

Wyre Forest Rural Ward Councillors
Cllr. Robin M. Drew
Cllr. Ian D. Hardiman
Cllr. Marcus J. Hart
marcus.hart@wyreforestdc.gov.uk

1st September 2025

Mrs. Rachel Jeffries – Clerk to Chaddesley Corbett Parish Council

Dear Rachel,

Chaddesley Corbett Parish Council Meeting – Monday 1st September 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 along Curslow Lane.

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.

Work on the £2.4m HLF project at Brinton Park has finally commenced and the artificial badgers sett has been constructed.

The Old Pals shelter has been demolished and a planning application for its replacement will be considered soon.

Work has commenced to dig out where the duck pond will be. Work is due to complete next year.

There will be a new café and toilet facilities and a changes places toilet.

WFDC commissioned a feasibility study for Worcester Street, Market Street, the former Crown House site and Lionfields (former Glades site) and cabinet has in principle agreed for to be residential development on this site and at its September cabinet meeting it will further consider this subject with a view to circa 150 residential units here.

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.

Given that the Leader has appointed a Cabinet Member for 'One Worcestershire' we had assumed they supported a one unitary authority for Worcestershire. However, Worcestershire County Council's leader has yet to confirm their position.

The seven councils have recently conducted a public engagement survey and the results were mixed but a majority of residents in Wyre Forest just supported a one unitary model as opposed to two.

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.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M J Hart', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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

Wyre Forest House, Finepoint Way, Kidderminster DY11 7WF