

Martley and Lower Broadheath Parish Council meetings
Monday 5th November 2018
County Councillor Phil Grove Notes.

OPEN FOR BUSINESS

Work on the new Worcestershire Parkway Railway Station is progressing well with external steelworks and glazing nearly finished. We have just released a 'fly through' drone footage video that shows the very first look inside the building. Here is the link to the video: <https://youtu.be/I9fm4ThJ2GE>

Later this month, work starts to install the 3 platforms. Following installation of the platforms, work will then concentrate early on paving the car park and the landscaping and planting around the site.

An open day is being held at Kidderminster Station on **Tuesday 6th November** ahead of the main works starting on the redevelopment of the station. Project staff will be on hand at the station to update the public on the plans and answer questions from 7.30am to 6pm.

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES.

A Cabinet paper is set to be published next week on proposals to widen the scope of services and responsibility transferring into **Worcestershire Children First**.

The rationale behind proposing a wider scope is to strengthen the focus on improving outcomes for children and young people as Worcestershire Children First will have a single focus on children and young people. With a broader scope, this focus will cover the full range of services for children and young people thus supporting a more inclusive and integrated approach. The proposals will be considered by the Council's Cabinet on 15 November.

Ofsted inspectors have found further evidence of improvement in our children social care services. In a letter published by Ofsted, inspectors describe how the quality of support offered to children in care has improved. Inspectors also report how social work practice has got better and that legal processes and care proceedings are being used effectively.

HEALTH AND WELLBEING.

The Council is supporting the NHS' '**Keep Antibiotics Working**' campaign.

Antibiotics are essential to treat serious bacterial infections but they are frequently being used to treat illnesses, such as coughs, earache and sore throats that can get better by themselves. Taking antibiotics encourages harmful bacteria that live inside you to become resistant. That means that antibiotics may not work when you really need them.

For further information on antibiotic resistance visit: nhs.uk/antibiotics

The celebrations around adult social care at 70 are continuing. In November the Council is partnering with Worcestershire Association of Carers to host a birthday party and to thank carers for the contribution that they make.

THE ENVIROMENT

The Council's road gritting teams are back in action. Crews have officially been on standby since 15th October. In preparation for the colder months, our six highways depots have been fully stocked with more than 14,000 tonnes of rock salt ready to be spread on the county's roads.

The Council's technologically advanced fleet of 30 gritting vehicles all have GPS tracking devices and are equipped with brine sprayers to ensure that the salt sprayed on the county's roads is used to maximum efficiency.

Our highways Twitter account **@WorcsTravel** is now in **#GritterTwitter** mode and gives daily updates on our gritting plans.

Flood risk management in the county has received a £500,000 funding investment from the Government.

Worcestershire is one of 26 Catchment Scale projects in England to be funded by a recent £15m DEFRA allocation for Natural Flood Management (NFM) projects. The project in Worcestershire will focus on three core areas: **Dowles Brook** in the Wyre Forest, **Barbourne Brook** in Worcester City and a cluster of **River Avon** tributaries which includes the **Badsey Brook**, **Merry Brook** and the **River Isbourne**.

WCC NEWS

The Council has recently announced a Voluntary Redundancy Scheme to make in-year savings to help meet the current financial challenges. All Council staff are entitled to apply although there are a number of exempt roles. Where approved, staff will leave the Council before March 31, 2019.

The Council's **Skills and Investment team** has been awarded £1.4 million from European Structural and Investment Funds to promote apprenticeships in Worcestershire.

For more information visit the [Worcestershire Apprenticeships website](#).