

Martley Parish Council Meeting 1st July 2109.

County Council report,

Phil Grove

Dear Chairman, Parish Clerks and Parish Councillors.

The Ofsted team of inspectors finished their inspection at County Council Hall on Friday after an intensive two weeks on site. The team looked at the whole range of services from the family front door to safeguarding through to permanency and support for children in care and care leavers. The regulatory inspector looked at our fostering and adoption services and the education inspector considered the work of the virtual school as well as outcomes for children missing education or having elective home education. They were focusing on impact for children and young people as well as looking at how we had responded to the recommendations from the inspection at the end of 2016.

The inspectors were rigorous and challenging as well as being open to listening to our views about the positive difference we were making.

A report is now being written which then goes into Ofsted's quality assurance and consistency process during the coming weeks. The final report will be published on 29th July.

A new campaign will begin this month to promote **Get Safe**. This is the Worcestershire name for our multi-agency support and protection for children and young people at risk of criminal exploitation. **Get Safe** stands for **G**angs, **S**exual exploitation, **T**rafficking, **M**odern Day **S**lavery, **A**bsent or **M**issing, **F**orced **M**arriage and **C**riminal **E**xploitation. Awareness events will take place across the county.

Cabinet discussed proposals for the future delivery model for the provision of overnight short breaks for children and young people. This will now go out for consultation. Alongside our partners at the NHS Health and Care Trust, we're committed to the continued provision of a wide range of support for children and young people with disabilities and their families.

Works are now underway at Sidbury in Worcester as part of congestion relief scheme. A key part of the works is the replacement of the almost 50-year-old traffic light system with signals that use the latest technology. The new signals will regularly monitor traffic conditions and will adjust how long a particular light remains green based on the level of traffic.

To improve traffic flow along the City Walls Road from the north, the approach lanes will be extended to enable vehicles to get into the correct lane earlier.

There will also be improvements for pedestrians and cyclists with the installation of a new signal-controlled pedestrian crossing on Commandery Road.

This summer, officers and Councillors will be going to a variety of popular family events across Worcestershire for our **annual Resident Roadshows**. The first roadshow took place at West Fest in Malvern last Saturday 29 June. At this year's Resident Roadshows we will be informing members of the public about the Council-owned company for children's services, Worcestershire Children First. We will be supporting the work of our Adult Services teams to encourage people to plan for their futures and we will also be informing residents about the infrastructure projects that are taking place closest to each of the above locations.

The first Roadshow was at West Fest at Malvern on Saturday; the remaining locations are:

- **Hanbury Show (near Redditch)** - 6 July
- **Evesham River Boat Festival (Wychavon)** – 13 July
- **Worcester Food Festival** – 27 July
- **Bromsgrove Saturday Market** – 3rd August
- **Wythall Carnival**– 11 August
- **Kidderminster Saturday Market** – 17 August

Blackminster Middle School in Evesham has been officially open to the public this month, following an ambitious £860,000 school refurbishment. Nigel Huddleston, Member of Parliament for Mid Worcestershire officially opened the new technology areas.

Funded from the County Council's Capital Investment Programme, the refurbishment has seen two science laboratories and a design technology area featuring a food technology area and graphics space.

A much needed programme of works to reduce the impact of flooding on local residents and businesses in the Upton area is now complete.

The work, delivered by Worcestershire County Council, focused on raising the A4104 in Upton-Upon-Severn, meaning the road will be less likely to be affected by future floods.

The major scheme, which started in September 2017, has been hailed a feat in engineering due to its complexity. Not only did the road need to be raised by nearly 1 metre in places, extensive modelling of flood waters was needed to ensure the impact to the surrounding areas was kept to a minimum and a completely new drainage system installed.

The installation of flood management techniques have now been completed around the county as part of the Worcestershire Natural Flood Management project.

Throughout spring 2019, nine large structures were installed along a stretch of Beesmoor Brook and seven along Merry Brook.

Each structure is made of locally sourced tree trunks which interact with the water to slow the flow and decrease water travelling downstream.

The structures will reduce flooding in communities, develop wetland areas for biodiversity and habitat formation, and increase quality of water.

If I can be of assistance do not hesitate to make contact with myself.

Phil Grove