



Members Update

Top 5

SEPTEMBER 2020



Open for Business

It has now been six months since the opening of Worcestershire's first new railway station for over 100 years (**Worcestershire Parkway**). The station first opened its door in February this year.

Take a look at the journey from empty field to the brand new station that has direct links to London and Cardiff - www.youtube.com/watch?v=eoaz1z_VFiQ

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The city centre programme of improvement works on **Pump Street** in Worcester has progressed very well over the past couple of months.

Final carriageway surfacing works will be finished on Friday 29th August, weather permitting, with the temporary delivery arrangements set to be lifted on Friday 4th September, one week ahead of schedule.

From 4th September, Pump Street will be fully open with its brand new look and feel.

Children and Families



Colleagues at **Worcestershire Children First** have been working very closely with school leaders and other colleagues, including public health, to ensure that each school has an individual tailored plan for their wider reopening, based on their individual circumstances as well as looking forward to the future.

We have worked with our schools to complete a risk assessment ahead of them reopening their doors to all pupils in September to ensure that their plans and all aspects of school life meet both Government guidance and the individual needs of the staff and students who work there.

Schools and colleges will have the discretion to require face coverings for Year 7s and above in communal areas where social distancing cannot be safely managed.

A new campaign has been launched by Worcestershire Children First and Worcestershire County Council to help students and parents prepare for a safe return to school when the new term begins next month.

The **Return To School** campaign is designed to help inform students and their carers/parents about the new measures, which are being put in place to ensure the safety of staff and students as schools reopen their doors.

Health and Wellbeing



More than 1,600 births have been registered across Worcestershire since the national lockdown restrictions eased – meaning 95% of the backlog has now been dealt with. Staff who work in Registration Services have worked round the clock to work through the backlog of birth registrations.

To meet the demand, register offices have been opening on some Saturdays to help to work through the large amount of registrations which developed when offices were closed for three months due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The busy teams from Worcester, Bromsgrove, Kidderminster, Malvern, Evesham and Redditch have now registered a total of 1,642 births since restrictions were lifted and are now left with only 80 or so births that are being processed.

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Thirteen of Worcestershire's **libraries have reopened** and nearly 40,000 customers have visited those libraries since lockdown restrictions were eased. Another five libraries opened across Worcestershire on 3rd August with Droitwich, Stourport, St John's, Tenbury and

Wythall opening their doors to customers for the first time since March. The remainder of the county's libraries will open during September.

Since re-opening, libraries have also provided much needed digital access to local residents, recording over 1,500 unique computer sessions during the period. The success of the Digital Library Hub is continuing to compliment the re-opening of libraries, with another fantastic set of figures for the last month.

The total number of e-issues including e-books, e-audiobooks, and e-magazines for July (17,092) was the highest ever such calendar-month total for Worcestershire Libraries. Compared with July last year, last month's new Digital Memberships total was up by over 300%.

The total of new digital memberships for the Digital Library Hub since 23rd March (1,447) is 315.8% higher than the total for the same period last year (348).

The Environment



Since **Household Recycling Centres** (HRCs) began to reopen in Worcestershire in May, figures show that the sites have been as busier than this time last year, despite the lockdown and social distancing restrictions.

The County Council has announced more than a 12% increase in the tonnage deposited at the recycling centres during May and June, compared with the same period last year. Over 14,000 tonnes of waste was delivered to the HRCs throughout the two month period since many of the sites opened in May.

This is equivalent to over 800,000 black bins of waste. The figures come at a time when a number of restrictions and social distancing measures remained in place since reopening to protect the visiting public and staff working on the sites.

[A video has been shared on the Council's Facebook pages](#) reminding people of how to prepare and what to expect when visiting their local Household Recycling Centre.

Council News Update



On Friday 14th August the '**Make It Worcestershire**' campaign to support local produce and producers launched at Bell's Farm Shop, Stourport. The campaign is aimed at celebrating local produce and will provide local producers with much-needed support following the recent restrictions due to the Coronavirus.

The campaign is being run by One Worcestershire in partnership with Worcestershire Food & Drink. For more information go to <http://www.oneworcestershire.com/makeitworcs>

This month saw the Visit Worcestershire website refreshed and taking on a new look. You can see the new look and work being done to promote the county as a fantastic place to visit, here: <https://www.visitworcestershire.org/>



Several '**bollard sleeves**' will be appearing across the county over the next few weeks, serving to promote Worcestershire as open for business and having a lot to offer, whilst also reminding shoppers about the need to socially distance.

You will see these temporary signs, which fit around bollards and other street furniture popping up in main shopping areas soon. Please get in touch with your liaison engineer for details.

Find out more online:
www.worcestershire.gov.uk

