City Councillors' report for Warndon Villages Parish Council meeting, Mon 5th Oct 2026

LGR 'paused' by government

After much hard work by officers and councillors, the government's decision to pause Local Government Reorganisation in Worcestershire and many other areas came as a total surprise to most people.

This impacts the proposed Community Governance Review process (and creation of the City of Worcester Town Council).

Aconbury Orchard – cattle grazing for biodiversity enhancement

Several local residents are concerned that livestock fencing has been installed at Aconbury Orchard without prior notification or consultation. This was done so grazing cattle can be introduced, for biodiversity benefit.

The fencing creates a notable 'change of use' of public open space. Dog walkers in particular have expressed concern about the narrow (approx. 2 mtr) perimeter strip between fence and hedge – they feel it is not wide enough for a reactive dog to pass another without conflict. Other concerns raised are whether the hedge-cutting equipment can reach over the fence to trim the hedge – if it can't, the hedge will grow into the walking strip, further limiting it.

Katie Collier and Andrew Cross, as local city councillors, are in dialogue with city officers about the lack of consultation and the concerns raised by residents. A public communications piece has been promised - we look forward to this being issued and to the concerns being resolved.

Pond care strategy and volunteer encouragement

City council officers met with local Cllrs John Rudge, Andrew Cross, Dawn Merriman, and Worcester Environmental Group's ("The WEG") Project and Volunteer Manager to go through the local pond care strategy developed with input from environmental consultants. The named ponds are: Topham Pond, Dugdale Drive pond, Bearcroft Ave Pond, Wood Leason Pond, Corfe Ave Pond, Offerton Ponds and Lyppard Ponds.

The work will run on a 3 year cycle, with fairly gentle initial steps. The hope is to increase volunteer activity and help more local people understand what each location needs, yielding improved water quality and biodiversity. Volunteer events will be publicised and managed via The WEG.

Lyppard Grange pub car park ANPR

Lyppard Grange pub owners, Mitchell and Butler, have recently installed ANPR cameras to restrict parking to customers only. This has caused concern among parents who drive their children to Lyppard Grange Primary School.

There has been much comment in local social media and news articles, with a variety of responses. Some people say the pub has every right to defend its assets. Some say this is worsening a local traffic congestion problem.

A few residents have said there is a planning condition that the 11 car parking spaces nearest the primary school are for community use. Andrew is exploring that point with city and county officers, such a planning condition or land charge has not yet come to light. ***Could you help shed light on this?***

Scala building refurb to be completed Nov 2026, neighbouring Corn Exchange Feb 2027.

Summer 2027 is set to see the completion of the regeneration of the Angel Place area and the opening of Scala arts centre. This is Worcester City Council's biggest investment project, involving complex construction jobs and working across multiple sites.

Scala arts centre, when it opens in Angel Place next year, will be the centrepiece of a £26m regeneration of the city centre's northern gateway, attracting residents and visitors to an area that had previously become unloved and under-used. The programme began in 2020 and has been supported by significant grants from the Government, as well as investment by the City Council. Heritage and vacant buildings have been refurbished and major upgrades were also made into the public realm.

Worcester City Council's Policy and Resources Committee approved on 1st Sept a final £1.5 million investment to meet a range of extra costs and get the project over the finishing line.

Worcester City Council set to complete its biggest regeneration programme next summer - Worcester City Council

Victorian Fayre returns to Worcester this winter

The Worcester Victorian Christmas Fayre will return this December, bringing a festive feel, entertainment and an economic boost for the city.

This year's event is taking place **between Thursday 3rd and Sunday 6 December**.

Worcester City Council is once again organising the Fayre, which brings an additional £7.3 million a year to the local economy through additional visitors, overnight stays, and spend with local businesses.

More than 200 stalls will line Worcester's streets, creating a vibrant festive atmosphere and attracting over 150,000 visitors across the four days.

The Mayor of Worcester will officially open the Victorian Fayre on Thursday (3 December).

Victorian Fayre returns to Worcester this winter - Worcester City Council

City Council receives extra funding to tackle homelessness

Worcester City Council has received a funding boost of £1.3 million over three years to support people in the city experiencing rough sleeping.

The Council will receive the money as part of the Government's Rough Sleeping Programme, announced last month.

The programme will see the Council work with partners across the city to help people who are sleeping rough, or at risk of sleeping rough, access accommodation and support through a range of initiatives.

This will include proactive outreach work and additional accommodation options, alongside providing intensive support so that the funding makes a lasting change.

The money is in addition to funding through the Government's Long Term Rough Sleeper Innovation Programme. The City Council will work closely with existing homelessness services to maximise the benefits of the additional funding.

Council receives extra funding to tackle homelessness - Worcester City Council

Accessibility mini-conference in Worcester returns

People from across Worcester will meet next month to discuss accessibility in the city and help shape future improvements.

Following the success of last year's inaugural event, Worcester City Council is hosting the Accessible Worcester 2026 mini-conference at the Guildhall on **Thursday 8 October, from 9.30am to 1pm.**

The event will bring together local representatives, community organisations, professionals, residents and businesses for a shared conversation about accessibility in Worcester and how we can help shape a more inclusive future for the city.

Local support groups and charities are invited to hold stalls in the Lower Hall and contribute to the discussion in the Court Room.

Anybody interested in attending should email equality@worcester.gov.uk to ensure enough space and refreshments are provided. Please also include any requirements you have.

Groups or organisations that would like a table/stall at the event should email equality@worcester.gov.uk before Thursday 1 October.

Accessibility mini-conference in Worcester returns - Worcester City Council

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

City Council Consultations:

None active at present - **Worcester City Council consultations page is https://www.worcester.gov.uk/council/consultations**

Rota for future City Councillors' reports

Date of Meeting	***Responsible Councillor***
Nov 2026	*John Rudge*
Dec 2026	*Katie Collier*
Jan 2027	*Sarah Murray*
Feb 2027	*Andrew Cross*
Mar 2027	*John Rudge*
April 2027	*Katie Collier*
May 2027	*Sarah Murray*

Andrew Cross 30/09/2026 andrew.cross@worcester.gov.uk