



Members Update

Top 5

DECEMBER 2020



Open for Business

We recently received the amazing news that **Worcestershire Parkway** won the award for West Midlands' top civil engineering project for 2020!

The project, which saw the first new station constructed in Worcestershire in over 100 years, was also awarded the Geotechnical award and the Large Project of the Year award as well as the Best Overall Project Award at this years' ICE (Institution of Civil Engineers) West Midland Awards

The station drew praise from ICE judges for overcoming technical challenges through a collaborative approach, engineering expertise, tenacity and determination. Read more [here](#)

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A new cycle parking scheme has been launched in Worcestershire that lets organisations apply for free cycle parking stands. The scheme has been introduced by the Council and is managed by **ParkThatBike**, a social enterprise. It is one of several measures being rolled out to make it easier for people to cycle and walk for local trips. Businesses, community groups, surgeries, schools, shops, pubs, cafés, churches – in fact almost any organisation that has staff, visitors, or customers who arrive by bike – can apply.

Organisations can apply for up to four cycle stands free of charge. Successful applicants are then responsible for installing the stands on their premises, in a location which ParkThatBike has checked and approved.

Children and Families



The Chief Executive of Worcestershire Children First **Catherine Driscoll** announced recently that she has been offered and accepted the post of Director of Children Services with Dudley Metropolitan Borough.

News about Catherine's replacement will be announced in due course.



The Council has welcomed the news that additional funding will be provided for families over the winter period. Government has agreed to fund a new £170m **Covid Winter Grant Scheme** to support children, families and the most vulnerable over winter.

The funding will be ring-fenced, with at least 80% earmarked to support with food and bills and will cover the period to the end of March 2021. Local Authorities will receive the funding at the beginning of December 2020 with £1.6m allocated to Worcestershire.

Health and Wellbeing



The County Council is working with NHS partners to promote this year's **Flu vaccination** programme. The importance of the programme comes amid the Covid-19 pandemic and further emphasises the need for vulnerable members of the community to be aware of the support available.

We are sharing NHS content over the coming days and weeks and we will be joining the national push to ensure those people who need the vaccine, receive it.



The Council has launched a recruitment campaign to bolster the work that enables residents to live independently for longer. There are more than 20 posts that are being recruited for including Promoting Independence Assistants, supervisors and managers. Those recruited will sit within the Council's new **Reablement Service** and offer short-term, intensive support to adults who need it in their own homes. The service has been developed in partnership with NHS colleagues and care providers.

The Environment



As we head towards winter the Council is encouraging residents within the county to ensure they're prepared for potential **flooding**.

In the event of heavy rain, the County Council website will be kept up to date with all the latest information, including school and road closures. Details will also be shared across the Council's social media channels. Information and advice is available on the County Council website at www.worcestershire.gov.uk/floodadvice



The Council's Winter Maintenance service continues to remain on standby for **gritting** operations, although there have only been three nights so far this season when gritting has been necessary.

Officers continue to monitor forecasts and road temperatures and remain very well prepared and ready to react when winter conditions deteriorate. Daily gritting updates will be posted on the highways Twitter account @WorcsTravel.

Council News Update



The Council has reaffirmed its support to the Armed Forces community as a forces-friendly employer. At a virtual event hosted by the Ministry of Defence, Councillor Bob Brookes, the Council's chairman, and Chief Executive, Paul Robinson signed the **Armed Forces Covenant** on behalf of Worcestershire County Council. Signing on behalf of the MOD was the Commanding Officer of 37 Signal Regiment, Lieutenant Colonel Matthew Longcake.



As the national lockdown comes to an end this week we are encouraging residents to support their local high street and shop locally to help businesses. Public Health measures are in place to make our town centres safe places to be and the weeks leading up to Christmas will be critical for the future of many of our retailers.

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



