City Councillor Report to Parish Council 7 September 2026

Pride of Place

It has been announced that Hannah Harrison has been appointed as Chair and David Workman as Vice Chair.

Hannah works in Warndon and is the Community Leader of the Oasis Warndon Community Hub, where she has worked for over five years.

She previously worked at St Richard's Hospice and has first-hand experience of the support and services available in Warndon for people of all ages.

David has been a Warndon resident for 47 years and has brought up four children in the area.

He runs a software business and has experience of volunteering in several roles.

Hannah and David will now begin appointing the remaining board members over the forthcoming weeks.

You can also find out more about the Pride in Place Warndon scheme on the **Pride in Place Warndon webpage**.

LGR

From 1 April 2028, the county's current seven borough, city, district and county councils will be replaced with two unitary councils: one covering North Worcestershire and one covering South Worcestershire.

The decision follows Government consultation and consideration of the two proposals submitted for reorganisation in Worcestershire.

Now the decision has been made the seven Worcestershire councils will continue to work towards the following timeline:

- May 2027 - Elections to new shadow authorities
- May to December 2027 - legislation to confirm reorganisation decision in Parliament
- April 1, 2028 - Go live date for new authorities

Find out more about Local Government Reorganisation in Worcestershire

South Worcestershire Local Plan

Landowners and developers are being invited to put forward sites to be considered for future development as part of the next version of the Local Plan for South Worcestershire.

A "call for sites" has been issued by Malvern Hills District, Worcester City and Wychavon District Councils as part of the start of work on the Local Plan.

The call for sites is not a consultation but an information gathering exercise. Typically, it allows developers, agents, landowners and site promoters to put forward land they would like to see included in the new Local Plan, although individuals and organisations can also make suggestions.

Sites can be submitted by completing a form on the South Worcestershire Local Plan website.

Land can be suggested for a variety of uses including housing developments, new towns or villages, self-build and custom housebuilding, gypsy and/or traveller pitches, employment land such as industrial, retail and distribution parks, as well as for leisure, recreation and community facilities.

Submission of a site does not mean it will be automatically included in the new Plan or planning permission has or will be granted. Instead, it allows planners an early understanding of what land is potentially available for development and for what purpose.

All sites submitted will be assessed for suitability as part of the housing and economic land availability assessment. This will then inform future work on the Plan. A formal scoping consultation will take place in September. This will give the public a say on what issues the new Local Plan should address, where future housing and employment growth should be focused, the type of homes communities need, how the plan can support the creation of new jobs and town centres, as well as transport, infrastructure and protection for the environment.

Further consultations will take place on the content of the Plan during the process, which is expected to take 30 months from the end of October.

Although the South Worcestershire Development Plan Review (SWDPR) was adopted in March this year, a new plan is needed due to changes by Government on the national method to calculate housing need in local authorities. This means the required numbers of homes across South Worcestershire has significantly increased. To ensure the three councils can continue to show enough land is available to meet demand for housing, it needs to be properly planned for.

The new plan will eventually replace the SWDPR and cover the period up to 2049.

Cllr Pat Agar, Chair of the South Worcestershire Local Plan Joint Advisory Panel overseeing preparation of the new Plan, said: "This is a very early information-gathering exercise which will help us understand what land may be available and start building the evidence needed to plan for future development in the right places.

"There will be plenty of opportunities for residents and communities to get involved and have their say once work on the new plan formally begins, and I hope people will take those opportunities to help shape the future of South Worcestershire."

Accessible Worcester 2026

Following the success of last year's event, Worcester City Council is pleased to invite you to attend the Accessible Worcester 2026 miniconference.

The event will take place at the Guildhall on Thursday 8 October, from 9:30am to 1:00pm. It 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.

Who is it for?

• Local representatives and community leaders

• Workers and volunteers in local support groups and charities

• Health and wellbeing professionals

• Anyone affected or interested in making Worcester a more accessible place, residents and businesses

There will be an opportunity to see and discuss what others are doing in the City to create a more accessible environment for all, and bring people together to take part in a panel discussion. Local support groups and charities are invited to bring their literature

and hold a stall in the Lower Hall if they wish, and the discussions will take part in the Court Room.

Anyone interested in attending should please email equality@worcester.gov.uk so the team at the City Council can ensure enough space and refreshments are provided.

Sarah Murray
Date: 10 April 2026

Date of Meeting	Preparation Deadline	Responsible Councillor
October 2026		Andrew Cross
November 2026		John Rudge
December 2026		Katie Collier
January 2027		Sarah Murray
February 2027		Andrew Cross
March 2027		John Rudge
April 2027		Katie Collier
May 2027		Sarah Murray