

County Councillor's update for Warndon Parish Council meeting on 8th April 2024

Forthcoming County Council meetings:

Environment Overview & Scrutiny Panel meets 10am on Tuesday, 14th May 2024 at County Hall

Main agenda items include **Flood Risk Annual report / Update on Flooding 2023** and **Update on Active Travel in Worcestershire** (p73 includes the new toucan crossing "in design" for Woodgreen Drive). Still no date for LPT5 (new Local Transport Plan) which remains categorised as "Possible Future Items" in the work programme.

<https://worcestershire.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=1572&MId=7284>

Full council meeting is at 10am on Thursday 16th May 2024 at Wychavon District Council (Civic Centre, Queen Elizabeth Drive, Pershore, Worcestershire, WR10 1PT

I am speaking to support a motion calling for simple public access to Councillor attendance records.

You can see and download the meeting papers here:

<https://worcestershire.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=129&MId=5629>

Changes to Cabinet at County Council

Councillor Simon Geraghty, Leader of Worcestershire County Council announced changes to his top team on Thursday 9th May 2024.

Councillor Geraghty said: *"I have today made changes to my Cabinet team to support me, and the wider Council, to deliver on the ambitious agenda we have to improve the Council and the County of Worcestershire.*

With three new members, and with most other areas of responsibility changing, the refreshed Cabinet will enable a renewed focus on our priorities and promises laid out in our Corporate Plan: Shaping Worcestershire's Future, with an opportunity to inject some new ideas, whilst ensuring we have the right blend of skills and experience from across the county within the team.

Here in Worcestershire we have a One Cabinet, One Worcestershire approach. This means that whilst each portfolio has a lead that becomes an expert in that area, big decisions about the future of the Council, within any portfolio, are made collectively as a Cabinet.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Adrian Hardman for his long-standing service to Cabinet, as he steps down from his position of Adult Social Care lead to concentrate on his health and recovery. I'd also like to thank Tracey Onslow, who has done a fantastic job in the role as lead for Education as she moves forward to become the Conservative Group's nomination for County Council Chairman and Mike Rouse in his role as lead for Highways and Transport who has requested to step back for personal reasons. Their significant contributions to the Cabinet and commitment to their portfolios have enabled many key projects and improvements to be delivered across the County, for which I am very grateful.

I am pleased to welcome Emma Stokes, David Chambers and David Ross to the Cabinet and look forward to working closely with them as part of the wider Cabinet team to deliver on things that matter the most to our residents and businesses.

Marcus Hart will remain as the Deputy Leader and I look forward to continuing to work with him in this key position in my leadership team."

The Cabinet appointments announced are:

- Leader of the Council and with responsibility for Finance – **Councillor Simon Geraghty**
- Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Corporate Services and Communications – **Councillor Marcus Hart**
- Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Education – **Councillor David Chambers**
- Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Highways and Transport – **Councillor Marc Bayliss**
- Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Adult Social Care – **Councillor Richard Morris**
- Cabinet Member with Responsibility for the Environment – **Councillor Emma Stokes**
- Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Children and Families – **Councillor Steve Mackay**
- Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Health and Wellbeing – **Councillor David Ross**
- Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Communities – **Councillor Karen May**
- Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Economy and Skills – **Councillor Adam Kent**

Full details at: <https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/news/new-cabinet-team-lead-county-council> and <https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2022-11/Corporate%20Plan%202022.pdf>

Worcestershire County Council promotes re-usable nappies:

Worcestershire County Council has launched a new partnership to help families in the county make the change to reusable nappies – helping them save money and reduce the number of disposable nappies ending up in waste.

In partnership with a Surrey-based company called 'The Nappy Lady', Worcestershire County Council is offering families £30 towards the purchase of reusable nappies.

The scheme will give families more choice to help with the transition to reusable nappies and help to reduce the current eight million nappies that are disposed of each day in the UK, which is around 400,000 tonnes of waste per year.

Read more at <https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/news/reusable-nappy-scheme-launches-worcestershire>

Subsidised Home Compost Bins

As part of International Compost Awareness Week this week, Worcestershire County Council is encouraging more residents to consider home composting to help reduce items going into waste.

Waste Resources Action Programme (WRAP) estimates that the use of a home compost bin diverts approximately 150 kilogrammes of waste per household each year.

To celebrate the week, the County Council, in partnership with GetComposting, is providing a fantastic offer for residents to purchase a 220 litre Blackwall Compost Converter for just £19.99* plus delivery, which is less than half the RRP of £49.99.

Since starting to work with GetComposting in 2010, Worcestershire County Council has sold nearly 20,000 compost bins and saved nearly £2 million in disposal costs.

GetComposting has a range of compost bins and accessories available to suit new recruits and seasoned gardeners alike. For full details or to order visit <https://getcomposting.com> or call 0844 571 4444.

For more information on home composting visit <https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/lets-waste-less/recycle/composting> to find out about the different types of compost bins and food waste digesters available, as well as advice and tips to get the best out of your compost bin.

<https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/news/get-composting-help-reduce-waste>

Foster Care Fortnight for 2024 starts this coming Monday (13 May)

The national campaign, run by the Fostering Network, aims to raise awareness about the importance of fostering and celebrate the incredible work of foster carers.

This year's theme is Fostering Moments – celebrating the moments that define fostering journeys, big and small. The moments that built confidence, made young people feel safe and created memories.

Councillor Steve Mackay, Cabinet Member for Children and Families at Worcestershire County Council said, "Becoming a foster carer is one of the biggest and most rewarding decisions you'll ever make. This fortnight provides an opportunity for us to say thank you and show our appreciation for our foster carers. They really do make an invaluable difference to the lives of children and young people across our county. We are always looking for new members to join our fostering family and I would encourage anyone considering fostering to come along to our open morning to find out more about what it's like to be a foster carer."

Worcestershire Children First Fostering are holding an open morning, during Foster Care Fortnight on Saturday 25th May from 9am to 1pm in the Lakeview Room at County Hall.

If you foster or are thinking about fostering why not come along, meet other fostering families in Worcestershire, find out more information and celebrate Fostering Care Fortnight with us.

Please register your interest for the open morning by emailing the Worcestershire Children First Fostering events team at wcffevents@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk

There are many reasons why a local child may need the support of a foster family. And there are many different types of fostering opportunities so you can find the perfect fit for you and your family.

Whether it's short-term or long-term, respite, parent and child placement, buddy or specialist fostering, there's a local child who is in need of your support.

You can also visit <https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/fostering> or call 0800 028 2158 for more information.

<https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/news/looking-ahead-foster-care-fortnight-2024>

Hastings Drive: missing footpath to bus stop opposite Dover Avenue:

The County's Highways team have had this on their "to do" list for several months now. I am keen for this to be escalated. Do all Parish Councillors and ward City Councillors agree that this should be a local highways priority?

County Highways have asked whether the simpler (much cheaper and quicker) option of installing a dropped crossing at the bus shelters and improving the crossing point at the roundabout by installing tactile slabs, would be acceptable instead of a new footpath between the bus stop and the Stafford Avenue roundabout.

I would be keen to hear local members' views on this.

Andrew Cross 10/05/2024

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