City Councillor Report to Parish Council 13 April 2026

1. Warndon – Pride of Place

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

A new Neighbourhood Board, made up of Warndon residents, will be responsible for deciding how this money is spent.

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

A Chair will be appointed to lead the Board. This voluntary role requires someone who encourages open discussion and supports collaborative decision making.

The Chair will need to be proud to live or work in Warndon, who clearly understands their community, and is committed to helping deliver effective long-term investment.

They can be new to this kind of role and a range of training and support will be available - what matters most is a willingness to engage in meaningful and positive conversations across Warndon and a commitment to delivering effective investment to the area.

Applications are now open for both the role of Chair and Board Members and close at **midday on Friday 10 April**. More information and role specifications are available on the **Pride in Place webpage**. The webpage will also be updated with the dates of information events for potential Chair and Board members.

2. Housing Advice Drop-In

There will be a housing advice drop-in on Tuesday 21 April from 10am to 2pm at the Guildhall, where the following agencies will be available to give advice on the Renters Rights Act Changes on 1 May.

- Platform Housing
- Worcester Community Trust
- Citizens' Advice Worcester
- Citizen
- South Worcestershire Revenues and Benefits
- Worcester City Council
- Worcestershire County Council

3. South Worcestershire Development Plan Review (SWDPR)

The SWDPR was officially adopted by Worcester City, Malvern Hills District and Wychavon district councils at meetings earlier this week.

Under the Plan, more than 25,000 new homes need to be delivered by 2041 with 6,175 already built.

Crucially, the councils can now show they have enough land for housing over the next five years, meaning the 'tilted balance' – which favours the approval of planning applications unless the harms of a proposed development significantly outweigh the benefits – no longer applies. Instead, housing and economic growth must be delivered according to the polices in the SWDPR and planners are in a stronger position to turn down those that don't.

Having the SWDPR in place is also vital to delivering Wychavon Town and major housing sites at Rushwick and Mitton, providing certainty to residents and confidence to businesses looking to invest in the area. The Plan links growth to infrastructure and will help deliver the schools, transport improvements, and healthcare facilities needed to support new housing.

Some 300 hectares of employment land is also allocated within the Plan, which will support businesses to grow and create jobs. Other key policies include those that will enhance the environment and help tackle climate change.

Cllr David Harrison, Chair of the SWDPR Joint Advisory Panel, said: "Fewer than a third of councils have adopted a Local Plan in the last five years, so this is a significant achievement and a result of the tireless work of our officers over many years.

"With the SWDPR now in place, we have a clear framework to guide development across south Worcestershire to 2041. It will help ensure new homes are delivered in the right places, supported by the infrastructure communities need, while giving the councils stronger grounds to refuse speculative and inappropriate development not backed by the Plan."

The councils also agreed to start work on a new joint plan to meet the Government's increased housing targets, which were introduced while the SWDPR was in the examination phase, where it is scrutinised by Planning Inspectors.

Under the Government's new rules, the councils must formally start the Plan making process by the end of October this year. Currently it takes an average of six to seven years for a Local Plan to be adopted, however changes to the way Plans are prepared should allow for the process to be completed within 30 months.

Find out more about the SWDPR.

4. New Desination 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.

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.

5. Planning Guidance Out for Consultation

Views are sought on updated planning guidance that will help shape the quality and delivery of new development across South Worcestershire.

The Affordable Housing, Developer Contributions and Air Quality Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) are all out for a five-week public consultation.

SPDs provide detailed guidance to explain how existing planning policies should be applied, so developers know what is expected of them when they submit planning applications.

The three SPDs being consulted on have all been updated to reflect the policies in the recently adopted SWDPR (see point 3 above).

The Affordable Housing SPD sets out the approach of Worcester City, Malvern Hills District and Wychavon District councils to securing affordable housing, either within a specific scheme, or a contribution so it can be delivered elsewhere. The Air Quality SPD requires developers to show how they are using design and layout to reduce the impact of poor air quality on human health, while the Developer Contributions SPD sets out how funding or infrastructure will be secured from developers, either on-site or off-site, to make the developments acceptable in planning terms.

Once adopted, all three SPDs will be used when assessing planning applications.

The consultations run from 30 March to 11.59pm on 30 April.

Have your say in these three SPD consultations.

Cllr David Harrison, Chair of the SWDPR Joint Advisory Panel, said: "Supplementary Planning Documents have a real impact on how development takes place across South Worcestershire. By updating them in line with the newly adopted SWDPR, we are setting clear expectations for developers and helping deliver the right infrastructure, housing, and environmental standards.

"I encourage people to take part in the consultations and share their views."

6. Recycling Service Expanded to Include More Items

Households are now able to recycle aluminium foil and plastic tubes – including used toothpaste tubes – as part of their kerbside recycling collection.

These will be collected in the green bins alongside paper, card, glass bottles and jars. Recycling will also include cartons, food and drink in metal tins, cans, aerosols and plastic bottles, pots, tubs and trays.

The change supports the Government's Simpler Recycling policy, which aims to make recycling collections more consistent across England, so everyone can recycle the same materials.

It is hoped that the new changes will help reduce confusion, improve recycling rates, and support national ambitions for 65% of household waste being recycled by 2035.

Residents can now include the following clean and empty items in their green bin:

- Aluminium foil e.g. kitchen foil, foil trays
- Plastic tubes e.g. toothpaste and cosmetic tubes

This is alongside the following materials that have been recycled in Worcester and Worcestershire since 2009:

- Glass bottles & jars
- Paper & cardboard
- Cartons
- Metal food & drinks cans
- Aerosols
- Plastic bottles, pots, tubs & trays.

Bins should be placed out by 7am on normal collection days. Residents living in flats can use their communal recycling bins, which are clearly marked.

Recycled items collected from Worcester residents' homes are sorted at EnviroSort, Worcestershire County Council's material reclamation facility in Norton.

They are then sent for reprocessing, where they are cleaned and transformed into new products.

Recycling these items saves energy, conserves natural resources and helps keep valuable materials out of landfill.

Worcester City Council also offers separate collection services for garden waste, larger items (bulky waste) and commercial waste.

Find out more on the recycling and waste pages.

7. City Council Leader offers to talk to groups about major local government consultation

The Leader of Worcester City Council, Councillor Lynn Denham, is offering to visit local Worcester groups who would like to know more about the current public consultation on Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) in Worcestershire.

Under LGR, the Government plans to replace the current city, district, borough and county councils in Worcestershire with a new structure that will deliver all council services. There are two options in the consultation: a single authority for the whole county, and a 'Transforming Worcestershire' proposal that would create one council for the south of Worcestershire and another for the north.

The public consultation, running until 26 March, will inform the Government's decision on which option to take forward, with the favoured model taking over the running of local services in April 2028.

Cllr Denham said: "The decision on Local Government Reorganisation will have a lasting impact on the people of Worcester and Worcestershire for decades to come, affecting the services that people depend on, from roads to bins.

"That's why I want to encourage as many people as possible to get involved in the public consultation and why I am offering to visit local groups in the city to talk to them and answer their questions about why this matters so much and how they can make their voice heard.

"If you would like me to come and talk to your group about LGR, please drop an email to **Leader@worcester.gov.uk**."

Sarah Murray
Date: 10 April 2026

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