



Mrs Angela Preece
Clerk to Churchill and
Blakedown Parish Council

Wyre Forest Rural District Councillors
Cllr Marcus J Hart
Cllr Ian D Hardiman
Cllr Lisa Jones
Tel: 01562 851769
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my ref: MJH
your ref: APNov2020
Date: 6th November 2020

Dear Angela

Churchill and Blakedown Parish Council Meeting – 9th November 2020

Please find enclosed herewith our report for circulation to the Parish Councillors and reading at the meeting as follows:-

Local Issues

We have been dealing with the usual routine casework, fly tipping and litter picking on the main A roads and along the country lanes.

In particular, we are regularly dealing with fly tipping in Waggon Lane, Crown Lane and Stakenbridge Lane.

In respect of Bringstye Honey Farm, Deansford Lane, 20/00291/ENF officers are dealing with the agent regarding the retrospective planning application and the alleged creation of a car park to the rear of the property is being investigated and it is anticipated an application in respect of this and the entrance will be coming forward soon.

Obviously the planning application for an agricultural building on land on Perriford Lane is live and ongoing!

Wyre Forest District Issues

As you are of course aware due to the particular relevance to this Parish, regarding The Local Plan, the Public Hearings by the Planning Inspector will begin being held from Monday 11th January on selected days into early February 2021. Information can be found on the Wyre Forest District Council website.

Please respond to the The Government's Planning White Paper consultation, we believe this paper is ill-conceived and feel that actually it will be amended and we understand many MP's have concerns and feel that this is at least a consultation and that there is a lot of water to go under the bridge before it receives Royal Assent! Please have your say and feel free to give your views on this to our MP Mark Garnier. WFDC's overview and scrutiny panel also looked at this matter.

The Progressive Alliance who presently run the Administration of the District Council are to hold a Public Consultation on their intention to make the activity that the District Council undertakes smaller, inevitably entailing redundancies and the transferring of services to Town and Parish Councils. This consultation will run from 11th November. The Cabinet is meeting on Tuesday 10 November to discuss its plans and approve the consultation.

We are very concerned at the scale of some of the reductions.

The Progressive Alliance want to make home working the norm post Covid and we have some concerns regarding this. This matter was looked at by the cross party overview and scrutiny panel recently and overwhelmingly voted for the Cabinet to look again at this matter and recommend to Council that this process is paused and looked at further in April 2021 when hopefully we will have a clearer picture on Covid.

The Progressive Alliance want to look at a commissioning a business case to look at options to sell all or part of Wyre Forest House!

Local residents and businesses are being urged to share their views about Kidderminster as part of a major consultation to shape the future of the town centre. Town centres throughout the UK have and continue to experience the challenges of a societal shift in changing shopping habits as well as the influence of Covid-19.

The online survey launching on Thursday 5 November at 9am at www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk/towncentresurvey is an opportunity for anyone who lives, visits, works in or has a view about Kidderminster to have their say on how they think the town centre could be made into a better place over the next twenty years. It is designed to establish current views on the town and includes questions about shopping habits before and during the Coronavirus pandemic, reasons to visit the town and more.

Wyre Forest House is still closed to the public as is the Green Street Hub save for dealing with housing and homelessness applications.

Shoppers can take advantage of free parking at all Wyre Forest District Council car parks after 3pm during the festive period. The Christmas parking offer is running from Friday 20 November to Sunday 3 January 2021. It does not included Weavers Wharf.

There will be no Christmas light switch-on ceremonies in Kidderminster, Stourport or Bewdley this year due to the Coronavirus pandemic.

If you have any issues you would like us to deal with, please do not hesitate to contact us.

With our very best wishes.

Yours sincerely

Cllr. Marcus J Hart
Cllr. Ian D Hardiman
Cllr. Lisa J Jones
Wyre Forest Rural Ward Councillors