County Councillor's update: Warndon Villages Parish Council meeting on 7th Sept 2026

County Council meetings of note:

Next Full Council meeting is Thurs 10th Sept, 10am at Wychavon District Council offices in Pershore. Agenda, papers and video record of the meeting are available at Agenda for Council on Thursday, 10th September, 2026, 10.00 am - Modern Council

Next Cabinet Meeting: Thurs 24th Sept
Agenda for Cabinet on Thursday, 24th September, 2026, 10.00 am - Modern Council

All County Council meeting dates and papers are available via:
https://worcestershire.moderngov.co.uk/mgCalendarMonthView.aspx?GL=1&bcr=1

Finance – CIPFA External Assurance Review (2026-27) published

The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) conducted an independent review of all councils that have received Exceptional Financial Support (EFS), as the government requires independent financial assurance for authorities that need this support to balance their budgets. This review was undertaken in May 2026, before the current administration was in place, and published 18th August 2026.

Since completion of this Assurance Review, MHCLG has formally announced the Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) model for Worcestershire, confirming the creation of two new unitary councils across the county and the abolition of the County Council from April 2028. This represents a significant change to the future operating and financial landscape, with implications for governance, service configuration, transformation capacity, and risk exposure. While the analysis and recommendations within this report remain valid, the LGR announcement introduces additional uncertainties that may influence the scale, timing, and prioritisation of the risks identified.

You can read the report at:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6a7ed6103be22055c1aaa2eb/Worcestershire_External_Assurance_Review_2026.pdf

The 'Executive Summary' can be found on pages 4-6, and 'Key Risks and Recommendations' on pages 7-13

A statement from Councillor Matt Jenkins, Leader, and Councillor Adam Kent, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member responsible for the Council's finances, was published 18th August: see https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/news/worcestershire-county-council-statement-regarding-efs-external-assurance-review

LCWIPs: Local Cycling Walking & Infrastructure Plans

Following a public engagement exercise last year, The South Worcestershire LCWIPs are now finalised. The LCWIPs cover the three towns of Droitwich Spa, Malvern, Pershore, and Worcester City.

The South Worcestershire LCWIPs have been developed by consultancy partner Jacobs on behalf of Worcestershire County Council and are published on the county council website along with the Public Engagement Report:

South Worcestershire local cycling and walking infrastructure plans (LCWIPs) | Worcestershire County Council

The development of LCWIPs does not guarantee funding, but these are key documents which allow Worcestershire to make the case for funding of future cycling, walking and wheeling schemes.

Bilford Road – Booking system to visit on peak days, to improve road safety

The site can become extremely busy at weekends and on Mondays, leading to long queues and delays for residents. The implementation of a booking system is designed to help manage demand, reduce congestion and make visits quicker and more convenient.

From 12th September, **residents will need to book in advance for visits on Saturdays, Sundays and Mondays.**

The booking system is now live and will allow residents to book up to six visits within any 14-day period. To book, visit the Waste Booking pages of the Let's Waste Less website.

Bookings can be made up to 2 weeks in advance, same day bookings are possible subject to availability.

Residents who prefer not to use the booking system can currently continue to visit the site without a booking from Tuesday to Friday.

https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/news/worcestershire-county-council-launches-booking-system-bilford-road-household-recycling-centre

Recycling of Fridges and Freezers paused

From 19th August, Worcestershire County Council has temporarily stopped accepting fridges, freezers and other cooling appliances at its Household Recycling Centres across the County.

This is due to a national shortage of specialist recycling capacity following a series of fires and facility closures across the UK. As a result, there has been a significant reduction in the ability to process and safely store these items leaving local authorities across the country facing growing backlogs and limited disposal options. Many councils introduced similar restrictions some time ago, however, Worcestershire County Council continued to accept these appliances for as long as possible before the impact of the national issue made this unsustainable.

In response, **the County Council is asking residents not to bring these appliances to the HRCs** and if possible, store them at home and/or encourage the use of retailer take-back schemes where available.

Local authority associations and representatives are lobbying Central Government and asking for them to step in and assist waste disposal authorities who, through no fault of their own, have been left to deal with the consequences of this issue. At this point it is unknown how long this issue will persist, but we will continue to monitor the situation.

https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/news/fridge-and-freezer-collections-suspended-household-recycling-centres

This is a nation-wide problem. If your fridge is taken away by somebody and fly-tipped, you are still liable for that fridge. You still could be prosecuted

'National crisis' warning over Warwickshire fridge collections - BBC News

Damaskfield Gate, Ankerage Green

An explanatory letter was delivered end July to 50 local residents living near the gate and posts made on local social media. As could be anticipated, people living nearest the gate do not want it opened up for people (non-vehicular) access but others living further away do.

Resident feedback: 9 neighbouring residents objected, one supported. Approximately 50 people voiced support of opening the gate up via social media.

Concerns raised by objectors included:

- Anti-social behaviour/crime concerns,
- Increased traffic, parking and school drop-off congestion
- Lack of consultation / decision already made

- Increased footfall / loss of cul-de-sac character
- Motorbikes, e-scooters or bicycles using route
- Safety and security concerns
- Pub users, noise or late-night disturbance
- Requests for costing information or alternative options

The County Council have recently cleared shrubbery and they plan to remove the unauthorised Heras fencing to return the access gate to its original state, per original planning conditions. The gate will be assessed to see if a replacement is needed. This maintenance work is separate from the proposed 'opening up' being explored.

Residents' concerns have been raised with local police, who replied: *"Overall, while also considering the councils financial position and the benefits for those with mobility issues accessing the shops and those walking to school, we would support the opening up of the gate. We would add the pathway onto our patrols list to try and monitor, deter, and deal with any ASB."*

Discussions about the 'opening up' options are ongoing with local residents and I will share details and further updates in due course.

Homestead Ave / Woodgreen Drive junction

County Highways have agreed to modify the junction markings to improve awareness for both drivers and cyclists of the limited visibility and to encourage all to slow down. The proposal will be similar to the Whittington Hall Business Park junction pictured below.



SEND:

County SEND updates are now available via signup to e-newsletters – see SEND news and updates - June | Worcestershire County Council and SEND latest news | Worcestershire County Council

Interested in local SEND provision? Link in with Worcs Parent Carer Forum for the latest news, developments and events or to get more involved and attend co-production workshops, forums, discussion groups or to become a parent carer rep at regular meetings with the local area partnership.

County plan to buy St Dunstans from HoW College for new sixth form SEND school progresses

Worcester college building may become sixth form SEND school - BBC News

Last night's city council Policy & Resources committee approved the grant of a 125-year lease of part of Cattlemarket Car Park to the county council for use as a school carpark for staff and school transport pupil drop off/pick up, in connection with the proposed use of the adjoining St Dunstan's Building as a SEND School.

Regency High School in Carnforth Drive, Worcester, opens new primary provision:

Regency High School is proud to announce the opening of its new primary provision, extending its age range to support younger pupils and their families.

Regency High School is a special school that supports children and young people with moderate, severe and complex learning difficulties.

As of 1 June 2026, the school has welcomed its first cohort of younger children, with 25 Reception and Year 1 pupils now attending the school. The provision will continue to grow each year, with a new Reception class offering a further 8 places opening every year as existing pupils move up a year. By September 2030, all primary phase year groups will be fully operational.

The expansion marks an important step in increasing specialist education capacity locally, helping more children access the support they need closer to home.
Building work is currently ongoing at Regency High School to create more dedicated primary classroom spaces, ensuring a high-quality learning environment tailored to younger pupils.

https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/news/regency-high-school-opens-new-primary-provision

OFSTED & CQC SEND Monitoring Inspection outcome

Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) visited Worcestershire in May 2026 to carry out a monitoring inspection of the SEND Local Area Partnership actions. The focus of the inspection was to understand how the SEND Local Area Partnership has improved two priority areas that were identified in 2024, including reducing health waiting times for

children and young people and involving children and young people with SEND in strategic decision-making.

- the Worcestershire Local Area Partnership was judged as taking **ineffective action** to reduce health waiting times, although improvements have been made in some areas
- the Worcestershire Local Area Partnership was judged as taking **effective action** on involving children and young people with SEND in strategic decision-making
- the partnership must reduce long waits for the neurodevelopment assessment pathway and community paediatrics, as well as improve support while children and young people are waiting for these assessments and support

https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/news/send-monitoring-inspection-outcome

Applications now open for September 2027 school places

Parents and carers should apply if their child is due to start school for the first time or is transferring to a Middle or High School in September 2027.

The deadline for High School applications is 31 October 2026, while the deadline for Primary, First, Infant, Junior and Middle School applications is **15 January 2027**.

When making their three preferences, parents and carers are strongly encouraged to **include their catchment school as one of their choices**. This helps ensure they have the best chance of securing a place at a local school if they are not offered one of their other preferred schools.

Applications for September 2027 school places open on 1 September 2026 | Worcestershire County Council

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Notable road / path works in/near Warndon Villages - *see https://one.network/ for full details*

Night time closures on Parsonage Way, Trotshill Way and Grange way A4440 between 7th Sept and 30th Sept for Pre Surface Dressing Patching for 1 night within the stated period. **Plantation Drive and Dugdale Drive** will be eastbound "Access Only" for residents on the affected night, as shown on the 'One Network' map https://one.network/?GB150299338

County events: see Events | Worcestershire County Council

Other County News: see https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/news

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02/09/2026
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