

**Dear All**

**I hope you had a Happy Christmas even though for many the plans for Christmas had to be changed at the last minute. I wish you a lovely “Back to Normal” 2021, although it does sound like that we will continue in some sort of lockdown until the majority of residents have been vaccinated.**

**Update on the vaccines rolled out in Worcestershire**

GP’s across Worcestershire have received delivery of COVID-19 vaccine. Patients are reminded that the GP’s or NHS will contact people in priority groups when it is their turn to receive the vaccine. Over 80 year olds are the priority at the moment, as well as care home staff and priority healthcare staff.

Besides the vaccine, the other big news since my last report is the new national lock down. For full details see - <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-lockdown-stay-at-home>

## **Leaving home**

You must not leave, or be outside of your home except where necessary. You may leave the home to:

- shop for basic necessities, for you or a vulnerable person
- go to work, or provide voluntary or charitable services, if you cannot reasonably do so from home
- exercise with your household (or support bubble) or one other person, this should be limited to once per day, and you should not travel outside your local area.
- meet your [support bubble](#) or [childcare bubble](#) where necessary, but only if you are legally permitted to form one
- seek medical assistance or avoid injury, illness or risk of harm (including domestic abuse)
- attend education or childcare - for those eligible

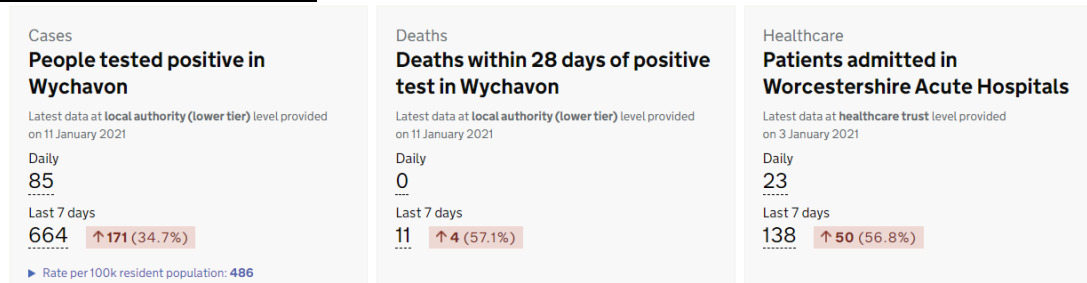
If you do leave home for a permitted reason, you should always stay local - unless it is necessary to go further, for example to go to work. Stay local means stay in the village, town, or part of the city where you live.

## COVID-19 STATISTICS LOCALLY

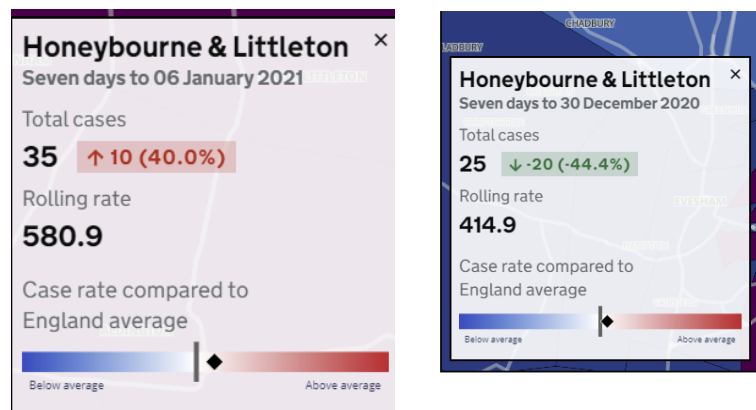
### Last week in Wychavon



### This week in Wychavon



### This week 7 Last week in Littletons Division



Official statistics and information are available on the links below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-track-coronavirus-cases>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-covid-19-surveillance-reports#history>

# Download the NHS COVID-19 app today

<https://covid19.nhs.uk/>

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## Self-isolation support payment

From Monday, 28 September 2020, you are required by law to self-isolate if you are told to do so by NHS Test and Trace.

The Government has introduced a £500 support payment to help people on low incomes who have to self-isolate. The scheme will run until 31 January 2021 but is being kept under review by the Government. See for more details;

<https://www.wychavon.gov.uk/community-and-living/coronavirus-covid-19-update/self-isolation-support-payment>

## **How to get a COVID-19 test**

Currently there is good testing capacity in Worcestershire. Supply is meeting demand in the county. To organise a test go to

[https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20769/coronavirus\\_covid-19/2247/coronavirus\\_covid-19\\_testing](https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20769/coronavirus_covid-19/2247/coronavirus_covid-19_testing)

## **Local Testing Centres:**

- Redditch Trescott Road Car Park
- University of Worcester, Arena Car Park
- Pershore Civic Centre Car Park
- Bromsgrove Stourbridge Road Car Park: to open 9<sup>th</sup> Nov
- Kidderminster Harriers Stadium Close Car Park: to open 9<sup>th</sup> Nov
- Malvern Victoria Rd Car Park: estimated to open 23<sup>rd</sup> Nov (no dates confirmed yet though)

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## **WHERE CAN I GET FURTHER INFORMATION, HELP AND ADVICE?**

Reminder that the Here2Help website [www.worcestershire.gov.uk/here2help](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/here2help) is the first point of contact if people want to offer assistance or gain support. The other option is the telephone contact number which is staffed 8am-6pm 6 days a week – 01905 768053.

Carers who support a family member or friend who require support should contact the Worcestershire Association of Carers on [www.carersworcs.org.uk](http://www.carersworcs.org.uk) or call the Helpline 0300 012 4272.

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

NHS Website for information on Coronavirus  
<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

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### **Financial support for you**

If you are struggling financially then the advice is to make a claim for Universal Credit, Council Tax Support and other benefits you may be eligible for.

There is more information on the [coronavirus employments and benefits page](#).

### **Help paying your Council Tax**

If you are of working age and already receiving Council Tax Support, you will get a one off reduction of up to £150. This will be applied automatically to your bill. New bills will be issued in the next few weeks.

You can apply online for [Council Tax Support](#) if you are struggling to pay your bill.

More information is available on our [Benefits and Council Tax page](#).

Even if you are not eligible for Council Tax Support, you still may be able to defer your payments for a short period or spread them over 12 months instead of ten.

Please contact the Council's team by emailing [Revenues@southworcestershirevenues.gov.uk](mailto:Revenues@southworcestershirevenues.gov.uk) or call 03004 560560 to discuss your circumstances and they will do their best to help you.

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### **Support for businesses**

The Council's new business support programme, **Here2Help Business** is live [http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20807/here2help\\_business](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20807/here2help_business)  
It is a £3m programme designed to assist local Worcestershire Businesses to recover, adapt, develop and support future resilience as lockdown measures reduce

Also see the Government website [www.businesssupport.gov.uk](http://www.businesssupport.gov.uk) which has details of all the support available to businesses.

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### **Other support available**

Please check the [Government's website](#) for information about support for business during COVID-19.

Worcestershire Business Central are there to advise local businesses on grant funding and support helping you restart and recover. Please see their [website](#), call them on 01905 677 888 or email [info@business-central.co.uk](mailto:info@business-central.co.uk).

Please also see the Chamber of Commerce Herefordshire and Worcestershire [Coronavirus information hub](#).

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### **Furlough scheme extended**

The furlough scheme is to have a five-month extension into Spring 2021 with employees

receiving 80% of their current salary for hours not worked.

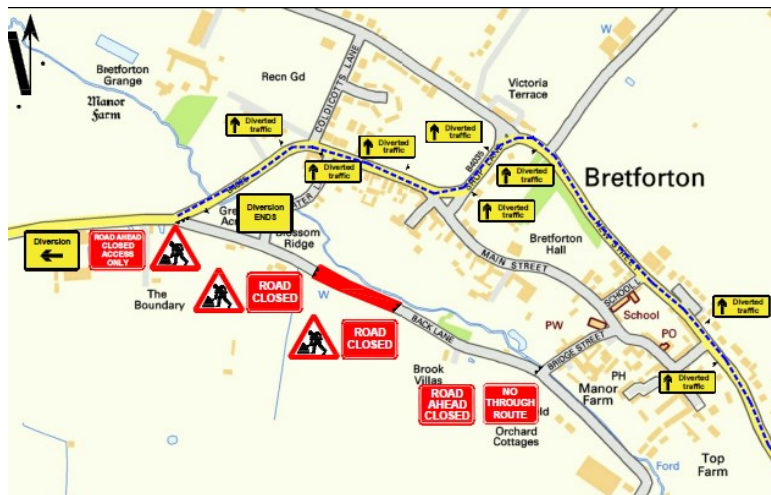
There will be increases to self-employed support through the Self-Employment Income Support Scheme (SEISS). This will be increased, with the third grant covering November to January calculated at 80% of average trading profits, up to a maximum of £7,500. More information on the support available from these schemes is [here](#).

## Highways:

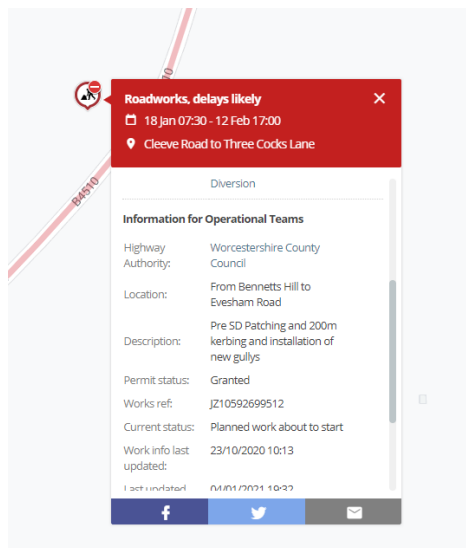
To keep up to date on the roads affected see, <https://one.network/>

This is the new website and is very good to see all the roadworks locally and across the UK.

### 1. Road closure Back Lane from 10<sup>th</sup> March for Severn Trent works



### 2. Temporary Road Closure Offenham B4510 Fish & Anchor - start 18/1/2021 for up to 3 weeks – Road patching/ re-surfacing, and new gullies



3. **Long Hyde Rd, South Littleton/Bennetts Hill Offenham** – New “Not suitable for HGV’s” signs have been erected by the County Council



4. **Village Entrance gates to be installed by WCC free of charge but the Parish must purchase actual gates.**
5. **REMINDER to clear all brooks, gullies and ditches and gullies before winter flood season** – a reminder to all land owners and Parish councils to check all ditches, gullies and brooks NOW to ensure no obstructions that could make things worse in flood situations.

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.

#### **County Council Divisional Fund**

- Pebworth WI – grant requested for Zoom annual charges so the members can continue to meet over the internet in these COVID times - Paid
- Evesham Vale Rail Trails for Cyclists – grant requested for a software programme that shows the cycle routes. – grant requested
- Offenham Village Hall – grant requested for the terrace project
- Evesham Sea Cadets(South Littleton) – boat shed conversion – grant requested
- Pebworth Village Hall – a grant request to renovate the wooden hall floor. Paid
- Bretforton Allotments – grant requested for a strimmer- Paid?
- Honeybourne Harriers – grant for portable flood lights so the youngsters can continue training on the Honeybourne Sports Field during the dark evenings. Paid

If you run a community organisation that needs a little support to buy equipment or some essential service, then please apply for a Divisional Fund by contacting me.

**Your 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)