

Parish Council,
County Councillors report
Phil Grove.

Economic,

The Worcestershire 5G Consortium has won 'Most Commercially Viable Use Case' at the inaugural 5G Realised 'Use Case Awards'. The Consortium, led by Worcestershire County Council and the Worcestershire LEP picked up the award at the recent 5G Realised Event.

The programme of improvement works to relieve congestion on the A38 in Bromsgrove started last month. We are working with partners Highways England, Bromsgrove District Council, Worcestershire Local Enterprise Partnership and the Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership to deliver the programme.

The first phase of works includes improvements in three key locations: Barley Mow Lane, M5 Junction 4 and M42 Junction 1. The first of these locations to see improvements is the junction of the A38 with Barley Mow Lane.

Children and Families,

Worcestershire Children First has now entered its phased shadow period with less than five months until the company officially launches. This shadow period gives the company the opportunity to 'test and learn' ways of working and day-to-day operations. It also allows time to review amended roles and responsibilities and monitor and maintain business-as-usual as much as possible.

The new Worcestershire Children First website www.worcschildrenfirst.org.uk is now live.

For the third year in a row, over 90% of children in Worcestershire will be starting school in September at their first-choice school.

This year saw the County Council receive just over 6,100 applications, 100 more than in 2018. Over 5,600 children (92.3% of applications) in the county will be attending their first-choice school. A social prescribing pilot in Worcestershire launched in March 2018 is showing success. Since launching, the scheme has received more than 1000 referrals and resulted in reduced reliance on medical services and high levels of customer satisfaction. It enables GPs, nurses and other primary care professionals to refer patients to a social prescriber to link them with non-medical services locally to improve their health and wellbeing.

This summer the Council's Adult Social Care Teams will be holding events across the county to help Worcestershire's residents make the right decisions about their future. The first "Making Decisions About Your Future" event will take place on Thursday May 9 at Tesco in Kidderminster (Castle Road, DY11 6SW), before moving on to outside Kidderminster Town Hall on Friday May 17. For more information and the full list of dates, go to – [Making Decisions About Your Future](#).

Environment

We've held on the title of Council of the Year at this year's West Midlands Energy Efficiency Awards. The award recognises the hard work over the last year making Worcestershire a more environmentally friendly county, as well as financial savings and carbon emission figures.

Several projects have helped to contribute towards us holding on the top prize including Warmer Worcestershire, Worcestershire Energy Switch and the Business Energy Efficiency Programme.

Our winter service season on the roads officially ended on Monday April 15. Our fleet of 32 gritters will now be serviced throughout the spring and summer and our 33 'Snow contractors' (mostly small-scale farmers), who clear roads during any major snow event will be reconfirmed ready for next season.

This winter has been very mild compared to that of last year with a high number of marginal nights across the affected period. We undertook 29 primary and 15 secondary precautionary treatments across the network whilst actively monitoring it using a forecast specific to Worcestershire. Two County Council projects have been celebrating successes in the MJ Local Government Achievement Awards.

The Battenhall Railway Bridge extension project has been shortlisted for the final. The project is one of only four finalists in the Highways Management category.

Meanwhile, the 'Technology Enabled Lives' project in Adults Social Care, which equips older and vulnerable adults with technology to ensure they live independent lives for longer, was commended in the Transforming Lives category after the judges said that the quality of the entry was so high.

Staff volunteers continue to be engaged in the Council's Organisational Redesign. Monthly updates are being held by Director Andrew Spice. A Steering Group has been established to endorse any short-term ideas and feed medium/longer term ideas up to Transformation Board. Redesign experts C.Co continue to support the redesign and provide challenge to the process.

Phil Grove.