

DC's Report 15th March 2022 to Churchill & Blakedown Parish Council

(Presented by Cllr Ian Hardiman)

Wyre Forest District issues:

Members have approved the Council tax for 2022-23. This includes the 2.23% increase of £5 on a Band D property at £229.34 in the District Council's element of Council Tax, as recommended by Cabinet on 8th February 2022, the precepts and council tax in the elements of Council Tax set by the following bodies =

Worcs County Council 3.94% (of which 3% is being ringfenced to fund adult social care) £52.95.

West Mercia Police & Crime Commissioner 3.94% - £9.47.

HWFRA 1.96% - £1.72.

With the rising energy bills the Government has announced support with a one-off payment of £150 rebate for Council Taxpayers in bands A-D. The Council is urging residents to sign up to the scheme and pay their bill by Direct Debit.

The Council's Budget for 2022-2025 was approved and Capital Strategy for 2022-2023. The Progressive Alliance Budget includes the closing of the Small Business Grant scheme, to end the support of sport and leisure facilities from April 2023 phasing out involvement in Bewdley Leisure Centre and Stourport Sports Club. This was approved by 17 votes to 16!

Members' Community funding will be reduced from £1,000 per annum to £500 in the financial year 2022-23 and Nil thereafter.

The Parliamentary Boundary Commission consultation for 2023 is underway; proposals for the district including changing the constituency name from Wyre Forest to Kidderminster; residents have until Monday 4th April to send in their comments. The website for this is – bcereviews.org.uk

Local Issues:

Fly-Tipping, Bridleway between Rocky lane & Waggon Lane:

Parish Cllr John Lorton kindly joined me to help locate the position of the 17 tyres and wheels fly-tipped here. I duly reported them to WFDC and received a reference number. I subsequently received an advice stating that unfortunately no evidence was found by the enforcement team to identify the culprits. However, on Monday 14th March, I visited the scene again and found that the tyres and wheels are still present. I have therefore sent an email to the District Council's Operational Services Supervisor expressing my concern.

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