

Pebworth Parish Council
Minutes of the Annual Council Meeting of the Parish Council held
At the Village Hall, Pebworth on Monday 6th February 2023

Present: Councillors: Richard Weller (Chairman), Simon Shiers, Denise Meynell, James Pearson, John Hyde, Sam Parkins & David Cranage

In attendance: County Councillor Adams, Mrs D Bowles (Clerk)

Also in attendance: 4 members of the public.

1.	Apologies Considered for Absence: None
2.	Register of Interests: Disclosures of Interests: Members were reminded of the need to keep their register of interests updated. Members were asked to declare any Disclosable Pecuniary or other Interests in items considered in virtual meetings and their nature. Cllr Shiers declared an interest in Agenda Item 6a – Planning Application, Orchard Rise.
3.	Open Forum: The Chairman suspended the formal meeting for the Ward Members and public participation. a) 4 members of the public were in attendance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A member of the village hall spoke about the proposed play equipment; request was made for as much as possible to be dark green. - Request for VAS data to be published. These will be added to the minutes for future reference. - Member of Meon Way Residents Association had provided a report however this was too late for the February agenda. - Resident reported a major issue of mould with her new Persimmon home, as well as other issues. This doesn't fall within the remit of the Parish Council although Clerk has been requested to seek advice from Citizen Housing. b) District Councillor Havemann-Mart sent his apologies and will provide a report. The Chairman closed the open forum and reconvened the meeting at 19:25
4.	Ward Member's Report: County Councillor Adams' report is appended to the minutes. He raised a query regarding the lack of wooden material in the new play equipment. Cllr Pearson explained that one of the fundamental points made in the Legacy Grant application was that the new equipment would have a longer lifespan (and therefore would meet the 'legacy' requirements of the grant) than the current timber play equipment and the application explicitly stated that modern materials, as opposed to a predominately timber solution, would be implemented should the grant application be successful. He was advised that the contract has been awarded and would not be going back out for re-tender.
5.	Acceptance of Minutes: The Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 9 th January at the Village Hall, Pebworth were considered and approved by the Council to be a true record of the meeting and were signed by the Chairman.
6.	Planning Matters: a) W/23/00032/HP - Location: Orchard Rise, Back Lane, Pebworth, Stratford Upon Avon, CV37 8XA. Description of Proposal: Replacement two storey rear extension. Cllr Shiers did not take part in the discussion. Following a discussion it was decided to respond "No comment". b) Response to planning application W/22/02306/OUT: Pebworth Parish Council wish to raise the following points of objection on the 'Paddock off Dorsington Road' planning application (W/22/02306/OUT), particularly comparing the application to the most recently adopted local planning document, the Pebworth Neighbourhood Development Plan (PNDP) adopted September 2019. If the officer is minded to approve this application we request that this application is considered by the full planning committee. Firstly, the proposed development is outside of the village Development Boundary. ie the South Worcestershire Development Plan SWDP. The SWDP Review which has been written and widely consulted on although not yet adopted makes no changes this development boundary.

Also this application is not in line with numerous aspects of the Pebworth Neighbourhood Development Plan (PNDP) which was adopted in 2019 and therefore forms part of the statutory 'Local Development Plan' (and as such planning decisions must be taken in accordance with the adopted PNDP). It is also not in line with aspects of the SWDP, the SWDPR and the Pebworth Conservation Area Appraisal. We draw your attention to the following:

1. Site Allocation

- The site was reviewed as part of the PNDP, it was rejected on the basis that Wychavon District Council's assessment of the site was as follows (extracted from 8.12, Housing Background Paper):

The officer had highlighted potential issues with regard to the site being partly within the Conservation Area, adjacent to a Listed Building (Baldwin's Farm, Grade II), having sloping topography and a narrow access lane.

The group agreed that the constraints identified by Wychavon Planning Officers meant that this site was not suitable to consider further as an allocated site.

The PNDP assessed 18 sites against specific criteria, putting forward a shortlist of 3 sites for full public consultation, those selected sites were ranked. As a result of this consultation the SWDP1 development boundary was extended in 2019 to include part of Fibrex Nurseries which was the preferred site (now referred to as SWDP2).

The site was considered again and rejected again by which Wychavon District Council following their call for sites as part of the review of the SWDP in 2019

2. Housing Need

In terms of housing need, the PNDP references the 380 dwellings (the construction of which is well underway) at Meon Way Gardens within the parish, as well as the Meon Vale development and the Long Marston Airfield sites both of which are in close proximity to the Parish, the extracts are as follows:

(Page 13) 1.13 Important to understanding the parish's development context to 2030 is the development of a substantial new village, Meon Vale, on the site of a former army camp. The village is currently under construction and will consist of over 1000 dwellings, 800,000 square feet of employment space, a primary school and 300 holiday lodges /homes. This development lies within Stratford-on-Avon District but is immediately adjacent to Pebworth parish. Immediately adjacent to Meon Vale and within the parish, planning permission has been granted for 380 dwellings at land to the rear of Sims Metals approximately 2km east of Pebworth village.

(Page 13) 1.14 A little further north on the Long Marston airfield site within Stratford-on-Avon District the government have selected it as one of 14 Garden Villages in the Country. It will become a settlement of approximately 3500 dwellings.

As a further point on need, the PNDP identified, through the residents' questionnaires, support for small scale housing development of approx. 10 dwellings to meet specific needs including smaller bungalows or housing for older people, starter homes, homes for young families and affordable market homes. The part Q permissions in relation to New Buildings Farm Priory Lane, Broad Marston, Pebworth in 2022 (ref W/22/01149/GPDQ and W/22/01150/GPDQ) have already delivered permission for 5 residences, when combined with other permissions since the date of adoption of the PNDP the agreed need in the PNDP has been met.

In addition, in the adjacent parish of Honeybourne (within Wychavon District) 60 dwellings are currently under construction within 2 kilometres of Pebworth Parish.

3. Views

On page 12 the PNDP highlights:

1.6 Views to surrounding farmland and the presence of green spaces running through the village are important to its open character. Significant tree planting in the village, along with hedges, soft verges and the green spaces connect the village with the surrounding open countryside.

	<p>Expansive views of the local traditional landscape including historic field patterns and ridge and furrow, toward Long Marston and Meon Hill from the Slingate Footpath (522C) off Dorsington Road are noted in the Neighbourhood Development Plan. See map of viewpoints on page 58 and references in the Important Views Assessment on page 59.</p> <p>The Pebworth Conservation Area Appraisal also notes the “Significant Views” to the South over the site towards the listed buildings of Baldwins Farm and St Peter’s Church at the village centre. See Pebworth Conservation Area Appraisal map page 29.</p> <p>Also important views from Dorsington Road are referred to on page 16 of the Conservation Appraisal: “The principal views of the Conservation Area from outside are from the high approach roads from Dorsington to the north and North Littleton to the west. From these directions the village is visible within its countryside setting, and the highest part of the village around the church which is set against the skyline.”</p> <p>4. Green spaces As referenced on page 16 of the PNPD: 2.19 Open green space is a really important feature in and around the settlements of Pebworth and Broad Marston and adds to their quality and distinctiveness. The parish is predominantly rural in nature, with an abundance of open countryside surrounding each of the settlements.</p> <p>5. Green Infrastructure The PNPD page 17 highlights that in terms of Green Infrastructure,: 2.23 In terms of the SWDP Green Infrastructure (GI) Environmental Character Areas, the parish is predominantly defined as Protect and Restore with some areas defined as Restore and Create. This means that any development should not be permitted that has a detrimental impact on important GI attributes unless it can be demonstrated that it is surplus to requirements or a replacement will be provided.</p> <p>6. Ecology The PNPD highlights in a number of sections the importance of biodiversity and wildlife corridors and habitats within the parish (see references on Page 41, P6. Active Travel and Biodiversity; Page 41, 3.0; Page 17, 2.24; Page 34, 4 (a) and 4(b). Given the proximity to the large pond (adjacent to the south side on the site) inhabited by important wildlife, and the impact on the hedgerows which will be affected by the visibility splays the development is not in line with the biodiversity aims of the PNPD.</p> <p>7. The Need for Self build sites Wychavon District Council has satisfied and exceeded the need for self build sites within its district.</p> <p>8. Sustainability Pebworth is listed as a category 3 village within the SWDP and SWDPR. It has very few facilities no shop, very limited bus services. Increased travel by car will result from this development therefore it cannot be considered as sustainable.</p>
7.	<p>Finance:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Council noted no payments had been made since the last meeting. Council approved the schedule of payments to be made by internet banking as appended to the minutes. Council noted Wychavon District Council has confirmed receipt of the precept request of £42,350 which will result in a Band D charge of £82.49 on the 2023-24 Council Tax Demand, an increase of 0% compared with the current year's charge. Council noted the draft audit report from DKE Audit Services.
8.	<p>Council & Community Matters:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Clerk received an email with various requests: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To provide dog bins. Clerk has contacted Persimmon Homes to see if they are willing to provide two dog bins for Meon Way Gardens at a cost of £350 each. Awaiting a response. There will be an annual emptying charge which will fall under the Parish Council remit, along with the installation costs. - Streetlighting – Clerk to contact District Cllr Havemann-Mart to investigate lighting plans.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Speeding/car parking on Back Lane – whilst this doesn't fall under the Parish Council remit, Clerk to write to the school and the nursery. b) The Worcestershire Green Infrastructure Strategy Consultation was noted. <i>(emailed 24.1.23)</i> c) Two quotes were considered for the repair of the Town Pool Car Park. It was resolved for Clerk to issue a PO to S Power. Clerk to advise that the area will need to be coned off. d) It was noted the Parish Games representative position is to be shared.
9.	<p>Pebworth in Bloom: A late agenda item was received regarding tree planting which Members agreed to discuss due to the urgency of the timing of planting trees. The proposal was discussed in detail - the oaks opposite Friday Street and by the MUGA were refused, the proposed oak by the orchard was agreed, and two oak trees along the allotment line were proposed. It was resolved for Cllr Shiers to report this decision back to PIB.</p>
10.	<p>The Close & Recreation Field</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Members noted the annual inspection is due to take place in March. As the new equipment is due to be installed Clerk has decided to postpone this inspection, however the Recreation Field inspection will go ahead. b) Members noted one quote had been received for the post installation inspection of the new equipment, despite Clerk contacting several companies. This inspection will also include the annual inspection of remaining equipment. It was resolved for Clerk to issue a PO. c) Members noted a meeting has been arranged for Thursday 9th February to discuss timescales of delivery for the new play equipment on The Close etc. Members reviewed the Wicksteed proposal in advance of this meeting with slight changes being made. Clerk to provide to Wicksteed prior to the meeting.
11.	<p>Cemetery: An email has been received from a resident requesting to purchase 2 burial plots. As per the rules of the burial ground this has been declined.</p>
12.	<p>Allotments: Nothing to report.</p>
13.	<p>Streetlighting: Nothing to report.</p>
14.	<p>Highway Matters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Members noted Highways are considering Grasscrete blocks for the verge opposite the school. They are also looking at the possibility of realigning the kerb but are awaiting the result of an Engineer's survey. a) To note VAS pole on Back Lane is due to be installed 1st Feb – Cllr Hyde reported that this has not yet been installed. Clerk to query.
15.	<p>Lengthsman/Handyman Matters:</p> <p>Members noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Headwalls/outfalls have been cleared at Priory Lane and Green Lane - Bridge grills have been cleared at The Close - New golf net at the Recreation Field has been installed - Repairs made to noticeboards at Broadmarston and top of Pebworth. <p>New and outstanding Lengthsman/Handyman matters:</p> <p>Future Tasks: Two bollards on Front St to be replaced</p>
16.	<p>Public Rights of Way: Nothing to report.</p>
17.	<p>Policy Reviews: Members reviewed and accepted the following policies with no change:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Health & Safety b) Complaints c) Publication Scheme d) Handling Requests for Information e) Retention of Documents & Records Management
18.	<p>Matters Raised by Members: The following matters were raised by Council Members for consideration for future agendas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Allotment rules to be reconsidered at the ACM.
19.	<p>Date of Next Meeting: Council confirmed the date of the next Ordinary Parish Council Meeting on Monday 6th March 2023 at 7.00pm in the Village Hall, Pebworth.</p>
20.	<p>Closure of Meeting: The Chairman closed the meeting at 21:10 hrs</p>

Chairman: _____ Date: _____

FINANCEVerified & Confirmed Account Balances as at 19th January

Treasurers Account	2,057.92
Business Bank Instant	42,695.72
Total	44,753.64

APPENDIX A

PAYMENT	PAYEE	DETAILS	TOTAL	VAT	NET
BACS	HMRC	Clerk & P C Tax & NIC	***		***
BACS	Mrs D Bowles	Clerk's Salary & Expenses	***		***
BACS	Mr J Hyde	Lengthsman Works	67.60		67.60
BACS	Mr J Hye	Handyman Works	108.75		108.75
BACS	Fairview Trading	Parts	16.86	2.81	14.05
BACS	BPS	Parts	13.60	2.27	11.33
DD	Nest	Clerk's Pension	54.76		54.76
DD	Ionos	Email	6.00	1.00	5.00
DD	O2	Mobile Phone	14.74	2.46	12.28
DD	Yu Energy	Streetlight Energy	47.84	2.28	45.56
DD	Yu Energy	Streetlight Energy	239.52	11.41	228.11

VAS Information

Honeybourne Road

Project Notes:

Location/Name: Incoming

Report Generated: 17/01/2023 11:57

Speed Intervals 5 MPH

Time Intervals Instant

Traffic Report From 31/12/2022 12:00:00 through 17/01/2023 11:59:59

85th Percentile Speed 43.2 MPH

85th Percentile Vehicles 5052 Max Speed 65 MPH on 04/01/2023 18:15:00

Total Vehicles 5943

AADT: 349

Volumes - weekly counts

	Time	5 Day	7 Day
Average Daily		351	335
AM Peak	08:00	32	25
PM Peak	04:00	33	30

Speed

Speed limit : 30

85th Percentile Speed: 43.2
 50th Percentile Speed: 35
 5 MPH Pace Interval: 35.0 to 40.0 MPH
 Average Speed: 34.94

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
Count over limit	714	701	597	516	566	666	660
% over limit	69.7	76.4	74.4	77.7	74.6	79.9	70.1
Avg Speeder	38.2	38.2	38.7	38.8	38.8	38.4	37.7

County Councillor Report – Pebworth
Month: February 2023
Prepared by Alastair Adams
Littletons Division, Worcestershire County Council

Dear All

The start of the New Year saw heavy rain on 12th January. The good news is the flood alleviation schemes completed last year mostly worked

- a. there was no flooding at the Gate crossroads in Honeybourne.
- b. similarly no flooding of any houses or gardens in Broad Marston

The not so good news is flooding did occur under the 2 bridges on the Stratford Rd. The water was about 2 foot deep at the worst but quickly dissipated once the rain stopped. I got Highways to jet the drains under the bridges the following day, and they think the pipe that runs from the gullies along the rail embankment is partially blocked. The maintenance of this length of pipe is the responsibility of Network Rail, and Highways are liaising with them to get it cleared or replaced.



Worcestershire County Council 2023/24 Budget & Council Tax announcement

Worcestershire County Council's draft net budget of £400 million was given the green light to go forward for consultation this month.

The budget also includes the draft capital programme of £413 million to ensure the Council can continue its ambitious programme of improvements across the county and deliver the priorities previously agreed.

As part of the draft budget proposals which will close the financial gap, the Council is also considering an uplift to Council Tax. The proposed 2.94% uplift in Council Tax will help continue to fund the increased costs of delivering the improvements residents and businesses want to see and a 2.00% uplift in the rate for the Adult Social Care levy will support vulnerable adults.

Worcestershire County Council Leader, Councillor Simon Geraghty, said: *"I recognise this year will be a tough one for many people across the County. The Council is facing similar challenges too from the impact of inflation on costs and increasing demand for services adding significantly to the pressure on our budget.*

"With more vulnerable people needing our support than ever before, and with the cost of this care increasing significantly, our budget for next year needs to reflect this added pressure.

"Government is providing much-needed additional funding, and we have a programme of further efficiencies and reform, but the rising costs and demand on our key services have meant we need to propose a rise in council tax for next year to be able to continue to fund essential services.

"Our council tax is one of the lowest of any County Council in the country and with most councils predicted to increase their council tax due to similar pressures, we will remain one of the lowest.

"The additional funding from this proposed increase will mean we can continue to deliver vital children and adult social care to protect the most vulnerable in our communities. It will also enable us to maintain our capital commitments to invest in the priorities that are most important to our residents. These include better roads and pavements, tackling congestion and improving public transport alongside investments in the economy, environment and extra school places."

The proposed Council budget includes a record additional £16.4 million investment into Adult Social Care, £10.1 million into Children's Services and a further £5.5 million investment in funding capital projects to support corporate priorities, including Economy and Environment priorities. The budget also includes an additional £500,000 to enable minor works to be actioned more quickly such as the pruning of highway trees and the replacing of damaged street furniture and signs.

The Council is also proposing to invest £3.5 million in 2023/24 to support Public Transport (including local buses) as it recovers from the pandemic. This is on top of the £1.5 million commitment made in 2022/23 with further work being carried out to explore how this can also be met with greater use of community transport options, such as exists in Bromsgrove and Malvern.

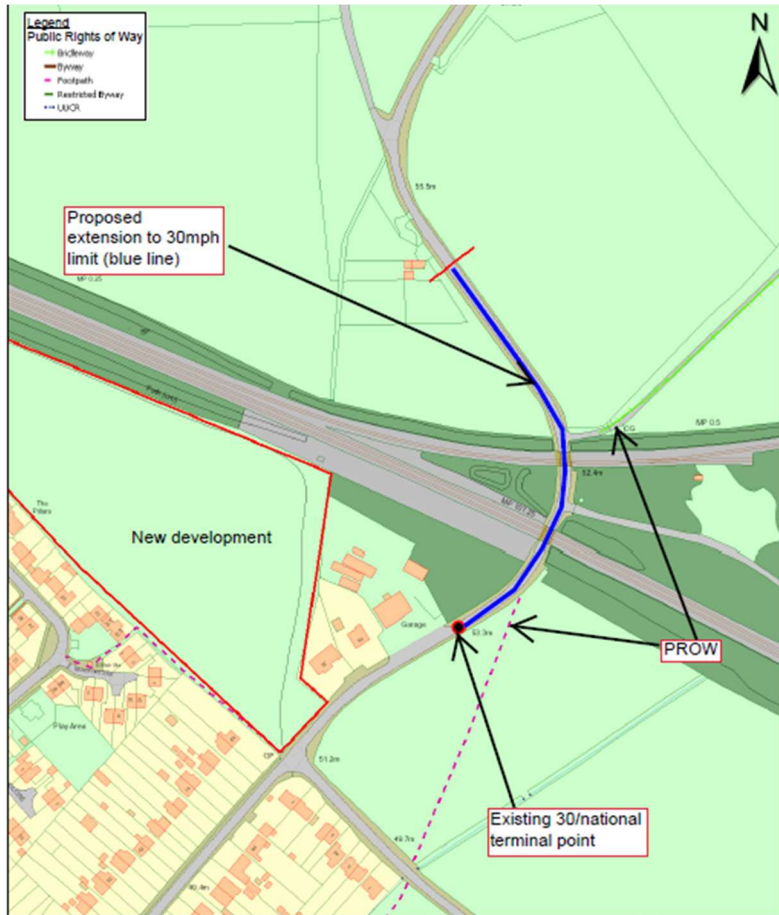
The proposals also see a continuation of the capital programme set by the Council last February as well as new Government funded schemes, such as the A38 Bromsgrove Route Enhancement Programme.

The proposed budget for 2023/24 is set to be discussed again at Cabinet in early February before being considered by County Councillors at the Full Council Meeting on 16 February.

Highways:

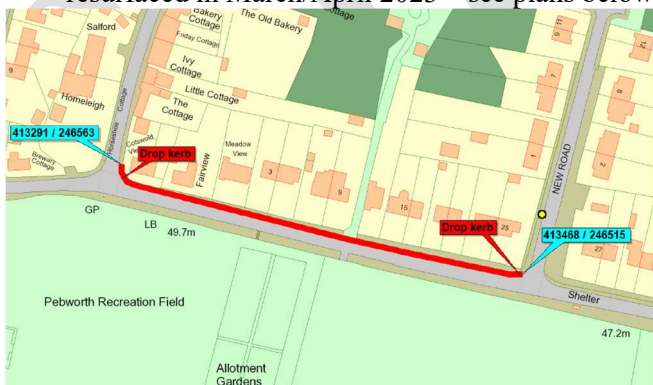
There are still road closures so please check <https://one.network/> to see all the temporary road closures on a regular basis.

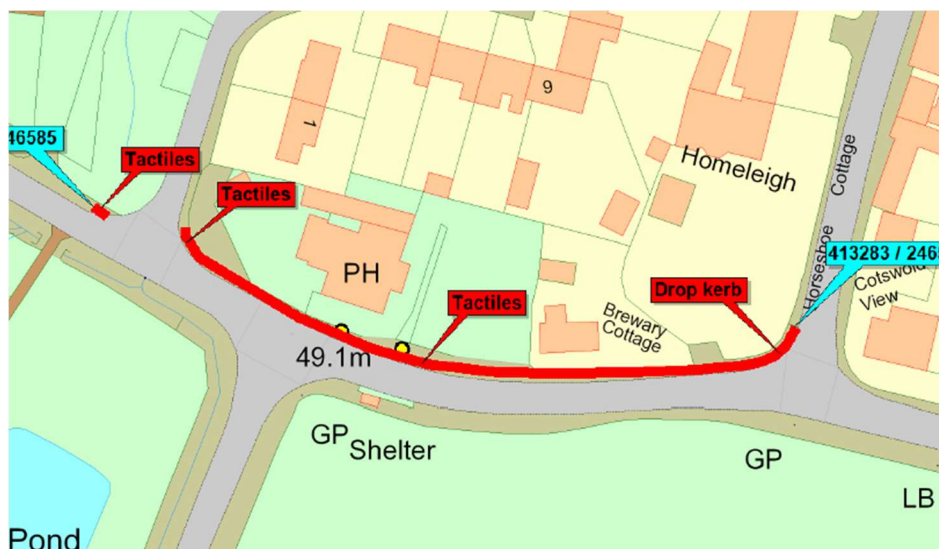
30MPH speed limit from Badhams to be extended along Stratford Rd towards Pebworth – see map above.



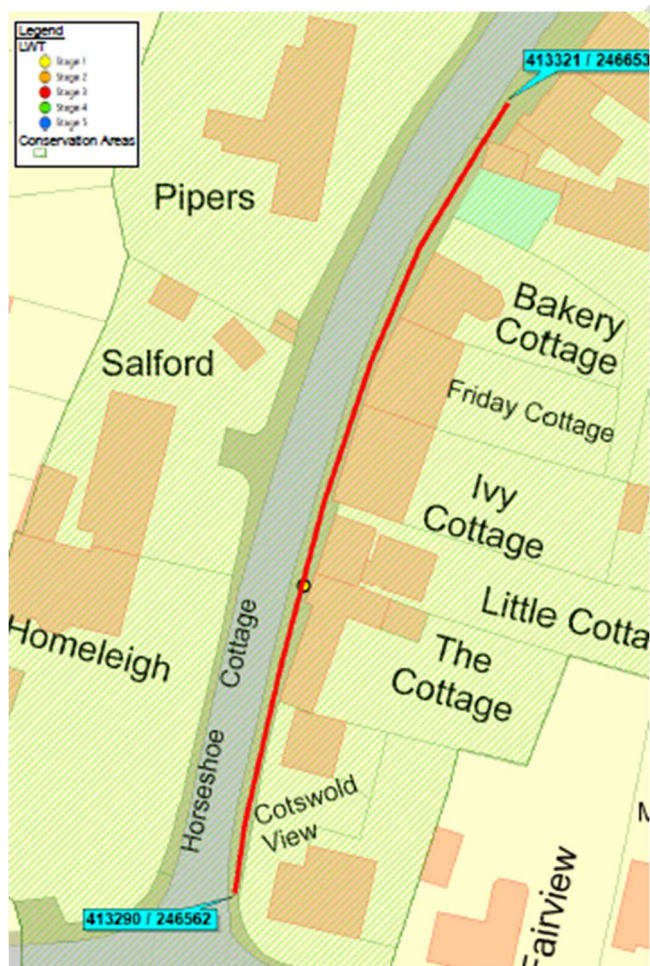
So

- The pavements near the pub in Broad Marston Rd & Chapel Rd and now Friday street to be resurfaced in March/April 2023 – see plans below.





Plan below shows the extent of the resurfacing in Friday Street – please note I have reminded Highways to retain the blue lias kerb stones as in Conservation Area.



- The Cracks on the pavements in Front Street and Chapel Rd are to be treated with a new mastic filler as a trial. The works were going to be on 10th Feb but have had to be postponed due to staffing issues.
- The owner of the car in the Pool Car Park Toyota M14 YSY which has no tax or MOT and has not moved for over a year, has assured me it will be removed from the car park this month
- **REMINDER – to ask the lengthsman to keep all the road gullies clear of leaves and debris**

As always, if you have any issues on any Highways matters, please report it on the WCC website http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/homepage/98/report_it

Also remember a photo of the Highways problem is as good as “a thousand words” so always take a photo where possible.

County Council Divisional Fund

Applications for the Divisional Fund are invited from local community organisations that are manned by volunteers and require a little help to buy equipment or services. To apply, please contact me. PLEASE HURRY AS FUND WILL END VERY SOON.

Grants processed so far:

1. The Pebworth Collective – for the Platinum Jubilee celebrations
2. Honeybourne Bowls Club – new mat and storage
3. Honeybourne Cricket Club – Cricket equipment
4. 1st Littleton Scout Group – improvements to the toilets
5. Cleeve Prior Heritage Trust – Poetry books for school visits
6. Cleeve Prior – contribution to security to the Marquee over the Jubilee Weekend.
7. Pebworth in Bloom – contribution to developing the wetlands area at Wesley Gardens
8. Bretforton Show – display boards
9. Offenham Village Hall – new foldable tables
10. Littletons Village Hall – new cupboards
11. Littletons Juniors – new goal posts
12. Meon View Residents Association – grant for the Children’s Halloween event
13. Offenham Cricket Club – contribution to mower
14. Badsey Rangrs Football Club – new nets
15. Bowers Hill Residents Association Badsey – new batteries and pad for their defibrillator
16. Honeybourne Village Fete Committee – grant for portable loos
17. Friends of the Honeybourne School - grant for new IT

New VeloPark is now open in Evesham

It is a £2m investment and fantastic new park offering 1km closed road circuit, pump track, all-ability circuit, cyclo-cross course, & a learn to ride track.

Read more <https://eveshamvelopark.co.uk/>

Cost of Living Help – Energy cap

Every household will receive £400 over six months starting from October 2022 to help with the cost of living. The first payment of £66 was paid in October 2022 and you should have seen it as a credit on your electricity bill.

In addition the following government help is available;-

- £650 one-off cost of living payment for those on means tested benefits such as Universal Credit or Pension Credit. See <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/cost-of-living-payment>
- An additional £300 one-off pensioner cost of living payment for pensioners in receipt of the Winter Fuel Allowance to be paid in November 2022
- £150 one-off disability cost of living payment for people in receipt of disability benefits.

For more information see <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/cost-of-living-payment>

And for details on the Energy Bills Support Scheme see

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/energy-bills-support-scheme-explainer>

STOP PRESS – It is good news that the village has won £80,000 for the replacement of the Playground equipment, however I have had some comments from various residents that the brightly coloured plastic and steel scheme agreed at last month's Parish Council might not be appropriate for the rural setting and in keeping with the Conservation Area or Neighbourhood Development Plan. The current wooden structure does fit in well in the rural setting and is very similar to the wonderful wooden playground equipment in Broadway. Please can the PC review the completed questionnaires that were circulated to every house last May as many residents have told me they assumed the replacement play equipment would be very similar to what is there now; ie wood.

Your County Councillor, Alastair Adams can be contacted on adams.pebworth@gmail.com or mobile 07725 979 277 or www.alastairadams.org

DRAFT