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

County Council meetings of note:

Next Full Council meeting Thurs 26th Feb, 10am at Wychavon District Council offices in Pershore. Agenda, papers and video record of the meeting are available at Agenda for Council on Thursday, 26th February, 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

Budget: Cabinet meets on Thurs 5th Feb, which will inform the budget-setting full council meeting on 26th Feb. If council does not set a balanced budget, either at this meeting or the reserve fallback meeting scheduled for Fri 6th March, the chief financial officer (s. 151 officer) will issue a section 114 notice and the government will take over. That will mean an immediate stop on any non-statutory expenditure – a grim scenario for residents, councillors and officers. The Reform council leader has recently created a £22k cabinet role for Strategic Delivery, Operations, Governance and Efficiency (Strategic DOGE).

Agenda for Cabinet on Thursday, 5th February, 2026, 10.00 am - Modern Council

SEND Updates:

No further monthly SEND updates on the SEND Local Offer website since November 2025. I am enquiring why this is.

You can read the full November update here https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/news/november-send-update

Local Issues

Hindlip Anaerobic Digester: New docs added 5th Dec 2025 onwards

There was no County Planning meeting in February. Several new Consultee Comments added since my last update to WVPC: Docs 424 (06/01/2026) to 436 (26/01/2026) inclusive. Worth reading in detail. Especially:

 # 425 County Highways: recommends Deferral *"until further information has been provided to demonstrate that safe and suitable access can be achieved for all users and that the proposed development would not result in an unacceptable highway safety impact contrary to NPPF paragraphs 115 and 116 and South Worcestershire Development Plan policies SWDP4 and SWDP21."*
emphasising in bold font (see pages 4 & 5): ***"The Highway Authority notes that this is the fourth formal planning response provided by WCC Highways recommending that determination of the application be deferred to allow for further information to be submitted. The Applicant is strongly advised to carefully review the further information requests and ensure that all requests are fully addressed in the next submission. This recommendation should be read in conjunction with WCC Highways previous responses dated 19 October 2023, 24 February 2025 and 24 June 2025."***

This recommendation is followed by seven bullet points of their requests.

 # 427 Local County Cllr Seb James:
"As the County Councillor representing Hindlip and the surrounding communities, I must strongly and unequivocally reiterate my objection to the proposed digestion plant. Despite the applicant's recent submission of additional information, the fundamental issues remain unresolved, and in some cases, have become even more concerning.

Financial Viability and Sustainability: It is increasingly clear that the applicant does not have the financial resources or long-term capacity to sustain this project responsibly. This raises serious questions about the stability and reliability of the operation. A development of this scale requires robust financial backing to ensure compliance with environmental standards, ongoing maintenance, and contingency planning. Without this, the risk of operational failure and subsequent harm to the community is unacceptably high.

Impact on Residents and Community Character: The additional documentation provided does nothing to alleviate the deep and legitimate concerns of local residents. The proposed site is wholly inappropriate for such an industrial facility. Hindlip is a small, historic hamlet with a unique character that would be irreparably damaged by this development. The scale and nature of the plant are entirely incompatible with the rural setting, and its presence would destroy the very essence of this community. This is not just a planning issue-it is a matter of preserving heritage, quality of life, and the integrity of our local environment.

Risks to Critical Infrastructure: Equally alarming are the growing concerns regarding potential damage to the nearby police station-a vital operational hub for law enforcement in our county. Any threat to its structural integrity or functionality is unacceptable. The evidence suggesting possible harm to this facility cannot be ignored and must be treated as a serious planning consideration.

Conclusion: This proposal remains fundamentally flawed. It is financially unsound, environmentally inappropriate, and socially destructive. It threatens the character of Hindlip, undermines public confidence, and poses risks to essential services. For these reasons, I urge the planning committee to reject this application in its entirety. Our communities deserve development that enhances, not erodes, their future."

No further comment yet from Lichfields or W Mercia Police / H&W FRS since doc # 328 uploaded 28/07/2025

Consultation deadline has passed. The County's planning and regulatory committee next meets on 17th March 2026 Agenda for Planning and Regulatory Committee on Tuesday, 17th March, 2026, 10.00 am - Modern Council All documents and details visible on the planning website:

https://worcestershire.planning-register.co.uk/Planning/Display/23/000007/CM

Accessibility improvements: replacement of metal barriers with bollards.

Funding to do this is tight, the bollards will be tackled according to the priority hierarchy set out in my January report. Updates to follow.

Ankerage Green: new footpath and pedestrian safety refuge

I used local member-determined funding to pay for a highways survey, the essential first step towards a new tarmac footpath proposed on the right of Ankerage Green and a pedestrian refuge at the splayed junction of Ankerage Green to Millwood Drive. The survey was undertaken last weekend and I look forward to hearing more soon.

The proposed pedestrian refuge is likely to be of this type, to fit between the manhole covers in the roadway. The image is taken from a brochure.



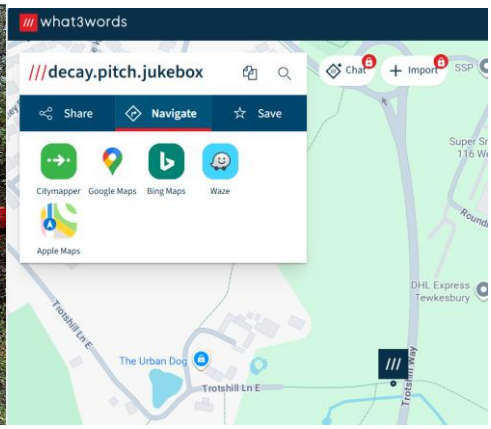
A big thank you to our county highways team for quick repair of potholes and for reinstating the knocked-out vergeside bollard, all at Withincroft near Lyppard Grange Primary School.

Defective lighting between Ankerage Green shops and Lyppard Grange pub has been reported to the private landowner's managing office: G Herbert Banks

Trotshill Lane East 'kissing gate' by A4440 toucan crossing

The metal kissing gates and barriers are currently being removed, starting on the western gate. Bollards will be installed at both kissing gates. Work started 3rd Feb – see photo below.

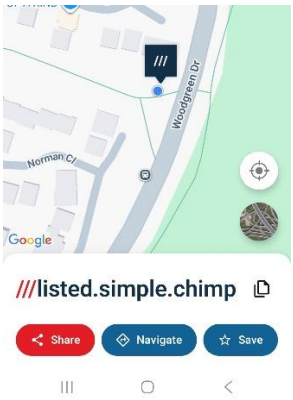




Please continue to report footpaths obstructed by flooding

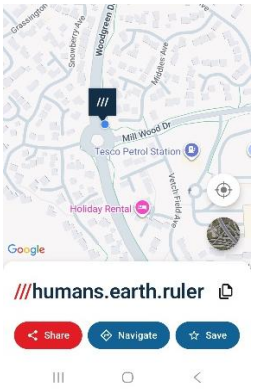
Here are three examples, which our county highways officer is aware of.





On shared use path approaching new crossing on Woodgreen Drive, facing Tolladine Wood





At Middle Hollow Drive / Woodgreen Drive roundabout, facing Snowberry Avenue. Thank you Dawn Merriman for reporting this one!



The well-known and long-standing problematic flooding of path between Tolladine Wood and Harlech Close.

County have inspected this in 2025, based on previous years' photos. Significant work will be needed here. It may be that the path will need to be raised.

What3Words location: https://w3w.co/tanks.intro.lock

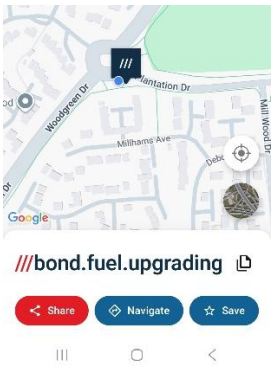
Please report online any roadway flooding issues or roads / tarmacked paths that you see which are in need of priority repair, then email me the details and report reference number:

https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/council-services/travel-and-highways/report-road-or-path-issue

On a positive note…

It is good to see that last year's works on the drainage connection from the roadside gullies appears to have solved the major ponding problem at the Plantation Drive / Woodgreen Drive roundabout crossing point. Please let me know if the problem returns there?





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

Mostly minor works without major impact, except for the bottom of Newtown Road will be closed for Openreach works mid March and Severn Trent overnight 23-24th March with diversions in place.

Other County News:

see https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/news

Print your documents at Worcestershire Libraries

Worcestershire County Council's Libraries have launched Print Your Way, a new service that lets library members print directly from their own phone, laptop, or tablet and collect their documents from any Worcestershire library within 24 hours.

Launched this week, Print Your Way is ideal for things like job applications, forms, tickets, and returns labels. Library members can upload documents from home, on the move, or while already in the library, and collect them from a public printer when they arrive.

If printing from home, it's recommended to bring your device with you in case there's an issue with your print job.

Print Your Way is available to anyone with full library membership. If you're not yet a library member or currently have digital-only membership, you can easily sign up or upgrade by visiting your local library and speaking to a member of staff.

If you're a Libraries Unlocked member, you can release your print job between 8:00 am and 8:00 pm, Monday to Saturday, at any Libraries Unlocked location, giving you even more flexibility to fit printing around your busy life.

Libraries have long offered low-cost printing from library computers, but **Print Your Way takes it a step further, giving customers the freedom to print without using a library computer.**

https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/news/no-printer-no-problem-libraries-launch-print-your-way

County Skills Expo returns: 4-6th March at Sixways Stadium

Worcestershire County Council's annual Skills Expo returns this March, with extra exhibitor places available for local employers keen to inspire the county's future workforce.

Skills Expo is one of Worcestershire's largest careers events, bringing together thousands of local students from schools across the county. Over two days, young people will have the opportunity to meet employers, take part in hands-on activities, and explore the wide range of post-education opportunities available locally.

The event, formerly known as The Worcestershire Skills Show, welcomes businesses from across all sectors and is the region's largest careers event for young people. Organisers are keen to build on that success this year by featuring more organisations from health and social care, travel and tourism, hospitality, sports, and the creative industries.

Skills Expo takes place over two days, Wednesday 4 – Thursday 5 March, at Sixways Stadium, with invited Worcestershire high schools visiting during the day and a dedicated parents and carers session on the Wednesday evening.

For employers, Skills Expo offers a unique chance to:

- Engage directly with future talent
- Raise awareness of career pathways within their industry
- Network with other businesses and organisations from across Worcestershire

The parents and carers session is free to enter, open to the public, and takes place on Wednesday 4 March, from 4pm to 7pm. Further information is available on the dedicated Skills Expo pages of our website.

Businesses interested in exhibiting at Skills Expo 2026 can contact cec@worcestershire.gov.uk.

https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/news/worcestershires-biggest-careers-event-opens-its-doors-more-exhibitors

Pop-up vaccination clinics for MMR or HPV catch-up jabs - book now

Pop-up clinics offer free catch-up MMR and HPV vaccinations for anyone who did not receive them as part of the routine childhood immunisation programme.

If you missed out on the MMR or HPV jab, there is another chance this February.

The next catch-up clinics will be held on:

- **Saturday 7 February 2026 from 9:00am to 1:00pm** at Pear Tree Family Hub, Broad St, Sidemoor, Bromsgrove B61 8LW
- **Saturday 14 February 2026 from 9:00am to 1:00pm** at Holly Trees Family Hub, Mabey Ave, Redditch B98 8HW
- **Monday 23 February 2026 from 9:00am to 1:00pm** at Wands Family Hub, 21 Farmers Way, Droitwich Spa, Droitwich WR9 9EQ
- **Thursday 26 February 2026 from 9:00am to 1:00pm** at Tudor Way Family Hub, Tudor Way, Worcester WR2 5QH

You can book an appointment online. Appointments are available between 9:00am and 1:00pm.

Measles is highly contagious and can be serious at any age. It spreads easily through coughing and sneezing, and anyone who isn't vaccinated or who hasn't previously had the illness is at risk.

The MMR vaccine is a safe and effective combined vaccine that protects against measles. Mumps and rubella are available to anyone over 5 years who has not yet been fully vaccinated. Two doses of MMR vaccination are needed to be fully vaccinated.

Worcestershire ranks among the top areas in the West Midlands for MMR vaccination, with over 90 per cent of children receiving both doses by the age of five. However, increasing the vaccination rate even further will help prevent the spread of measles in the community.

Human papillomavirus (HPV) is the name of a very common group of viruses that spreads through skin contact. Certain types cause several cancers, including cervical, throat, anal, and genital cancers, as well as genital warts. The HPV vaccine protects against the most harmful, cancer-causing type of HPV and provides long-lasting immunity when given at a young age.

More than 73 per cent of eligible young people in Worcestershire have received their HPV vaccine, but some may have missed out due to illness, being home educated, or other reasons. The catch-up HPV vaccine is available for free on the NHS for:

- all girls aged 24 and under up until their 25th birthday
- boys born after 1 September 2006 up until their 25th birthday

The pop-up clinics will be held at community venues across Worcestershire throughout January and February. A full list of dates and locations is available online on the dedicated Worcestershire Catch Up Clinics website.

If anyone has symptoms of measles, please stay at home and phone your GP or NHS 111 for advice. Do not go to GP surgeries or A & E departments, so the illness doesn't spread to others.

For more information on measles and the MMR vaccine, please visit the dedicated Measles pages of the NHS website and for HPV, visit the dedicated HPV pages of the NHS website.

https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/news/pop-vaccination-clinics-mmr-or-hpv-catch-jabs-book-now

'Love Volunteering' Launches in Worcestershire

Worcestershire residents are being invited to turn fresh starts into positive action with the launch of Love Volunteering, a brand-new, free, countywide volunteering portal connecting people with meaningful opportunities in their local communities.

Love Volunteering is a completely free, easy-to-use platform where residents can discover a wide range of volunteering roles across Worcestershire. From supporting NHS and council services to filling trustee or committee roles or helping local charities and community groups, the portal makes it simple to get involved and make a real difference close to home.

Volunteering is a great way to:

- give back to your community
- learn new skills and gain experience
- meet new people and build confidence
- improve wellbeing and start the year with purpose
- help keep Worcestershire safe, resilient, and thriving.

Love Volunteering is linked with local volunteer centre partners through the WeCan network, as well as Citizens Advice Wyre Forest, whose own websites feed directly into the portal. This means opportunities shared locally are also visible through Love Volunteering, giving residents even more ways to connect with causes they care about.

If you're an organisation or group offering volunteering opportunities, now is the perfect time to get involved. You can register for free and start adding those fantastic opportunities.

Visit the Love Volunteering portal and make 2026 the year you get involved.

https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/news/love-volunteering-launches-worcestershire

Andrew Cross
County Councillor, Warndon Parish Division

04/02/2026
across1@worcestershire.gov.uk