

Parish Council Meeting June 2019.

Worcester County Council report.

Cllr Phil Grove.

On Thursday 16th May 2019 Cllr Peter Tomlinson was elected Chairman of Worcester County Council

I know Cllr Tomlinson very well, in that we have adjoining division, and have worked closely on several projects. Peter in my view will be an excellent Chairman for Worcestershire in this forthcoming year.

I reported earlier in the year on **OSCAR Saxelby-Lee, the young boy from Worcester battling leukaemia, has finally received his stem cell donation.**

Following his diagnosis, thousands of people across Worcester and the surrounding area signed up to become stem cell donors as the family's story went viral around the world. In March, 4,885 people descended on [Pitmaston Primary School](#) Worcester, where Oscar is a pupil, to sign up for DKMS, the organisation which tests people's eligibility to be stem cell donors. A few weeks later, the family were told a match had been found for the five year-old.

Now Oscar has been given the stem cells, the hope is that the new cells, from blood taken from the matching donor, will start to produce healthy blood cells.

I'm sure we all wish Oscar the very best.

Tourism.

Hartlebury Castle has won an award honouring the outstanding contribution to tourism and leisure facilities. The Castle has been awarded The West Midlands RICS award 2019 in Tourism and Leisure and was also shortlisted for the Buildings Conservation Award. Hartlebury Castle was nominated following the extensive work carried out on the site transforming it into a visitor attraction which opened in May 2018.

Economy,

Works to install two bridges across Worcester Southern Link Road are in progress, however a problem with a crane postponed the creation of a farm access bridge just to the east of the railway bridge this weekend. The works will now be rescheduled for later this month.

There will also be a further closure later this summer for the creation of a new pedestrian/cycle/bridleway access bridge to the west of the railway bridge, which will connect St Peters through to Worcestershire Parkway Station.



Worcestershire continues to lead the way in the development of digital connectivity, with 5G trials and the testing of several applications on a Wi-Fi 6 network currently taking place within Worcestershire organisations.

EE recently announced that Worcester will be one of ten towns and cities to launch as initial 5G locations for 2020. Worcester is part of the second wave to introduce 5G, following on from London, Cardiff, Edinburgh, Belfast, Birmingham, and Manchester who launched their 5G services last week.

This announcement builds on the work already taking place in the county, with the Worcestershire 5G Consortium providing the UK's first-ever 5G live factory trials.

Children and Families

Rob Morrison has been appointed **Chairman of Worcestershire Children First**. Rob has wide ranging senior leadership experience having worked in a number of local authorities, including nearly ten years as Chief Executive Officer of Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council.

Rob has commented on his appointment as Chair at Worcestershire Children First as being an exciting opportunity to use his knowledge and experience to provide the Board Leadership required to continue the improvement journey and improve the outcomes for all children and young people. He looks forward to working with all the staff and his Board within the company and of course colleagues from the Council.

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Last month over 100 foster carers from all over Worcestershire gathered for the annual foster care conference organised by **Worcestershire Fostering**.

The conference provided the first opportunity to unveil the new branding as Worcestershire Fostering will be moving to an Independent Fostering Agency (IFA) called Worcestershire Children First Fostering from 1 October. The service will remain the same, only the name will change. The team will still be working with foster and kinship carers as closely as ever to make sure they are aware of and understand the changes coming on 1 October.

HIGHWAYS

The surface dressing programme is now in full swing and over 250 sites will be treated during the works throughout the summer.

The programme started in the Evesham area, then moved onto Malvern District before heading to Wyre Forest, where works are currently taking place.

Surface dressing is an important part of our road maintenance programme. The process is used to improve the surface of the road and slow down the deterioration of the road surface. The quick and efficient process means that disruption to road users, local businesses and emergency services is kept to a minimum.

You can find out more about surface dressing at www.worcestershire.gov.uk/surfacedressing and stay up-to-date with the surface dressing schedule on Twitter @WorcsTravel

Phil Grove.