

Parish Council meeting

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2019

Phil Grove Notes.

OPEN FOR BUISNES

As part of the Council's Town and City Centre improvements programme, The Shambles and Church Street in Worcester are set for a makeover. The scheme is being delivered in partnership with Worcester City Council who are jointly funding the project. Included in the scheme are plans to widen footpaths, introduce segregated loading bays, remove obstructions, plant street trees and carry out other updates to improve the overall look and feel of the two streets. You can find out more at [www.worcestershire.gov.uk/shambles](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/shambles)

Improvement works to increase footfall in Kidderminster and boost economic development in the town are also progressing well. The scheme, which is jointly funded by the County Council and Wyre Forest District Council with further funding being sought from GBSLEP, includes opening the currently pedestrianised route up to vehicles. Early in January, works to improve the road and footpaths from Marlborough Street up to High Street will begin.

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

The Council's Director of Children's Services, Catherine Driscoll is to become the Chief Executive of Worcestershire Children First whilst continuing in her current role. Since the decision to move the operational delivery of Children's Social Care Services to an Alternative Delivery Model, the Council has been involved in ongoing discussions with the county's Children's Commissioner and the Department for Education regarding the role of the Director of Children's Services in the new company. The Department for Education has been impressed by the continuing improvement of children's social care in Worcestershire, evidenced by Ofsted's recent monitoring visits. The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Children and Families, Nadhim Zahawi MP, has confirmed the appointment.

The deadline to apply for a place at a Worcestershire Primary, First, Infant, Junior and Middle school is January 15 2019. Parents of all children starting school this year (September 2019) need to apply for their school place before applications close at midnight on January 15. Parents can either apply online at [www.worcestershire.gov.uk/schooladmissions](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/schooladmissions), go to a library or call School Admissions on 01905 822700.

ADULT SOCIAL CARE

Lobbying continued last month for a long term national funding solution for adult social care. Councillor Adrian Hardman and Richard Keble, the Council's Assistant Director of Adult Services, hand a special birthday card to Matt Hancock MP, the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care.

The card, to mark 70 years of adult social care had been signed by elected members from all parties and by Grace Jones from Broadway who, at 112-years-old, is the country's oldest resident.

Extra Care is a housing option available here in Worcestershire. It enables people to have their own front door and live independently whilst always having someone on hand. This video has been produced to explain more about Extra Care in Worcestershire:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e\\_7GhGq2ZyU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e_7GhGq2ZyU)

## ENVIRONMENT

A consultation on the Council's Minerals Local Plan has been launched. The Minerals Local Plan will be used to guide where and how mineral extraction will take place in the county for the next 15 years. The Council puts together a plan for mineral extraction to ensure that the essential raw materials for building homes, schools, and hospitals are available. There is more information at [www.worcestershire.gov.uk/minerals](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/minerals) and can also be viewed at local libraries. The consultation runs until February 8<sup>th</sup>.

Although the weather has been mild so far this winter, the Council's Highways Teams are on standby in case temperatures plummet. We have 14,701 tonnes of salt in our depots and Council teams are ready to clear drains and gullies, grit the roads and clear any snow. For the latest information follow the dedicated Travel Twitter page for updates at [www.twitter.com/worcstravel](http://www.twitter.com/worcstravel), and check gritting routes in your area by going to <http://bit.ly/GritRoute>.

## COUNCIL NEWS

Worcestershire is expected to receive around an additional £4million to help to reduce demand in social care across the county. In an announcement made by James Brokenshire MP, the Secretary of State for Housing Communities and Local Government, Worcestershire's bid for a one year 75% Business Rates pilot has been given the go ahead. The bid was submitted jointly by the County Council and the six district councils in Worcestershire. The pilot means that more money from business rates gathered in Worcestershire will remain in the county. Working together with district councils, the County Council will invest the extra funds from the pilot into services that prevent or reduce the cost of social care.

The first Council Redesign Workshops for Council staff have taken place. More than 100 staff attended two events held last month. The ambition is to reshape and redesign the Council to make it fit for the future.

