County Councillor's update: Warndon Villages Parish Council meeting on 9th Nov 2026

County Council meetings of note:

Next Full Council meeting is Thurs 12th Nov, 10am at Wyre Forest District Council offices in Kidderminster. Agenda, papers and video record of the meeting are available at Agenda for Council on Thursday, 12th November, 2026, 10.00 am - Modern Council

Next Cabinet Meeting: Tues 10th Nov
There is one substantive item on the agenda, which will be discussed in private session: to request cabinet approval for the capital to repurpose St Dunstan's to specialist education provision including the full costs of securing the associated car park.
Report is at Agenda for Cabinet on Tuesday, 10th November, 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

LGR decision: delayed elections make county budget setting harder

The county council's financial position remains extremely concerning. Adults and Childrens' social care costs more than budgeted, savings have been made in other service areas.
County council total expenditure 2026-2027 was budgeted at £620m and is forecast to be £628m.

All-member budget briefings started in October, six weeks earlier than in the previous administration. A budget has to be agreed by end February, or the Section 114 process starts.

County Hall being sold, but hospital car parking is not affected

A local resident asked me recently about the proposed sale of County Hall. They were concerned whether the car parking spaces currently leased to Worcs Royal Hospital would be sold or impacted.

I have checked and been assured that they are not.

The image below shows the outline in yellow of what is up for sale. It excludes the car park nearest to the woods that the NHS uses.



Worcestershire County Council has launched the sale of its former County Hall site in Worcester, marking the next step in plans to bring the vacant site back into use.

The 16.6-acre site on Spetchley Road, in Worcester's Nunnery area, includes the former County Hall building, records office and boiler house.

The Council has appointed property specialists Savills to market the site and seek interest from developers and investors, and the site is now on the open market to identify a purchaser. As with any disposal of a public asset, the Council has a duty to secure best consideration for taxpayers while also seeking the best long-term outcome for the site and local community.

The marketing process allows interested parties to come forward with proposals for the site, which offers a significant redevelopment opportunity for a variety of uses. Any proposals brought forward by a future purchaser would be subject to the normal planning process, including consultation with local residents and stakeholders.

There is a useful FAQs page on the county webpage https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/council-services/business/property-services/county-hall as well as a downloadable pdf of the marketing particulars at https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2026-10/Former%20County%20Hall%20-%20Marketing%20Particulars%20%28low%20res%29.pdf

Crisis & Resilience Fund: Help with Cost of Living and Heating

Are you struggling with essential costs, heating or housing?

Support is available through the Worcestershire Crisis and Resilience Fund.

The Government has announced the Crisis and Resilience Fund (CRF), which replaces the Household Support Fund, to help people facing financial crisis.

The CRF is funded by the UK Government and will run for three years until 31 March 2029.

This national programme provides funding to local authorities in England to:

- support residents who cannot meet essential costs such as food, energy, or household items
- strengthen long term financial resilience, helping households increase income, reduce expenses, and manage financial shocks
- ensure support is fair, accessible, flexible, and based on individual need

Worcestershire County Council will work with district councils and voluntary and community sector (VCS) partners to deliver support across four key areas:

- Crisis Payments
- Housing Payments
- Resilience Services
- Community Coordination

If you have received a sudden financial shock in your household, please contact your local Worcestershire Advice Network partner (Citizens Advice, Age UK or DIAL/Daisy).
https://www.worcestershireadvicenetwork.org.uk/

Please also visit https://www.worcester.gov.uk/advice-benefits/support-with-cost-of-living-crisis for local support for residents facing severe financial hardship or crisis

Fly Alley (Snakey Pass) steps repaired

Huge thanks to the county highways minor projects team for repairing the wooden steps and metal handrail from Fly Alley to the Stableford play area and old Golf Course.

This repair will be much appreciated by members and leaders of the walking groups, also many other local residents who have helped me push for this repair since early 2024.

It's been a journey, but great to have this repaired. Another small step towards better Active Travel in Worcestershire.



Damaskfield Gate, Ankerage Green

The County Council have recently cleared obstructive vegetation and they plan to remove the unauthorised Heras fencing to return the access gate to its original state, per original planning and highways adoption conditions.

The gate will be assessed to see if a replacement is needed. This maintenance work is separate from the evaluation of 'opening up' the gateway for non-vehicular access.

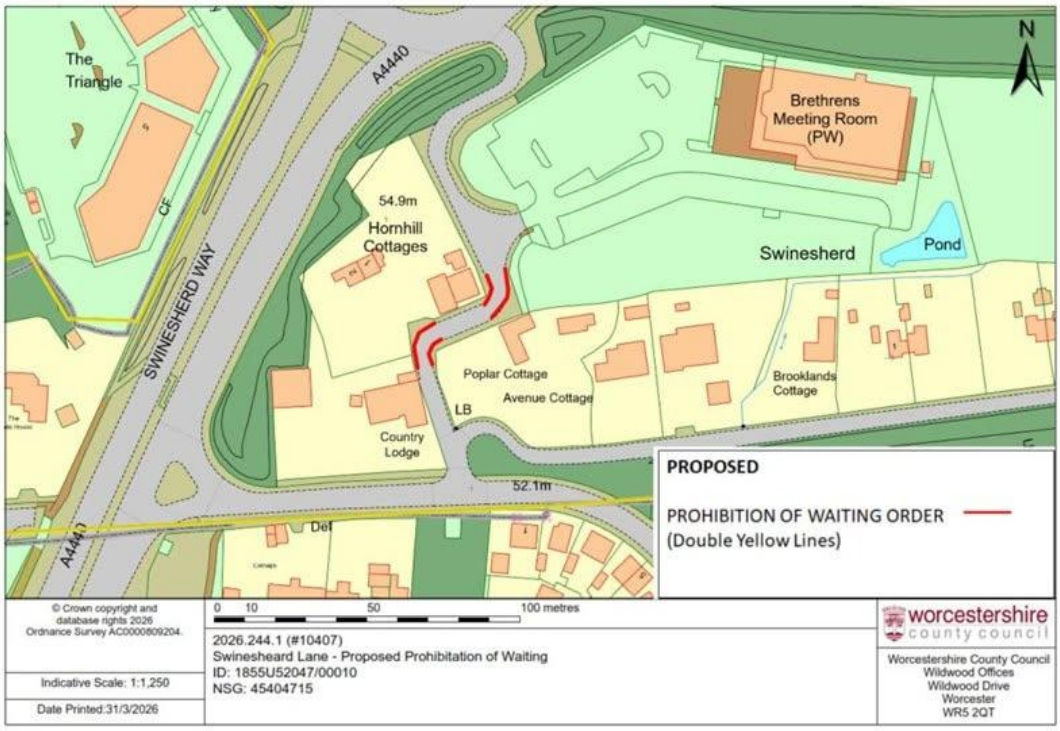
I will be meeting with residents soon to hear their concerns and answer questions.

Homestead Ave / Woodgreen Drive junction

No update yet on when this junction will be modified. Will share when known.

Traffic Regulation Order public consultation in Swinesherd.

Consultation deadline 12/11/2026



Indicative markings on the road show the limits of the proposed double yellow line markings.

A fence has been installed on the corner to protect the water meter box covers on the first right-hand bend between the nursery and Poplar Cottage, and vergemasters to protect the grass verge on right as one enters the one-way lane driving from Swinesherd Lane to the A4440 roundabout. I took some photos which you can see at https://photos.app.goo.gl/rX3xu3na2J3ys96d7

Traffic will not be putting Double Yellow Lines on the straight section as there is enough room for traffic to pass. County are protecting the tight bend and also a utility asset.

https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2026-10/1%20Swinesherd%20Lane%2C%20Worcester%20POW.pdf

There is a separate issue of people turning right to drive northbound out of the Whittington Walk estate to the A4440/A44 (county hall) roundabout, ignoring the signs not to.

You can see all live public notices are shown on the Worcestershire County Council website at https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/council-services/planning-and-developments/planning-applications/public-notices

The wording below is copied from the county website for your convenience:

--------START---------

Worcestershire County Council are to consider making an Order the effect of which will be to prohibit waiting at any time on the following lengths and sides of road in Worcester:

Swinesherd Lane (east side): from a point of 139 metres north of its junction with Swinesherd Way for a distance of 13 metres in a northerly direction with a gap of 18 metres then continuing for a further distance of 20 metres in a northerly direction.

Swinesherd Lane (west side): from a point of 129 metres north of its junction with Swinesherd Way for a distance of 12.5 metres in a northerly direction with a gap of 15 metres then continuing for a further distance of 12.5 metres in a northerly direction.

The Order will vary the above Consolidation Order (which provides for civil enforcement of contraventions of waiting prohibitions and restrictions) and will contain exemptions to allow parking/access for certain purposes and limited waiting by disabled persons' vehicles.

Documents in relation to this Order can be downloaded at the Worcester City Public Notice page on the Worcestershire County Council Website or copies supplied by emailing roadtrafficregs@worcestershire.gov.uk; or writing to me at County Hall or may be inspected at Worcestershire County Council, Wildwood, Wildwood Drive, Worcester WR5 2QT.

Any objection/representations you may have must be sent in writing to me at County Hall, or email roadtrafficregs@worcestershire.gov.uk; to be received by 12 November 2026.

Download Swinesherd Lane, Worcester POW Order and Plan documents at https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2026-10/1%20Swinesherd%20Lane%2C%20Worcester%20POW.pdf

Issued by: Thomas Pollock, Head of Commercial Law

Address: Worcestershire County Council, Legal and Governance, County Hall, Spetchley Road, Worcester WR5 2NP

Issue date: 15 Oct 2026

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Worcestershire residents urged to help prevent battery fires

Residents across Worcestershire are being asked to help prevent dangerous fires by keeping batteries out of household bins and recycling them separately.

Even a single battery can be damaged during collection, processing or disposal, potentially causing fires in bin lorries, Household Recycling Centres (HRCs) and waste facilities.

The message is simple: Batteries cause fires. Fires cause danger. You can stop them. Recycle batteries separately, never in your household bins.

Many residents are unaware that batteries are hidden inside everyday items such as toys, power banks, vapes, wireless headphones, greeting cards and electronic gadgets.

When thrown into general waste, these batteries can become crushed or punctured, increasing the risk of fire.

Battery-related fires pose a risk to collection crews, recycling centre staff, residents and local communities.

Raising awareness of the dangers and helping residents understand how and where to recycle batteries safely can play an important role in preventing future incidents.

Residents can recycle batteries at all Worcestershire Household Recycling Centres, supermarket collection points and participating retailers.

Used batteries can be stored safely at home in a dedicated container until they can be recycled, while lithium-ion batteries should have their terminals taped before disposal to help reduce fire risk.

To help make battery recycling a habit, residents are encouraged to keep a simple "battery jar" at home, providing a convenient place to store used batteries until they can be taken for recycling.

Residents are reminded to:

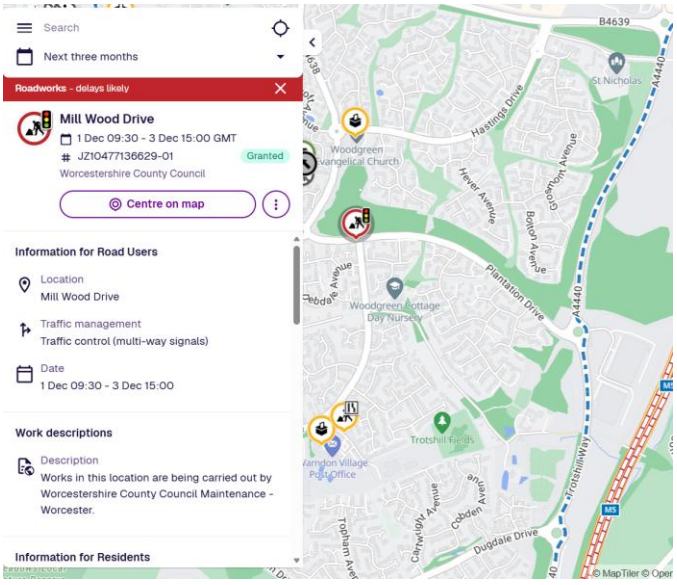
- never put batteries in household rubbish or recycling bins
- recycle batteries at supermarket collection points, retailers or any Worcestershire Household Recycling Centre
- check household items for hidden batteries before disposal
- store used batteries safely until they can be recycled
- tape the terminals of lithium-ion batteries before taking them for recycling

For more information about battery recycling and where batteries can be safely disposed of, visit the Let's Waste Less website.

https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/news/worcestershire-residents-urged-help-prevent-battery-fires

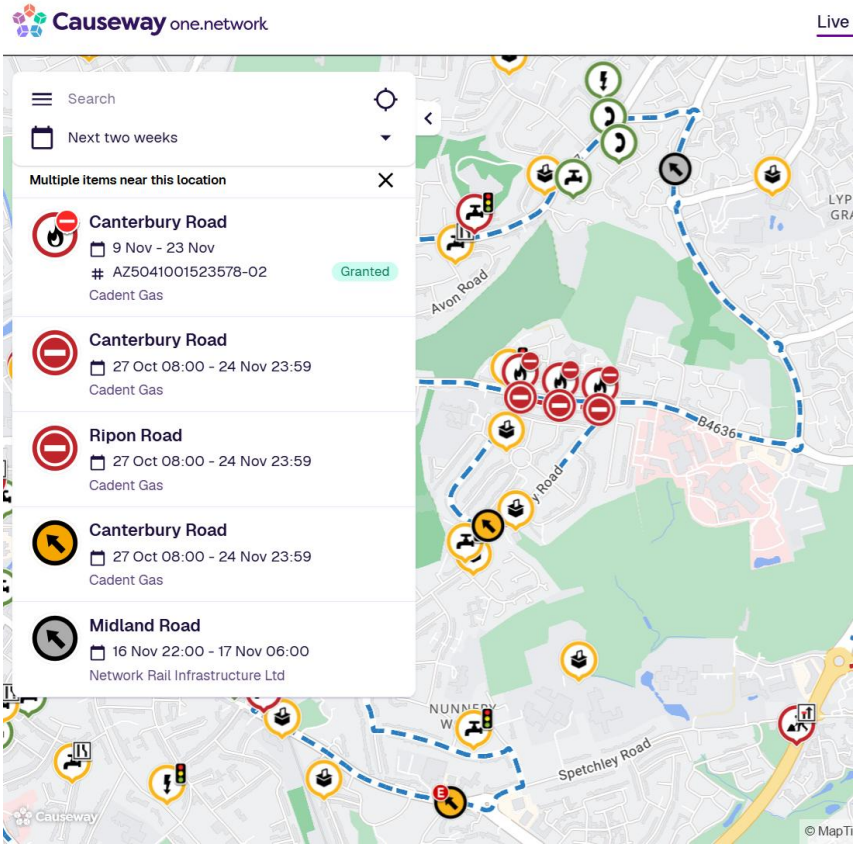
Notable road / path works in/near Warndon Villages - *see https://one.network/ for full details*

Millwood Drive / Plantation Drive junction: roadworks with traffic lights 1st – 3rd Dec



https://one.network/?GB152955548

Newtown Road traffic lights continue for gas main replacement work near the old hospital site – see https://one.network/?tmi=GB46245490



County events: see [Events | Worcestershire County Council]

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

Andrew Cross
County Councillor, Warndon Parish Division

04/11/2026
across1@worcestershire.gov.uk