

Welcome to Stacey Smith – Cleeve Prior’s new Parish Council Clerk

Cost of Living Help

From 1st October, a new 'Energy Price Guarantee' will mean a typical UK household will now pay up to an average £2,500 a year on their energy bill for the next two years.

This is automatic and applies to all households.

This will save the average household at least £1,000 a year based on current energy prices from October and is in addition to the £400 energy bills discount for all households.

See <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-announces-energy-price-guarantee-for-families-and-businesses-while-urgently-taking-action-to-reform-broken-energy-market#>

Every household will get £400, paid over six months starting from October 2022. So you’ll get the following each month:

Month	Amount
October 2022	£66
November 2022	£66
December 2022	£67
January 2023	£67
February 2023	£67
March 2023	£67

In addition the following government help has also been announced/paid;-

- £150 cash rebate for homes in Council Tax bands A-D ; already been paid in May

- £650 one-off cost of living payment for those on means tested benefits such as Universal Credit or Pension Credit. See <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/cost-of-living-payment>
- An additional £300 one-off pensioner cost of living payment for pensioners in receipt of the Winter Fuel Allowance to be paid in November 2022
- £150 one-off disability cost of living payment for people in receipt of disability benefits.
- 5p fuel duty cut for a full year across all fuel duty rates.
- National Insurance threshold increase from £9,500 to £12,570 from July 2022
- Increase the National Living Wage by 6.6% to £9.50 per hour from April 2022

For more information see <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/cost-of-living-payment>

And for details on the Energy Bills Support Scheme see <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/energy-bills-support-scheme-explainer>

Also see <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/government-support-for-the-cost-of-living-factsheet/government-support-for-the-cost-of-living-factsheet>

Highways:

There are still road closures so please check <https://one.network/> to see all the temporary road closures on a regular basis.

1. **B4085 S.Littleton to Blackminster School –New cycleway is built from South Littleton to Blackminster School (fully opened in week commencing 12th September) and hopefully many pupils will now cycle to school.**



2. New Gullys interactive map is now live on **Report It**. See https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20978/tell_us_about_a_road_or_highway_issue/1044/drainage_and_flooding_on_a_highway This should help identify the road drain much easier, and you will be able to see when it was last cleansed too.

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.

County Council Divisional Fund

The new Divisional Fund has re-started Applications are invited from local community organisations that are manned by volunteers and require a little help to buy equipment or services. To apply, please contact me. New grants processed so far:

1. The Pebworth Collective – for the Platinum Jubilee celebrations
2. Honeybourne Bowls Club – new mat and storage
3. Honeybourne Cricket Club – Cricket equipment
4. 1st Littleton Scout Group – improvements to the toilets
5. Cleeve Prior Heritage Trust – Poetry books for school visits
6. Cleeve Prior – contribution to security to the Marquee over the Jubilee Weekend.
7. Pebworth in Bloom – contribution to developing the wetlands area at Wesley Gardens
8. Bretforton Show – display boards
9. Offenham Village Hall – new foldable tables
10. Littletons Village Hall – new cupboards
11. Littletons Juniors – new goal posts

REMINDER – TO USE YOUR LENGTHSMAN TO KILL WEEDS AND GRASS ON PAVEMENTS AND KERBS

Community Transport

See <https://www.communitytravel.org.uk/>

For Cleeve Prior, Evesham Volunteers operate the service

See <https://eveshamvolunteers.org.uk/community-transport/>

One of the most popular services offered by Evesham Volunteer Centre is the community transport scheme, with around 50 drivers offering their services. This is a scheme for people who don't have access to public transport and who have no other means of getting to places on their own.

[Download a leaflet about the scheme.](#)

Destinations include:

- doctors
- hospital appointments
- social visits
- dentists
- opticians
- hairdressers
- supermarket shopping

Around 10,000 people use the service each year and demands on the service are increasing as more and more elderly people meet the criteria of the scheme.

Eligibility Criteria

- Older and disabled people and/or unable to use public transport
- No access to public transport
- Residents within Worcester City and surrounding rural areas (listed above)
- Maximum of two trips per week

Payment for Transport

A sliding fare scale is applicable for all journeys and an approximation of the cost can be given at the time of booking.

An administration charge of £2 is payable on all bookings in addition to the fare. Fares should be paid in cash at the end of each journey – cheques cannot be accepted.

Should you need to take an escort with you, they travel free of charge.

If you wish to make a donation towards our services our drivers can accept this via one of our donations envelopes. This will be brought into the office along with your fare.

Residents can call the Transport Manager on 01386 45035 to discuss criteria or to make appointments. The office also welcomes people to visit the Volunteer Centre at The Lodge, rear of Dresden House, Brick Kiln Street, Evesham, to ask queries and talk through their needs for transport.

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