City Councillors' report for Warndon Villages Parish Council meeting, Mon 11th May 2026

'Trash Gulls' invade Ankerage Green near Lyppard Grange Primary School (public art)



Trash art reflects city centre gulls debate



'The Gulls', which are lit up at night using solar panels has just spent a month in the middle of Cathedral Square

Kate Justice

17 February 2026

Top picture courtesy of Katie Collier, lower and caption from BBC article Trash art reflects Worcester's city centre gulls debate - BBC News

Many thanks to the artists and to our council teams for enabling this mobile art display to be installed in Warndon Villages. I hope it is enjoyed and appreciated!

Should Worcester have more Parish Councils? And a new Town Council?

Worcester residents are being asked for their views on how many parish councils there should be in the city and whether a new town council should be established.

The Future Worcester public consultation has been launched to give residents a say on how local governance arrangements should be enhanced in the wake of the upcoming Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) programme. That will see Worcester City Council and Worcestershire County Council replaced with a new organisation in 2028.

Future Worcester is a community governance review, giving residents the chance to have their say on the number of parish councils the city needs in the context of LGR. The city's citizens can find out more and have their say at www.worcester.gov.uk/futureworcester.

Parish councils can provide a range of local services, including allotments, managing community halls, playgrounds, public toilets, making grants to community organisations and passing byelaws.

Councillor Lynn Denham, Leader of Worcester City Council, said: "The city and county councils are both going to disappear in April 2028 as part of the Government's reorganisation programme. They'll be replaced by a new unitary council that will take over all services for either the south of our county or the whole of Worcestershire.

"There are currently two parish councils in our city, for St Peter's and Warndon Villages. Should other areas of the city have a parish council? Should there be a Worcester town council, now that we know the city council won't be around after April 2028? A town council can carry on the tradition of appointing a Mayor of Worcester.

"There are other options to be considered as part of a community governance review, so I would encourage people to head to www.worcester.gov.uk/futureworcester to find out more and make their voice heard."

This first phase of the Future Worcester consultation will run until Monday 15 June.

Worcester City Council, which is legally responsible for conducting this review, will be organising pop-up events as part of the consultation and details of these will be announced shortly.

The results of this first phase of the consultation will be considered by the City Council, which will then make recommendations for local governance arrangements in Worcester. Those recommendations will then be the subject of a second consultation.

The City Council will then make a decision on the final recommendations at a meeting in late 2026.

Should Worcester have a town council or more parish councils? Make your voice heard! - Worcester City Council

Volunteers sought for new Design Review Panel for Worcester

Worcester City Council has launched a search for volunteers to provide independent advice on improving the design quality of new and refurbished buildings and development in the city.

They will form a new Design Review Panel, providing constructive, impartial advice to planning applicants, their agents and architects – and also to the Council's own planning officers.

It is hoped that by encouraging a focus on the design, the result will be better outcomes for developers and the local community.

The Council is looking for people to join the new Panel who have a background in architecture, urban design, planning, landscape architecture, heritage, sustainability or related fields, and who are passionate about design quality and the future of Worcester.

Councillor Karen Lewing, Chair of the City Council's Planning Committee, said: "By launching this important initiative we are hoping to raise the quality of new buildings and other development across Worcester.

"By drawing on the independent expertise of professionals from a range of relevant fields, we hope to encourage more schemes that show innovative, high-quality contemporary architecture, while also protecting and enhancing Worcester's heritage and strong local character.

"If you work in architecture, urban design, planning or a similar area, are passionate about the quality of design in Worcester, and can spare some of your valuable time, we would love to hear from you."

The Council is asking for expressions of interest from people who would like to join the Design Review Panel.

Find out more about 'make your expression of interest'.

Volunteers sought for new Design Review Panel for Worcester - Worcester City Council

The Worcestershire Soldier at The Commandery awarded £1m grant by The National Lottery Heritage Fund to safeguard access to Worcester's military heritage

The Mercian Regiment Museum (Worcestershire) and Worcester City Council are announcing a £1,045,122 grant from The National Lottery Heritage Fund to safeguard the county's Regimental museum collections and secure public access for the future.

The Worcestershire Soldier at The Commandery awarded grant by The National Lottery Heritage Fund to safeguard access to Worcester's military heritage - Worcester City Council

Bike lockers installed near Worcester Foregate Street train station

Cycling to Worcester's city centre just got a lot easier, thanks to the arrival of new secure bike lockers at the Arches, opposite Foregate Street train station, making it easier and safer to store a bike.

The enclosed lockers store bikes individually and are available to hire at an hourly rate, through the Bikedok app without the need for personal locks or keys.

Once booked, users can leave their bike, helmet and any bags stored while they work, shop or travel. The lockers are provided by Bikedok and can be booked and pre-booked through a mobile phone application, which also shows how many lockers are currently available.

The lockers are priced at 45p per hour, or in bundles of £1.40 for four hours or £2.40 for eight hours. There are different sized lockers for standard bikes and for cargo bikes, both at the same price.

More information is available at www. bikedok.co.uk or by downloading the Bikedok app.

Chris Jardine, Co-founder of Bikedok said: "Cyclists deserve more choice than just bike racks and heavy locks. Bikedok gives them genuine peace of mind, allowing Worcester bike riders to leave their bikes in a secure location in the city centre."

Councillor Hannah Cooper, Vice Chair of Worcester City Council's Place and Economic Development Committee said: "These new lockers are a practical step towards making cycling a more attractive option for commuters and visitors to Worcester.

"Secure bike and cargo bike parking is essential if we want people to choose active travel, and this location near Foregate Street station is ideally placed to support that."

The lockers form part of the City Council's efforts to encourage more active and sustainable travel choices for people in Worcester.

They are positioned opposite the railway station, close to the new music note-shaped bike stands installed at The Arches, and will form part of an Active Travel Hub – bringing together different travel options in the area for Worcester visitors.

Bike lockers installed near Worcester Foregate Street train station - Worcester City Council

Council Leader welcomes funding to boost renters' rights

The Leader of Worcester City Council has welcomed news that the Government is providing £70,746 funding to the authority to support its role in enforcing new rights for renters.

New rules for renters and their landlords come into force on Friday 1 May, including a ban on so-called "no fault" evictions and rental bidding, and measures to stop landlords discriminating against tenants on benefits or who have children.

These are all part of the first phase of the new Renters' Rights Act, which requires councils to take action against landlords and their agents who do not follow the new rules.

Councillor Lynn Denham, Leader of Worcester City Council, said: "The Renters' Rights Act marks a major change to private renting across the country, giving tenants protection from unlawful eviction, early rent rises, being outbid on a property and many other bad practices.

"The City Council has a vital role to play in making the Act work, so this new funding is very welcome.

"It means we can have more housing officers in place to advise and support both renters and landlords to understand the new rights that tenants now have. It will also assist us in taking enforcement action against landlords who break the rules."

Council Leader welcomes funding to boost renters' rights - Worcester City Council

New destination pump track in Worcester opens

A new pump track next to Perdiswell Leisure Centre in Worcester has opened, ready for the summer months.

The destination pump track has been designed to be larger than the city's first pump track that opened at Battenhall Park in November 2024. The outdoor track includes a loop for learners, alongside a faster track for intermediate and experienced users.

The pump track has cost £210,000 with £20,000 coming from planning-related developer contributions.

Councillor Jabba Riaz, Deputy Leader of Worcester City Council said: "It's brilliant to see the brand-new pump track at Perdiswell already being enjoyed by riders.

"This fantastic, inclusive facility really does offer something for everyone – from complete beginners finding their confidence to skilled riders eager to push their limits.

"After the fantastic success of Battenhall Park pump track we've listened to feedback from children and parents. We have designed this track with that feedback in mind.

"The growing excitement around the opening of the track has been incredible to see.

"It was a real pleasure to open the track and meet the amazing team whose expertise and passion have brought this project to life."

The pump track has been carefully designed to cater for all abilities and was built by specialist pump track and skatepark contractors Four One Four

The dedicated loop for learners provides a safe and supportive space for first-time and novice users to learn key skills such as balance, riding technique and cornering.

Generous spacing between the features will help users build confidence at their own pace.

The loop for learners has been designed to be fully inclusive and suitable for people of all ages and skill levels, whether they are using a bike, scooter, skateboard, adaptive bike or wheelchair, or roller blades.

For more experienced riders, the second track offers a faster, flowing route that allows for continuous laps without the need to pedal. The track includes a mixture of single, double and triple mounds, banked turns and flat-topped jumps, providing a challenging and enjoyable experience for confident users.

Visitors to the new pump track can also take advantage of the existing facilities at Perdiswell Leisure Centre, including parking, toilets and a café.

Councillor Hannah Cooper, Vice Chair of Worcester City Council's Place & Economic Development Committee said: "I'm thrilled to see the Perdiswell pump track open and ready for everyone to enjoy.

"This fantastic new facility is part of the Worcester Play Plan, which we launched three years ago to improve outdoor play opportunities for children and young people across the city.

"Perdiswell pump track is the latest addition to the project, and I'm delighted to see it now being brought to life by the community."

New destination pump track in Worcester opens - Worcester City Council

New shared use link at Shrub Hill Quarter now open

A major milestone in the regeneration of Worcester's Shrub Hill Quarter has been reached with the completion and opening of a new shared use link connecting the area to the city centre.

Funded by the UK Government and delivered by Worcestershire County Council and Worcester City Council, the new route significantly improves walking, wheeling and cycling connectivity across this key part of the city.

The link follows the line of Cromwell Street from Shrub Hill Road, crossing the canal to Pheasant Street opposite the Asda car park. It now provides a direct, safe and accessible connection between Worcester Shrub Hill Railway Station and the city centre.

Councillor Alan Amos, Cabinet Member for Business and Skills at Worcestershire County Council, said: "The completion of this shared use path marks a significant step forward for the Shrub Hill Quarter. It creates a clear, safe and accessible route for people choosing to walk, wheel or cycle, strengthening links between the station and the city centre. This connection supports our ambition to make Worcester easier to move around and encourage more sustainable travel.

"The Shrub Hill Quarter project is a programme set to create a vibrant, connected, and sustainable new urban quarter in the heart of Worcester. The project will transform disused land into new homes, business space, and welcoming community spaces - breathing new life into this part of the city."

The new path improves access between the city centre, Worcester Shrub Hill Station, local bus services and nearby residential and commercial areas, supporting healthier and more sustainable travel choices.

Councillor Lynn Denham, Leader of Worcester City Council, said: "Shrub Hill Quarter is being regenerated to create a vibrant new commercial and residential hub for Worcester and this new pathway makes it easier than ever to get from there to our city centre, without the need to drive or use public transport. This new link is a major contribution to our city's growing network of active travel corridors."

The shared use link forms a key part of the wider regeneration of the Shrub Hill Quarter, supported by £10 million of Towns Fund investment secured by Worcester City Council. The programme aims to revitalise and modernise this important gateway to the city.

Find out more about the Shrub Hill shared use link

New shared use link at Shrub Hill Quarter now open - Worcester City Council

Full programme announced for Worcester's Free Festival of Play Sat 23rd May



Scala Festival of Play takes place on Saturday 23 May, 10am – 5pm. The one-date, free, festival will include circus, aerial arts, gaming, dance, street games, drumming and visual art in and around The Arches and The Hive.

The full programme for the Scala Festival of Play has been announced at the Scala Worcester website.

The day-long festival will offer circus, aerial arts, gaming, dance, street games, drumming and visual arts and is presented by Scala, Worcester's newest arts venue, currently under development in Angel Place.

Hannah Phillips, Chief Executive and Artistic Director said: "We can't wait for families to join us in May for the Scala Festival of Play. There is something for everyone to get involved in from playing games to messy play, from hands on workshops to quiet inclusive spaces and artworks. With music to listen to whilst you picnic, storytelling, gaming and pop-up dance performances we are looking forward to introducing families to the kind of creative fun you can expect from Scala once it opens".

Expect activity across Festival of Play Zones including the Doing Zone, Making Zone, Play Zone, Gaming Zone and the Storytelling and Sensory Zone.

Full programme announced for Worcester's Festival of Play - Worcester City Council

Cattle let loose as part of natural care plan on Worcester meadows

A herd of around 20 cattle have been released on Ronkswood Hill Meadows, as part of an annual conservation exercise by Worcester City Council. The cattle are being allowed free rein on the local nature reserve, to help preserve grassland and wildflowers.

The initiative is designed to act as a natural and cost-effective way of keeping the grass short enough to allow the vast array of wildflowers in the area to get plenty of sunlight to grow and bring colour to the landscape.

The cattle, consisting of a range of breeds including British Blue, Hereford Cross and Angus Cross, will be there until the autumn.

Warwick Neale, Worcester City Council's Green Spaces Manager, said: "The cattle will be grazing at Ronkswood Hill Meadows for around six months to manage the grassland, protect the landscape and promote good conditions for wildflowers and associated wildlife to thrive. This also maintains some of the traditional benefits of natural stewardship of the land."

The meadows are home to a wide range of wildflowers including black knapweed, cowslips and bird's-foot-trefoil, but if grass grows too high these flowers will not flourish.

The cattle will play a pivotal role in boosting the flora, as well as producing other benefits including an increase in butterflies and improvements to the natural soil environment.

The City Council has put up signs on Newtown Road and Tolladine Road to warn walkers and dog-owners to take a little extra care and keep dogs on leads when cattle are nearby.

Warwick said: "The sudden re-appearance of cattle may take a few people by surprise, but the animals will be too busy chewing the cud to take notice of any passers-by."

Cattle let loose as part of natural care plan on Worcester meadows - Worcester City Council

Search continuing for residents who will lead spending of £20 million investment

A search is continuing for people who care deeply about their community and want to help shape the future of Warndon over the next decade.

Warndon has been chosen as part of the Government's Pride in Place programme, which will see the local community lead decisions on how £20 million is invested in the area over the next 10 years.

A new Neighbourhood Board, made up of people who live or work in Warndon, is being created to decide how this funding is spent to benefit the whole community.

Interest in joining the Board has been encouraging so far, with a number of applications already received. To give more Warndon residents the chance to get involved, the deadline to apply has now been extended to midday on Friday 24 April.

The Board will have at least eight members, all of whom must live or work in Warndon.

Applications are now being invited for a Chair and Co-Chair roles and Board members. These voluntary roles are ideal for people who enjoy bringing others together, encouraging open discussion and supporting collaborative decision making.

Applicants will need to live or work in Warndon, have a good understanding of their community, and be committed to helping deliver effective long-term investment.

People do not need previous experience in similar roles — training and support will be provided. What matters most is a willingness to listen, engage in positive conversations across Warndon, and help ensure funding delivers real benefits locally.

Applications are open for Chair, Co-Chair and Board Member roles and now close at midday on Friday 24 April.

More information, including role descriptions and how to apply, is available on the Pride in Place Warndon webpage.

The webpage will also be updated with details of upcoming information events for potential applicants.

Tom Collins, MP for Worcester said: "If you've been thinking about this, but haven't quite felt ready to step up – or you just missed the deadline – this is the moment to give it a go.

"This project is about doing things differently, putting power in the hands of Warndon in a way that hasn't been done before. We're looking for people who will do things differently – Warndon's way.

"If you are unsure, contact me, I'd love to chat it through with you. But please do either get in touch or express your interest. This is a special chance to make a difference, and you could be part of it."

Councillor Jabba Riaz, Deputy Leader of Worcester City Council said: "Pride in Place gives the people of Warndon real influence over decisions that will shape their community for years to come.

“It has been really encouraging to see local people who want to get involved in this process. By extending the deadline and introducing a Co-Chair role, we hope more people will feel encouraged to apply and help ensure this investment delivers lasting, positive change for Warndon.”
Search continuing for residents who will lead spending of £20 million investment - Worcester City Council

All City Council news is listed at https://www.worcester.gov.uk/news/

City Council Consultations:

1) **Future Worcester: deadline 15/06/2026**

Worcester residents are being asked for their views on how many parish councils there should be in the city and whether a new town council should be established.

The Future Worcester public consultation has been launched to give residents a say on how local governance arrangements should be enhanced in the wake of the upcoming Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) programme. That will see Worcester City Council and Worcestershire County Council replaced with a new organisation in 2028.

Future Worcester is a community governance review, giving residents the chance to have their say on the number of parish councils the city needs in the wake of LGR.

Parish councils can provide a range of local services, including allotments, managing community halls, play grounds, public toilets, making grants to community organisations and passing byelaws.

The deadline for responding is 5pm on Monday 15 June.

2) **Shrub Hill Quarter updated Supplementary Planning Document (SPD): deadline 05/06/2026**

Worcester City Council is consulting on revisions to the Shrub Hill Quarter Supplementary Planning Document (SPD).

The SPD was adopted in July 2024, detailing ambitious plans for the major regeneration of the 14-hectare site, including more than 500 new homes, new public spaces, and the capacity for the creation of up to 5,000 new jobs.
Following the adoption of the South Worcestershire Development Plan Review (SWDPR) in March 2026, updates are now being proposed to account for the change to local policy and to reflect work undertaken on-site to date.
The draft updated SPD sets out a framework for future planning and investment decisions in more detail than the SWDPR and suggests how development, when it comes forward, should take place in several character areas within the Quarter.
We would like you to give your views on the draft SPD in this consultation.
Deadline for responding: 5pm, Friday 5 June 2026.

3) **Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO) extensions for Kays Crossing & Brickfields Walk: deadline 03/06/2026**

Worcester City Council is proposing to extend the closure of the footpath WR-678 (known as Kays Crossing) and footpath WR858 (known as Brickfields Walk) for a further two years.

The Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 introduced a range of new powers designed to address anti-social behaviour including Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs).

PSPOs are intended to deal with a particular nuisance or problem in a specific area that is detrimental to the local community's quality of life, by imposing conditions on the use of that area which apply to everyone. They are designed to ensure the law-abiding majority can use and enjoy public spaces, safe from anti-social behaviour.

Before making the final decision to extend the PSPO, the City Council wants to listen to the views of the public.

The consultation will be run from 7 May until 3 June 2026.

You can find links to both consultation surveys below to give your views.

Kays Crossing PSPO extension consultation

Brickfields Walk PSPO extension consultation

4) **Extensions and Alterations to Dwellings and Houses in Multiple Occupation - draft Supplementary Planning Document (SPD): Deadline 22/05/2026**

Worcester City Council is consulting on a draft Extensions and Alterations to Dwellings and Houses in Multiple Occupation Supplementary Planning Document (SPD).

The purpose of this SPD is to provide clear and consistent guidance on how planning applications for extensions and alterations to residential properties will be assessed. This includes guidance on matters such as design quality, scale, impact on neighbours, living conditions, privacy, daylight, garden space, roof extensions, annexes, outbuildings, and associated works such as parking and landscaping.

The SPD supports policies in the South Worcestershire Development Plan Review (SWDPR), national planning policy, and relevant technical standards, and will be used as a material consideration when determining planning applications.

We are seeking views on whether the draft SPD is clear, reasonable, and effective, and whether it provides the right level of guidance to help achieve well-designed extensions and alterations while protecting residential amenity and local character.

The public consultation on this draft SPD is open until 5.00pm on 22 May 2026.

Have your say on the Extensions & Alterations SPD

5) **Shop Fronts Supplementary Planning Document (SPD): deadline 12/05/2026**

Worcester City Council has developed a draft Shop Fronts Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) to provide up-to-date guidance to anyone wishing to make changes to shopfronts within the city.

Following the completion of a previous the Shop Fronts SPD consultation in December 2025, that Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) was successfully adopted by the Council's Place and Economic Committee on 26 January 2026.

Since then the South Worcestershire Development Plan Review (SWDPR) has been adopted as the new local plan, at an Extraordinary Council meeting on 25 March 2026. Following this, a new draft Shop Fronts SPD has been prepared, including references to the final adopted SWDPR and some small minor edits.

The public consultation on this draft SPD is open until 12 May 2026.

Have your say on the Shop Fronts Supplementary Planning Document

Worcester City Council consultations page is https://www.worcester.gov.uk/council/consultations

Rota for future City Councillors' reports

Date of Meeting	***Responsible Councillor***
June 2026	*John Rudge*
July 2026	*Katie Collier*
September 2026	*Sarah Murray*
October 2026	*Andrew Cross*
November 2026	*John Rudge*
December 2026	*Katie Collier*

Andrew Cross 08/05/2026 andrew.cross@worcester.gov.uk