

Martley Parish Council meeting
2nd September 2019
Phil Grove

Chairman, Parish Councillors,

The programme of improvement works for **The Shambles** in Worcester continues to progress well. Work to install the natural stone paving slabs on Church Street is complete and work is currently focused around the Trinity Street/Mealcheapen Street area. More information can be found at www.worcestershire.gov.uk/shambles

The public realm scheme in **Kidderminster** is also making good progress, with works currently focused around the Coventry Street area.

The consultation on the countywide **Passenger Transport Strategy** which started back in June has now had nearly 2000 responses. The closing date for responses is on 13th September. Go to <http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/passengertransportstra>

With 32 days left until the launch of **Worcestershire Children First** (WCF) staff are working hard to ensure everything is in place for 1 October. The last of the office moves are taking place throughout September.

The company's Interim Business Plan is going to Cabinet on 5 September. This sets out how WCF will deliver services for children, young people and families on behalf of WCC. It also sets out the company's vision and priorities over the next five years.

This year's GCSE and A-Level Results for students across Worcestershire have both seen improvements on last year's figures.

Two thirds of Worcestershire's GCSE students (67%) achieved a standard pass in English and Maths. This is a 2% increase on the standard pass figures for the county last year. The county's A-Level students averaged 31.9 points (high grade C) across their best three A-levels compared to 31.5 in 2018.

Adult Social Care engagement events continue in September at Worcester's Asda, Silver Street Store. Previous events in Kidderminster, Bromsgrove and Redditch have all seen good engagement. If you would like to take part in the next one on 6 September, in Worcester please get in touch with Marina Johnson on MJohnson2@worcestershire.gov.uk or call her on 01905 846 187.

The deadline is fast approaching to apply for the first round of funding from our newly-formed **Community Solutions Fund**. The fund offers £145,000 of financial support to improve local issues for local communities.

The Community Solutions Fund recognises the important roles played by Parish and Town Councils, voluntary and community organisations, schools, community groups and partners.

Applications of up to £20,000 (more in some cases) are welcome. The funding would then be used to support projects that help to improve access to services within a local community or assist those who need it with daily living tasks or help socialising and getting out and about.

The closing date for applications is 5pm on 8th September 2019.

For further information, please visit:

<http://www.actlocalworcestershire.org/CommunitySolutionsFund>

A consultation on minerals extraction is running up to 30 September 2019 and is open to views now. All Worcestershire residents are

invited to contribute their views on the **Minerals Local Plan** that will outline where quarries might be developed over the next 15 or more years. A representation form, and guidance note to assist in responding to this consultation are available at www.worcestershire.gov.uk/minerals

The congestion improvement scheme in the **Sidbury** area of Worcester is nearing completion. A huge amount of work has gone into this complex scheme over the past couple of months to replace the nearly 50-year old traffic light system and make enhancements to the road layout.

To allow for the completion of the major works, night-time road closures are currently in place and will run until Wednesday 5th September. Thereafter, there will still be a range of works to complete onsite, but these will be able to be carried out with only minor traffic restrictions.

Last month, Worcestershire resettled its 100th Syrian refugee in the county under the **Government's Syrian Resettlement Programme**. Since 2016 we have helped resettle 26 families, previously living in refugee camps or homes close to the border after fleeing the war in Syria. Amani is one of the refugees that has been offered a new start in Worcestershire. She has been speaking about her experiences. You can read the [Redditch Standard's coverage here](#).

Phil Grove