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

County Council meetings of note:

Next Full Council meeting is Thurs 14th May, 10am at Wychavon District Council offices in Pershore. Agenda, papers and video record of the meeting are available at Agenda for Council on Thursday, 14th May, 2026, 10.00 am - Modern Council

Next Cabinet meeting is Thurs 26th March at Wychavon District Council offices in Pershore. Agenda, papers and video record of the meeting are available at Agenda for Cabinet on Thursday, 26th March, 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: At full council meeting 26th Feb, a long and testy meeting, the administration's budget with 8.98% county council tax increase was amended on 5 points by the LD group who then walked out prior to the vote. Both Labour councillors left before the vote, so the budget was passed 24 votes to 19.

I was not able to attend the meeting because my mum in Devon recently had a stroke.

There are various accounts on social media from differing councillors and groups expressing varied opinions about the budget and amendments. I liked some of the amendments but my personal opinion was that that the budget should not pass on the first meeting, to enable further negotiation in the following days prior to the second reserve meeting date, aiming to reduce the council tax increase for residents. The voting statistics are outlined here in a blog by County Chair Cllr Louis Stephen.

Meeting papers and video record of the nearly 9 hour-long meeting at Agenda for Council on Thursday, 26th February, 2026, 10.00 am - Modern Council

SEND:

The government has committed to paying 90% of councils' accumulated special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) deficits. Details in County Councils Network article Government commits to paying 90% of councils' SEND deficits - County Councils Network

County SEND updates are now available via signup to e-newsletters – see SEND News and Updates - February and SEND news and improvement updates | Worcestershire County Council

Local Issues

Hindlip Anaerobic Digester: 2 New docs added 10th Feb and 25th Feb

Still no County Planning meeting date set. Two new Consultee Comments added since my last update to WVPC: Docs **437** (Supporting Info) Habitats Regulation Shadow Assessment and **438** (Consultee) Health & Safety Executive

 # 437 HRA (10/02/2026): "*All digestate (liquid and cake) will be PAS 110 compliant and certified. • In addition, all product will be removed from the site and that no spreading of digestate on or around the subject site itself will occur." (35 page document).*
I am slightly surprised by the statement on page 6 that *"Feedback from the Local Planning Authority Ecologist indicates that the site falls within the land area which is influencing the River **Wye** SAC."* Maybe that is an abundance of caution, or maybe I am wrong and Worcester city does influence the RiverWye SAC?
Lyppard Grange Ponds Special Area of Conservation are mentioned, as are Offerton Wetlands and the Worcester – Birmingham Canal, but I can see no specific reference to Barbourne Brook.

 # 438 HSE (25/02/2026): *"No comment"* on planning application, but seek details on quantity of hazardous substances and also details of gas pipeline route

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 19th May 2026 Agenda for Planning and Regulatory Committee on Tuesday, 19th May, 2026, 10.00 am - Modern Council **(The 17th March planning meeting was cancelled)**

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, I have used County Cllr divisional funding for the bollards at Ankerage Green to be removed and replaced with bollards.

The others will be tackled according to the priority hierarchy set out in my January report. Updates to follow.

Trotshill Lane East 'kissing gate' by A4440 toucan crossing

The metal kissing gates and barriers have been removed and bollards installed at both kissing gates, per photos below.





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 12th – 13th March (*brought forward slightly*) with full closure diversions in place for replacement of a frame & cover in footway. Emergency access will be maintained. Details at https://one.network/?tmi=GB42621381

Other County News:

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

Solar PV systems and domestic battery systems: new group purchase opportunity

'Switch Together Worcestershire', the scheme formerly known as 'Solar Together', launched late Feb 2026.

Residents, community groups and businesses are invited to participate in this group-buying scheme, which supports Worcestershire households, small businesses and community to purchase high-quality solar panels PV systems at a competitive price. Those participating will be supported through the process and kept informed at every stage.

This innovative scheme also offers the chance to purchase battery storage, either as part of a new solar PV installation or to complement an existing system.

Interested residents should visit Solar Panels | Switch Together (www.switchtogether.co.uk/solar-panels) for more information. Residents in targeted demographic groups will receive a letter about the scheme this week, but residents do not need a letter to register.

If residents have any questions, they should contact iChoosr directly via the support link on the Switch Together webpage: Support & FAQ's | Switch Together.

Worcestershire's Local Nature Recovery Strategy launched

A transformative new plan to protect and restore nature across Worcestershire has been officially published by Worcestershire County Council.

The Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) sets out an ambitious and practical roadmap to reverse biodiversity loss, restore vital habitats and reconnect wildlife-rich spaces across the county. Designed to support action at every scale, the strategy empowers residents, landowners, businesses and community groups to play a meaningful role in nature's recovery.

From simple steps such as creating hedgehog highways and wildlife-friendly ponds in gardens, to larger projects like establishing traditional orchards and restoring natural river meanders, the LNRS demonstrates that everyone can contribute.

Collectively, these actions will help tackle the ongoing decline in habitats and species while also delivering wider benefits, including cleaner air and water, healthier soils and improved natural flood management.

The LNRS forms a vital part of the national drive to establish a Nature Recovery Network, a joined-up system of wildlife-rich habitats stretching across England. Worcestershire's strategy is one of 48 being developed nationwide and identifies clear priorities and targeted actions to strengthen biodiversity at a local level while contributing to this wider national ambition.

Evidence-led and partnership-driven, the strategy has been shaped through extensive collaboration with local stakeholders, environmental organisations, land managers and community representatives.

Worcestershire County Council extends its sincere thanks to all those who have contributed to its development and looks forward to continued partnership in delivering its vision.

To explore the Local Nature Recovery Strategy and find out how you can get involved, visit the dedicated pages of our website

Worcestershire's Local Nature Recovery Strategy launched | Worcestershire County Council

Get involved to improve our adult social care services

Residents can have their say on what they think of how council adult care services are run where they live.

Get involved to improve our adult social care services | Worcestershire County Council

Extra pop-up vaccination clinics announced to boost MMR and HPV protection across Worcestershire

Children and young people in Worcestershire who missed their MMR or HPV vaccinations now have even more opportunities to catch up, with additional pop up clinics planned for March.

Weekly catch-up clinics have been running since early January, but with appointments still available, an extra clinic has now been added on Saturday, 7 March at The Hive in Worcester, that will be running from between 9am-1pm.

Further pop-up sessions in local colleges are also being explored to make it even easier for children and young people to get protected.

Measles is highly contagious and can cause serious illness at any age. It spreads easily through coughing and sneezing, and those who are unvaccinated or have not previously had the illness are most at risk.

The MMR vaccine is a safe and effective way to protect against measles, mumps, and rubella. Anyone aged 5 or over who has not had both doses can get vaccinated at the catch-up clinics.

Worcestershire continues to outperform neighbouring areas, with over 90% of children receiving both MMR doses by age five. Increasing this rate even further helps prevent outbreaks and protects vulnerable members of the community.

The HPV vaccine protects against several cancers caused by the human papillomavirus, including cervical, throat, anal, and genital cancers. In Worcestershire, more than 73% of eligible young people have received the HPV vaccine, but some may have missed out due to illness, home education, or other reasons.

The free catch-up HPV vaccine is available on the NHS for:

- Girls aged 24 and under (up to their 25th birthday)
- Boys born after 1 September 2006 (up to their 25th birthday)

Pop-up catch-up clinics in Worcestershire are running throughout the county. All available dates and locations, including the new clinic at The Hive on 7 March, can be found online at the Catch Up clinics pages of the School Vaccination UK website or search for 'catch-up clinics Worcestershire'.

Director of Public Health, Lisa McNally said: "*We're really proud of the vaccination take-up in Worcestershire, but there are still some children and young people who are not protected. Getting the jab is so easy, just search 'Catch up clinics' online to book."*

Dr George Henry, GP & Clinical Lead for NHS Herefordshire and Worcestershire, added: "*Vaccination remains the best protection for you and your family. If you or your child are overdue for an MMR or HPV jab, it's quick, free and easy to book into a catch-up clinic."*

If anyone has symptoms of measles, they should stay at home and phone their GP or NHS 111 for advice.

Please do not attend GP surgeries or A&E, to avoid spreading the illness.

For more information about measles and the MMR vaccine: Please visit the dedicated Measles pages of the NHS website.

For more information about HPV and the HPV vaccine, please visit the dedicated HPV pages of the NHS website.

Extra pop-up vaccination clinics announced to boost MMR and HPV protection across Worcestershire | Worcestershire County Council

Secondary School Places : National Offer Day 2026

Families across Worcestershire were informed on 3rd March which secondary school place has been offered for their children who start in September.

Worcestershire County Council received 6,175 applications from its residents this year and everyone who made an application for a secondary school place has received an offer of a place.

9 in 10 of Worcestershire's children will be starting secondary school in their first preference school in September. 99% of this year's secondary school applications in Worcestershire were made online by visiting the dedicated pages of the Council's website. School place offers are available to view via logging on to your account, and an email will be sent informing you of the update.

If you would like to appeal your child's school place offer, please visit the Appealing a School Place offer pages of our website and download the Appeals Information Document.

Parents are also being reminded to apply for school transport for their child/children as early as possible for the September 2026 school term. For more information, please visit the apply for school and college travel assistance pages of the County Council website.

National Offer Day 2026 | Worcestershire County Council

Worcestershire residents invited to shape the county's future waste plan

Residents, businesses and community organisations across Worcestershire are being invited to help shape a new county-wide Waste Plan, as Worcestershire County Council opens a public consultation from 25 February to 15 April 2026.

The consultation is not on the Waste Plan itself, but on the evidence gathered so far and the council's approach to preparing it.

This early engagement will help inform the development of the plan before any draft is produced.

The evidence sets out how all waste types may be managed in Worcestershire over the next 15 years and will help guide sustainable waste management and future planning decisions.

Early feedback from residents and stakeholders will help shape the plan from the outset.

The plan could influence issues that affect everyday life, such as how many recycling facilities we need and where they should be developed.

The current Waste Core Strategy Local Plan was adopted in 2012. A new Waste Plan will allow the Council to reflect changes in waste patterns, updated evidence, and national environmental targets.

The consultation closes on 15 April 2026, and responses must be received by this date to be considered. Have your say by visiting the Waste Planning Policy pages of our website.

Following the consultation, all responses will be reviewed, and a summary of comments and next steps will be published.

Worcestershire residents invited to shape the county's future waste plan | Worcestershire County Council

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05/03/2026
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