. A grade 5 (or strong pass) under the new system is similar to a high C or low B in the old system.

The average grade achieved by A level pupils in Worcestershire is also better this year compared with 2017. Initial data provided by 23 schools to the County Council shows that the average grade was higher than on results day last year. In 2018, the average A-level grade in Worcestershire was between a B and a C. In 2017, the average grade was a C.

### **Cheaper energy tariffs could soon be available to Worcestershire residents following the launch of the County Council's annual Collective Energy scheme.**

Launched last month, Worcestershire Energy Switch negotiates competitive prices with energy companies on behalf of local residents with group buying expert iChoosr. Last year saw 550 residents sign up to the scheme and they went on to see average savings of £182 per year on their energy bills.

Residents should visit [www.worcestershire.gov.uk/energyswitch](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/energyswitch) with their latest energy bill handy as details are needed during the registration process.

Registration is open until midnight 8<sup>th</sup> October 2018 with individual offers emailed to residents from 22nd October 2018.

### **Worcestershire Monthly County Economic Summary**

The claimant count in Wychavon for those aged 18-64 (at July 2018) currently stands at 775, which is down 30 on the previous month. The claimant count proportion in Wychavon is 1.1% of the 16-64 population, which is the joint lowest across Worcestershire (Worcestershire 1.5%, West Midlands 2.8% and England 2.1%).

### **Universal Credit arrives in Wychavon from 14 November.**

Universal Credit is being rolled out by Jobcentre not local authority area, so while a large part of the district and surrounding areas will go live in November.

Universal Credit is being introduced by the Department of Work and Pensions and will combine six in-work benefits into one monthly payment. This is the biggest change to the benefits system in a generation and will mean significant changes for our residents who claim in-work benefits. These include being paid monthly, and being responsible for paying their own rent. For more information see <https://www.wychavon.gov.uk/universal-credit>

## **Highways:**

Worcestershire County Council's road and pavement improvements programme is nearly finished for this year. The last few roads will be surfaced dressed this month, and there are some pavements due to be improved before the Winter season starts and gritting becomes the main task.

1. **New pavement for the entrance into the Close** – Major improvement – access to The Close is now safe for pedestrians – no more walking in the road. At the same time, Highways resurfaced a lot of the existing pavements in the Close.
2. **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** – The land owner has agreed to have it cut, and traffic management is due this month to allow it to be cut.
3. **Carriageway patching - B4085 Cleeve Road, Cleeve Prior - Road closure on behalf of Worcestershire county council - -22.10.18 - 02.11.18**
4. **M5 Junction 6 improvements will start in May and last up until Spring 2019** – please be aware of various overnight closures at this junction. This work is being carried out by Highways England, and visit their website for more info - [www.highwaysengland.co.uk](http://www.highwaysengland.co.uk)

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](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.

**Worcestershire has been successful in its bid for Government funding to test and explore 5G mobile phone connectivity.** 5G is the next generation of mobile technology, so this hopefully will give Worcestershire better and faster mobile phone connectivity. The Worcestershire 5G Consortium, which includes the County Council and the Local Enterprise Partnership, are part of the country's most comprehensive industrial 5G Testbed trial.

**Children's Social Care Services** – a new company owned by the WCC is in the process of being set up to supply the children's social care services following the Ofsted report last year. The aim is to improve the services offered, and help more children. To give you some idea of the cost of Children Services, 800 children in care costs the County Council £40million/year.

**Smart Water Offer** The Police & Crime Commissioner, John Campion, has offered to help every village fight burglary by supplying smart water at 25% discount and supplying the signage to be erected around the village warning potential thieves “Thieves beware - we don't buy crime – Smart water in this area”. Details sent to every Parish Council for their decision to participate in the scheme or not.

**Improved Cycle ways joining Evesham to Honeybourne, and Honeybourne to North Littleton**– A scheme to upgrade the bridleway between Pear Tree Corner, Badsey and Allen's Barn Bretforton to improve it for cyclists and thus join up the cycle way from Evesham to Honeybourne will be started this month.

The National Cycle Network (NCN's) are national routes provided by local authorities in discussions with Sustrans.

The NCN41 and NCN442 link Pershore to Hinton on the Green and from Honeybourne to Pebworth or Chipping Campden. With each route there is a missing part from Evesham to Honeybourne. This project aims to join the two ends by utilising country roads and existing PRow. This section will link Badsey to Honeybourne by travelling along Willersey Lane

then branching off to Pear Tree Lane and using the bridleway BD-510 and BV-522 to Stoneford Lane and on to Honeybourne.  
There is also another programme to join up Honeybourne with North Littleton .

### **Divisional Fund**

Grant requests received this month include:

1. Vale Landscape Heritage Trust – grant requested to help fence Littleton Meadows & Rough Hill next to the B4510 - paid
2. South Littleton Scout Hut – grant requested for a new fridge - paid
3. 1<sup>st</sup> Honeybourne Scout Group – grant for some tents – paid
4. St Peters Church Pebworth – grant for roof - paid

If you run a local Community organisation and need a grant for some vital equipment or service, then please feel free to apply for one from the Divisional Fund by contacting me at [adams.pebworth@gmail.com](mailto:adams.pebworth@gmail.com)

**Your District & County Councillor, Alastair Adams can be contacted on [adams.pebworth@gmail.com](mailto:adams.pebworth@gmail.com) or mobile 07725 979 277 or [www.alastairadams.org](http://www.alastairadams.org)**