

Martley Parish Council 2nd December 2019

County Councillors report .

Cllr P Grove

OPEN FOR BUSINESS.

The Council continues to support the **One Worcestershire** initiative to raise the profile of the county as a place to live, work and to set up a business.

The first campaign to promote One Worcestershire was launched at the end of September and ran for 6 weeks. The campaign has been based on a series of real-life case studies, including Ella Bates who is an apprentice here at the council.

Early results show that the campaign was seen by more than 7 million people.

We will send you an update with all of the details of **Worcestershire Parkway**, the county's first new railway station for more than 100 years, very soon.

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES .

The Department for Education recognises that Worcestershire is continuing to make progress to improve outcomes for children with special educational needs and disability (SEND).

Since June 2018 advisers from Department for Education and NHS England have held five joint monitoring visits to assess the progress on delivering the Written Statement of Action.

The most recent monitoring visit was in October where they reported the Local Area is making good progress and with the launch of Worcestershire Children First, there was a strong sense of drive and optimism.

They concluded that there are still challenges ahead but were confident that with further integration of services, partnership working and commitment to improving the experience for children and families, further benefits will be achieved.

Over 3,000 domestic abuse notifications have been referred to schools since the launch of Operation Encompass 12 months ago.

Operation Encompass, operating in partnership with West Mercia Police, Worcestershire Children First and schools, first started in November 2018 and aims to support children and young people exposed to domestic abuse.

It ensures that a member of the school staff, usually the Designated Safeguarding Lead, is given special training to enable them to work with the police and children's services in receiving and using the information that has been shared in confidence.

HEALTH AND WELLBEING.

Our Interim Director for Adult Services, Elaine Carolan, says she is confident that the **ReSPECT** process will make a real difference to people and their families in the county.

ReSPECT is the Recommended Summary Plan for Emergency Care and Treatment and is the new process of recording medical care wishes, if or when a person is unable to make or express those choices themselves.

There has been a Royal visit to our retirement facility Berrington Court in Kidderminster. The Duchess of Gloucester was keen to find out more about the developments in technology which have been installed in some of the flats and she heard how technology has made significant improvements in the quality of life for some residents.

The technology being displayed such as pendants and wrist bands have been used as part of a trial together with Assistive Technology specialist Amica24 (formerly known as Worcestershire Telecare).

THE ENVIROMENT.

One of the wettest Autumn on record led to more than three consecutive weeks of widespread flooding recently and an intense multi-agency response across the county. Intense spells of rain led, each time, to widespread surface water flooding, flooded smaller watercourses, and then flooded main rivers.

Impacts over the period included more than 100 road closures, 60 school closures, 40 internally flooded residential properties and 50 severely impacted businesses.

Work on recovery is now well underway including the roll-out of Government grant funds for impacted residents and business owners. In the meantime, the de-brief and formal investigation processes have started and member feedback is welcome.

Cabinet have given the green light to a planning application to be prepared which will see a new city walking and cycling bridge in Worcester. The new bridge will run between Gheluvelt Park and the Kepax Ferry Lane and Riverside Close area of Worcester.

Building on the success of the Diglis Bridge which opened back in 2010, this project aims to provide improved cycle and pedestrian connectivity to the north of Worcester City Centre.

COUNCIL NEWS UPDATE.

Following Full Council approval of the proposed structure of this organisation in September, the new directorates will come into effect from December 1st. There has been a period of consultation with the directors and assistant directors and they will be in post by the 1st.

Where posts are unfilled, these will be advertised in early December both internally and externally and then the teams below those levels will be agreed and put into place before the end of March next year.

Redditch library has proudly won the Library of the Year award at this year's Romantic Novelists' Association Industry Awards.

The award recognises all the important work that libraries and librarians do to support the romantic fiction genre. The library made the shortlist after a nomination from a secret admirer.

Cllr P Grove.

