



# Wyre Forest District Council

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)

8th May 2026

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

Dear Rachel

**Chaddesley Corbet Parish Council Meeting – Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2026**

## **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**

We previously reported that we are using £100k from our Evergreen investment fund and £195k from UK Shared Prosperity Fund monies to invest and refurb the entrance at Bewdley Museum. Work has now been completed, which allows the space at the front of the museum to be used more flexibly.

We are actively marketing the newly refurbished Piano Building in the town center for food and beverage on the ground floor and office space on the first and second floor. We have a considerable amount of interest and are just awaiting someone to sign on the dotted line.

We have now considered proposals for the former Bridge Street carpark in Stourport on Severn and hope to redevelop this site. As part of the budget in February Council approved to allocate £4million for this scheme. The artist impressions have been on social media and there was an engagement exercise recently at the Stourport Civic Centre and there has been a public consultation on this. A decision has been made to take and design forwards following the public engagement exercise. We anticipate this now coming to the planning committee over the next few months.

Work continues to secure a joint venture partner for residential development on the former Glades site and Bromsgrove Street carpark.

Work has finished on the new urban park in Kidderminster town center with all the planting finished off. The official opening was on Saturday, 2<sup>nd</sup> May by Mrs Jean Talbot, widow of Charles, together with the Leader and Chairman of WFDC. The park has been named the Talbot Park in recognition of the generations of Talbot who served in local government and

the work of the late Charles Talbot MBE. There has been some social media attention to this with a member of the public seeking to argue that it hasn't been built to conform with the correct regulations. WFDC put out a full response to this, and the park has been constructed with regard to all relevant legislation and regulations. The topology of this site is very challenging.

Work is well under way in Brinton Park, Kidderminster to redevelop the park and re-create the duck pond and re-build the Sons of Rest Centre and provide a café and toilets. The existing toilet block is also being refurbished and has a new roof and there is to be a changing places toilet too within the park of which we received an additional external grant for. We have already had interest from people who wish to run the café, and this will be operated commercially, we will run a tender process in due course. The new building will be known as The Pavilion. We anticipate completion in July and for the café to open currently.

At its meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> April, Cabinet approved two reports which are going to be of significant interest to the public. One is the Local Plan Review timetable. This will be very challenging as the Government has increased our housing figure by 112% from 276 dwellings per year to 584 dwellings per year. As your local rural team, we are very fearful this will clearly mean more pressure to release Green Belt land, something we are pre-disposed to want to reject. Full Council in May will set up a Local Plan Review Panel to start considering potential sites. This will include some representatives from Town and Parish Councils in a non-voting capacity. This work will be exempt given the commercial sensitivity at this stage. The public consultation on the actual sites WFDC proposes for consideration will not be until June-August 2027.

The second report is a further call for sites specifically for Gypsy and Traveler pitches. The original call for sites identified just 5 potential sites. These could accommodate 75 pitches but there are many constraints that could reduce this actual number.

The Gypsy and Traveler Accommodation Needs Assessment (GTANA) requires 133 pitches across the period 2025-2046. We need 68 pitches between 2025-2030. WFDC owns the Zortech Avenue site which has been marketed for sale, and this is an allocated site in the previous local plan approved in 2022 and can meet the need for 16 out of the 68 pitches required.

The reason for the increased demand is due to the Government revising the Planning Policy for Traveler Sites (PPTS) to make policy clearer, fairer and more inclusive and reversing some of the previous narrower definitions. This meant that more Gypsy and Traveler families would be included within the GTANA.

We already know that we have insufficient pitches to meet demand, hence losing 3 appeals in the last year or so, 2 in the Chaddesley area and 1 here in Wolverley and Cookley.

The consultation will run from 20<sup>th</sup> April – 13<sup>th</sup> July 2026 and we will await to see what land; landowners offer up for consideration. This will then form part of the local plan.

Full Council will meet on 13<sup>th</sup> May and appoint a new chairman and vice-chairman of the council for 2026-2027 and all of the committee chairman and vice-chairman and make the appointments to the outside bodies.

It will also set up a politically balanced local plans review panel and there will be a representative from each of the town councils and 2 parish council representatives, the town and parish council representatives will be in a non-voting capacity.

The first meeting is scheduled for 22<sup>nd</sup> May, followed by 8<sup>th</sup> July and 21<sup>st</sup> September.

Planning training for WFDC Committee Members is being arranged to focus on the regulations for a National Delegation Scheme and the size of committees; the Government

intends to make the regulations effective from 30<sup>th</sup> September 2026. The scheme will change; minor decisions that fall within Schedule 1 and will have to be decided by officers and will not come before a planning committee. The Planning Manager together with the Chairman of the Planning Committee will decide whether any applications in Schedule 2 are to be presented to the Committee for decision but, in doing so, they both have to be in agreement that an application meets one or other of the tests in Regulation 5(2) ("if in their view the proposal raises- (a) one or more issues of economic, social or environmental significance to the local area, or (b) one or more of significant planning matters having regard to the development plan and any other material considerations") If they do not agree on how any particular application in Schedule 2 is to be handled, regulation 5(3) provides that it will be dealt with by an Officer, ie the The Planning Manager. This is national legislation and the Government is really eroding local decision making and influence here. Parish Councils and Local Members will no longer simply be able to trigger applications going before committee. Planning training will be rolled out to parish councils over the next few months.

Explanation will be given about what applications will be Schedule 1 and what applications will be Schedule 2.

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

*Robin M Drew*

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

**Finepoint Way, Kidderminster DY11 7WF**