

**Wyre Forest Rural Ward Councillors**

**Cllr. Robin M. Drew**

**Cllr. Ian D. Hardiman**

**Cllr. Marcus J. Hart**

**[marcus.hart@wyreforestdc.gov.uk](mailto:marcus.hart@wyreforestdc.gov.uk)**

7<sup>th</sup> April 2025

**Mrs. Rachel Jeffries – Clerk to Chaddesley Corbett Parish Council**

Dear Rachel,

**Chaddesley Corbett Parish Council Meeting – Monday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2025**

### **Local Issues**

We have been dealing with the usual routine casework, reporting litter and fly tipping on the main A roads and along the country lanes and continue to monitor all enforcement issues.

### **Wyre Forest Issues**

WFDC handed over the Piano Building on 27<sup>th</sup> August to our contractor Speller Metcalfe (who are doing the Town Hall work too) and they are starting on internal work and work that doesn't require planning permission. The planning application was approved at the September meeting and work has well and truly begun and the building is being actively marketed for office space on the first and second floors and food and beverage on the ground floor. The project should be completed by September 2025.

WFDC have let the contract for the next phase of the Connectivity Project and work has commenced on the construction of the urban park. The contractors are Shropshire based building and civil engineering contractors McPhillips (Wellington) Limited and as of 21<sup>st</sup> August they were mobilising. The main body of the work should be done by the end of the year and the Green Space by the summer of 2025.

Work on the Creative Hub (The Old Court) as it will be named and so you will see the name start to be used by WFDC and their marketing agents. The building is being marketed now. The building has been handed back to WFDC and we hope to hit the ground running with tenants to provide a revenue income with large parts of

the building already now proposed to be let. The official opening was on 30<sup>th</sup> January and it is great to have this building and actively marketing it for rent/hire.

Work on the £2.4m HLF project at Brinton Park has been slightly delayed due to badgers but we are hopeful it will commence this month.

WFDC have commissioned a feasibility study for Worcester Street, Market Street, the former Crown House site and Lionfields (former Glades site) and there will be a cabinet report on options tomorrow which proposes residential development. We are keen to see more residential development in the town centre.

WFDC's full council met on 26<sup>th</sup> February approved its budget. It wasn't unanimous but the administration were very pleased that proposals funding an additional two man litter blitz squad to tackle litter hotspots, tackling illegal parking by employing an additional two civil enforcement officers and also employing an additional environmental protection officer taking the team from two to three officers to tackle issues like fly tipping and dog fouling were all approved. We believe these investments are in line with what the public want. We are also successfully proposed an additional £50k to install inclusive play equipment in our district parks.

Council tax will increase by 2.99% which is approximately £7 per year on a Band D property or 13 pence per week!

The Government's White Paper announced on 16<sup>th</sup> December clearly sets out that all remaining 21 two tier areas will have their council's abolished and a unitary authority must be formed during the life time of this Parliament. Whilst we are very disappointed that WFDC will be abolished we understand this clearly the policy of the new government and if we must have a unitary authority we believe that a Worcestershire Unitary Authority would be best, keeping the county together and not merging with anyone outside of Worcestershire. We now have the Government's decision. We are not in the first tranche and on the Government's timeline we think we will cease to exist in May 2028 now and have our term extended by one year with elections to a shadow authority taking place in May 2027. The six districts and WCC have worked together and put an initial proposal in to government by 21<sup>st</sup> March which is the interim plan with the final proposals needing to be submitted by 28<sup>th</sup> November. Full Council on 26<sup>th</sup> February cross party by a majority vote endorsed a Worcestershire wide unitary as the best approach.

If you have any issues you would like us to deal with, please do not hesitate to contact us.

With our very best wishes.

Yours sincerely



**Cllr. Marcus J. Hart**  
**Cllr. Ian D. Hardiman**  
**Cllr. Robin M. Drew**  
**Wyre Forest Rural Ward Councillors**

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