

Wyre Forest Rural Ward Councillors
Cllr. Robin M. Drew
Cllr. Ian D. Hardiman
Cllr. Marcus J. Hart
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7th July 2025

Mrs. Rachel Jeffries – Clerk to Chaddesley Corbett Parish Council

Dear Rachel,

Chaddesley Corbett Parish Council Meeting – Monday 7th July 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.

In particular, we have reported fly tipping in the layby at Woodrow in June for removal.

The Woodrow streetnameplate at the junction with the A450 which was damaged has been repaired.

As a result of the verge cutting on the A450 and A448 last month there was litter which we have reported for removal.

We now have the planning inspector decision for Gypsy and Traveller sites for Cursley Lane of which there were two and the inspector has allowed provision for these on appeal. They are very close to the Chaddesley Corbett PC border so though this worthy of mention.

Wyre Forest Issues

WFDC handed over the Piano Building on 27th 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 21st August they were mobilising. The main body of the work should be done by the end of the year, the project was due to finish this July but will be December now due to unforeseen groundworks.

Since the official opening of The Old Court on 30th January we have held an open day to the public and we now have a number of tenants with leases on office space, including a company called Beta Den and the Kidderminster BID team and a firm of architects are also shortly to take up occupation.

Work on the £2.4m HLF project at Brinton Park has finally commenced with the building of an artificial badgers sett to get the badgers to move from underneath the Sons of Rest pavilion. Badgers have so badly undermined the foundations of the building it has been deemed so unsafe it must be demolished. WFDC will be seeking planning consent for a replacement building and this will house the café.

WFDC have commissioned a feasibility study for Worcester Street, Market Street, the former Crown House site and Lionfields (former Glades site) and cabinet has in principle a mix of residential development on this site with formal proposals to come in the autumn.

WFDC's full council met on 12th May for its annual meeting to set the municipal calendar, elect the chairman and vice-chairman of committees and approve the appointments to outside bodies. The new Chairman of the Council is Cllr. Paul Harrison who represents the Wribbenhall and Arley ward and the new Vice-chairman of the Council is Cllr. George Connolly who represents the Franche and Habberley North ward.

By way of a brief devolution and unitary update, the Government has now formally written to the County Council and the six district Councils with its initial feedback from our initial submission.

WCC and the six districts worked together to put in their initial proposals by 21st March and final proposals by 28th November.

There was not total agreement across the seven authorities as some are supporting a unitary in the north and a unitary in the south and some support a unitary for the whole of Worcestershire. Worcestershire County Council's Cabinet met on 20th March to agree to support a Worcestershire Unitary Council and agree the interim plan. We now await to hear from Government on the next steps which is expected in the next few weeks. This feedback was due some weeks ago and is now scheduled for 3rd June, the day of this meeting and so I may be able to provide an update.

Given that the Leader has appointed a Cabinet Member for 'One Worcestershire' I had assumed they supported a one unitary authority for Worcestershire. However, at the recent Worcestershire Leader's Board meeting held on 25th June for the 7 county wide leaders the Leader indicated they have not yet agreed their position on Local Government Reorganisation. They have also not agreed a position on a footprint for a strategic authority.

The seven councils have recently conducted a public engagement survey and the results will be out very shortly.

As it presently stands the Government are scheduled to make a decision in April 2026 albeit I can see this being delayed until after the local elections in May 2026. Between 28th November and their decision they need to undertake statutory consultation.

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
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