

Parish Council meeting,
Lower Broadheath and Martley Parish Council meetings.
Monday 4th march 2019.

Economic Development.

The Worcestershire 5G consortium, led by the County Council and Worcestershire LEP, just launched the first-ever British **5G** factory trials at the Worcester Bosch factory.

The switch on, which took place at Worcester Bosch, allows the UK to strive firmly ahead of its European peers in the race for 5G, and through the collaboration of partners, Worcestershire will be at the heart of the technological advance.

These trials mark the start of Britain's historic journey to reap the benefits of 'Industry 4.0', and will see smart factories being created.

The most encouraging news was £55 million pound from Government for the completion of the Duelling of the Southern Link road.

Many of you will be aware work as already commenced, to improve the link to the M5

With 5600 house, the completion of the duelling by 2021 with ease peak time traffic.

Children and Families,

Worcestershire is updating its Graduated Response guidance to support children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (**SEND**). Parents, carers and professionals working with children and young people with SEND have been encouraged to help shape the Worcestershire SEND Graduated Response guidance.

The Graduated Response document is intended to be used as a tool for schools and settings and those partner agencies working with them. It is also intended to be an information source for parents, carers and young people to inform and guide in relation to the education of children and young people with SEND.

Many of you will be aware that 4855 members of the public signed up to the stem Cell at Worcestershire Pitmaston Primary school last weekend. Any arm of volunteers helped locals to complete test and fill out registration forms in a bid to find a tissue match for Oscar Saxelby –lee.

Oscar who is five as a rare type of cancer, was diagnosed on 28th December, has been given 3 months to live and is in desperate need of a stem transplant. We all I'm sure wish him well.

Adult social care.

Assistive technology devices like Alexa are being used by Worcestershire County Council to enable people to live as independently as possible. Assistive technology refers to devices or systems that support a person to maintain or improve their independence, safety and wellbeing. As part of the plan to tackle pressures within adult social care, we are one of the few councils in the country investing in this type of technology.

Investment in assistive technology averages just £7 per week, saving the council around £90 a week compared to home care. Where the technology prevents residential care, the saving rises to £140 a week. Worcestershire County Council has been working with partners Worcestershire Telecare to pilot a range of different technology as part of a person's care package.

Environment

Since the introduction of the 25p tariff on disposable cups at County Hall, the café is saving approximately 1,600 cups every month. End to end the unused coffee cups would be as high as the Burj Khalifa, The Shard and the Eiffel Tower combined.

The Servest cafe stopped providing plastic packaging for all food and drink made on the County Hall campus in spring 2018, replacing the packaging and disposable cups with compostable plant based products.

Staff and visitors are increasingly opting to use their own re-useable cup or using a ceramic coffee cup when sitting in the café, helping reduce our waste further.

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As part of the final phase of the flood alleviation works in Upton-Upon-Severn, a series of night closures on the A1404 will be taking place later this month.

The closures will take place from 8pm to 6am from Monday 18 March to Thursday 21 March. A diversion route will be in place for vehicles which takes them over Carrington Bridge, Worcester. Pedestrians and dismounted cyclists will be able to use a temporary footway which has been built next to the current highway, and this will also have lighting.

These works will move the project closer to overall completion before the Upton festival season.

Finances,

The Council budget for 2019/20 has now been approved. It will see millions of pounds spent on tackling congestion, improving town centres and upgrading railway stations across the county.

A total of £2.5million will now be invested into town centre improvements in Evesham, Redditch, Stourport and Worcester. The Council's programme to relieve congestion will be extended with an additional £5m to be spent over the next three years in Bromsgrove and Evesham town centres, Kidderminster and on the A38 near Upton.

Other capital investments include £4m to build a new footbridge across the River Severn in north Worcester and to refurbish Sabrina Bridge in the city to support walking and cycling. An additional £5m is to be invested into the upgrading of railway stations and funding extra parking.

I am writing to confirm that in March 2019 we will be entering the 'purdah' (period Commencing 22nd March 2019) in relation to elections at all 6 district councils. Publication of Notice of Election will trigger the usual 'purdah' publicity restrictions on the County Council to ensure the Council's neutrality in relation to those elections, whilst still carrying out our 'business as usual' as far as practicable.

District Councils as far as practicable to avoid 'election publicity on the rates' influencing the electoral outcome one way or the other.

