

County Councillor Report- Cleeve Prior

Month: March 2020

Prepared by Alastair Adams, Littleton's Division, Worcestershire County Council

Some more good news that was hidden in the newspaper last month that you may have missed, so I reproduce it here:

The UK's CO2 emissions fell by 2.9% in 2019, according to Carbon Brief analysis. This brings the total reduction to 29% over the past decade since 2010, even as the economy grew by a fifth. The 2.9% fall in 2019 marks a seventh consecutive year of carbon cuts for the UK, the longest series on record.

Another 29% reduction in coal use last year was the driving force behind the decline in UK emissions in 2019. Carbon emissions from coal have fallen by 80% over the past decade, while those from gas are down 20%

And Worcestershire County Council is doing their bit to help by using “Warm Mixed Asphalt” to re-tarmac your roads. The council lays over 125,000 tonnes of tarmac each year and by using “Warm” Asphalt rather than “Hot” Asphalt saved 275,000Kg of carbon dioxide emissions. Worcestershire County Councils is one of the few councils in the country using “Warm Mixed Asphalt” and is proud to be a pioneer in this new method of road surfacing.

REMEMBER the Worcestershire Parkway Station is now OPEN for business

The Worcestershire Parkway Station opened its doors on Sunday 23rd February! So, you can get on a train in Honeybourne and change at Worcestershire Parkway where the Cotswold Line meets the Cross-Country Lines so you can change here to go South or North.

More Investment in our County's infrastructure. Last Month the County Council confirmed they would provide extra Capital Investment as follows: -

- An additional £5million on cutting congestion across the County
- An extra £6m on Highways with a further £6m for 2021/22 making Worcestershire Roads some of the BEST in the UK
- An extra £4m on pavements with a further £4m for 2021/22. There is still a lot to be done to improve our pavements but there are a lot of them and this will help
- An extra £1m on LED street lighting to make us more Eco
- An extra £1m on smaller flood mitigation with a further £1m in 2021/22 and I have already asked for some of this for our area!

Coronavirus (COVID-19) in Worcestershire

At the time of writing this report 10/3/20, there are no known cases of the virus in Worcestershire.

The latest information and advice from GOV.UK is available on

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-information-for-the-public>

If you have returned from an affected area and are concerned about yourself or anyone who has been with you who may be displaying symptoms please ring the NHS on 111 and do not go to your GP or visit hospital.

The County Council website has a page dedicated to advice about Covid-19 and you can direct any member of the public seeking help, to the site;

<http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/coronavirus>

Highways:

To keep up to date on the roads affected see

http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20602/roadworks_in_worcestershire

Or look at the national roadworks website below, and type in Cleeve Prior in the top right box to search.

www.roadworks.org

1. **Leylandii hedge on the left-hand side as you travel towards Cleeve Prior centre along the B4085 just past the Gypsy site entrance needs cutting –now cut!**
2. **Deep ditches on side of Offenham Rd past the Fish & Anchor up the hill** – some still need filling
3. **Flooding Review** – I have asked Matt Maginnis – manager of flood alleviation at WCC to visit my Division and to look at improvements to drainage to alleviate flooding. Awaiting new date.
4. **Lenthsman** – I am trying to get some training organised for back up lengthsman so if any parishes in my Division have an issue (ie their current lengthsman is off ill), there is a back-up lengthsman they can use.

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.

Crime is changing! Instead of burglaries, or car thefts, crime is increasingly becoming more telephone-based fraud or computerised fraud. Read the latest 2 reports from the Police below and heed their advice and make sure you don't become a victim of this new form of crime.

POLICE REPORT 1: Criminals are targeting members of the public with automated calls stating that the recipient has been charged for an Amazon Prime subscription.

Action Fraud has received over 500 reports from people about an automated call scam impersonating Amazon.

The recipient of the call is informed that fraudsters have used their personal details to subscribe to an Amazon Prime subscription, and are instructed to Press "1" if they'd like to cancel the purchase. When victims do this, they are automatically connected to criminals posing as Amazon custom service representatives who attempt to remotely access the victim's computer in order to steal personal and financial details.

The criminal tells the victim the Amazon Prime subscription was purchased fraudulently and that they need remote access to the victim's computer in order to fix a security flaw that will prevent it from happening again. The victim is instructed to download an application called Team Viewer and asked to log onto their online banking account. The software download grants the fraudster remote access to the victim's computer and allows them to see the victim's personal and financial details.

Other variants of the crime involve victims being told they are due a refund for an unauthorised transaction on their Amazon account.

What can you do to protect yourself?

Action Fraud is reminding people to never install any software as a result of a cold call.

"Unsolicited requests to remote access your computer should always raise a red flag. It's easy to feel embarrassed when faced with unexpected or complex conversations but it's okay to stop the discussion if you do not feel in control of it. **JUST PUT DOWN THE PHONE AND HANG UP THE CALL.**

"If you've received an unexpected phone call, or other communication, stop and take a minute to think about whether an organisation would get in touch with you out of the blue in this way. Instead, contact them directly using a known email or phone number."

Remember, if you have been a victim of fraud or cyber-crime, report it to Action Fraud online or by calling **0300 123 2040**.

If you or someone else is in immediate danger or risk of harm dial 999.

<https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/>

POLICE REPORT 2: Be on your guard of telephone callers pretending to be police, HMRC and from other official bodies

Please remain vigilant and on your guard. Make your neighbours, family and friends aware... 'to be forewarned is to be forearmed'.

A Worcestershire resident on the 9th Feb has become the latest victim of telephone fraudsters. They received a phone call from a person claiming to be from HMRC and informed the resident that they owed an amount of income tax. The caller then asked for some personal details and instructed the resident to obtain cash and gift cards which an "officer" would come around and collect. The caller also requested the reference numbers off the back of the gift cards.

We are continually urging people to be vigilant to Courier Fraud.

- Police officers, HMRC, banks will **NEVER** ask for account details or PINs over the phone.
- They also would **NOT** come around to your house to collect your cards or property.
- They will **NEVER** ask for payment in gift cards (this is the equivalent of handing over cash to the fraudster).

- If you receive a call by someone claiming to be a police officer, HMRC, Bank or other official body asking for money, **hang up immediately**, wait 10 minutes and call 101 using another phone if possible. In an emergency or if a crime is in progress call 999.

- Fraudsters can seem to be highly credible, but if someone you don't know contacts you out of the blue asking you to help with 'an investigation', be suspicious!

We would encourage anyone with elderly relatives or friends to talk to them about the Courier Fraud Scam, and make sure that they are aware.

County Council Divisional Fund

Divisional grants deadline is looming, so any community organisation that needs a little support to buy equipment or some essential service can apply by contacting me.

Grant requests received in last 6 weeks are

1. Evesham Walking Festival – grant requested for 2020 event - paid
2. Cleeve prior Heritage Trust – grant for new machinery - Paid
3. Cleeve Prior Cricket Club – new equipment – paid
4. Honeybourne Harriers - new children's football kit – paid
5. Countryside Access Pebworth Volunteers –grant requested for gates
6. Offenham Village Hall – grant requested for the refurbishment of the village hall floor

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