

Clerk Louise Harris  
Clerk to Churchill and Blakedown Parish Council

9<sup>th</sup> September 2024

Dear Louise,

**Re: Churchill and Blakedown Parish Council Meeting – 10<sup>th</sup> September 2024**

I hope everyone had an enjoyable summer.

Please find my report for reading at the meeting and circulation to Parish Councillors.

**Churchill and Blakedown Issues**

1. WCC are taking action regarding cones, rocks and wooden posts reappearing in which I have reported and WCC have reported this to the police. Hayley has now spoken to the SNT and they have investigated. They will require evidence to prosecute. The SNT have now stated that they do not currently consider this an obstruction of the highway. The SNT have stated WCC can continue to send letters and will accompany Hayley to deliver one, but this is the action we have already taken including physical removal of the objects. Hayley is looking at this issue still as WCC and I feel there is an obstruction of the highway. Hayley is still pursuing this and it is ongoing. I have spoken with Hayley and there is still no further update available at the moment.
2. Double yellow lines at the junction of Gladstone Place and the Belbroughton Road have now been installed and been in situ for a little over 1 month. I have received no complaints and observed no issues with these. The only thing is that I have received several comments regarding the need for double yellow lines opposite but WCC highways won't do this. I want to keep this situation under review and see how much of a problem parked vehicles opposite the junction is as sometimes there is a van parked there and sometimes there isn't.
3. WCC have still not been able to recruit a crossing patrol (lollipop lady/man) for the Primary School despite advertising gain and making it clear this could be a job share.
4. Regarding the ponding on Station Drive the kerbing realignment,

new drain and resurfacing work has now been done. It was delayed from the original date as WCC were awaiting consent from Network Rail.

5. The narrowness at 10 Churchill Lane has been inspected and obviously there is no scope to widen the carriageway but WCC will be installing a matching narrowing sign on the other side, near to Mill Lane junction. Date is still TBC but I am advised by Hayley it is imminent.
  6. The work to do a complete edge of carriageway scheme the whole length of Deansford Lane has now been completed. The work at the A456 end was delayed due to consents being outstanding from utilities and Network Rail. The work was completed last week and you will see significant highway patching, additional kerbing and highway verge bollards and edge of carriageway patching and top soil bulking up the verges in places.
  7. The removal of the damaged bollards, sandbags and cones in the refuge on the A456 outside the Primary School and the replacement with new bollards has now taken place. I have asked for a blue backed directional arrow sign to be raised on a pole so as to warn HGV's well in advance of the refuge.
  8. I continue to report speeding issues throughout the Parish to the police and was pleased when I was on the A456 in August the camera van was there.
  9. The pavement along Churchill Lane from the railway line up to Stoney Lane has been inspected and it will be patched. The location of the advisory is around the Baytree House and Damas House area. I am just awaiting a date.
  10. I have met local residents in Churchill Lane regarding trees along the lane towards the junction of the A456. WCC are going to undertake a safety inspection.
  11. I have reported hedges overhanging the pavement on Churchill Lane and the A456 to WCC for inspection and to ask them to make contact with the landowners again.
  12. I have recently received complaints about tress overhanging Churchill Lane and have asked WCC highways to inspect.
  13. I have asked for permanent barriers on the A456 as opposed to the temporary red and white plastic ones. I am still awaiting an update and this is ongoing.
  14. I am delighted the pavement on the A456 (Swan PH) side out of the village towards Kidderminster has been resurfaced last week when it was scheduled. As yet there is no date for the pavement outside the Waggon and Horses and on the other side of the road near Ismere House but I am advised trial siding out is taking place in November and the pavement will be resurfaced in 24-25.
  15. I have received a complaint from a resident regarding the Belbroughton Road and that drivers speed through the bollards. I have to say I have seen this but I have also seen the overwhelming majority of motorists drive appropriately and considerately. I drive this road at least 6 times a week and observe driver behaviour here. Other than ask the police to undertake speed enforcement here which I have done repeatedly I cannot really do anything else.
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16. I have received reports of overhanging hedges obstructing the pavement between Blakedown and Hagley and have asked for these to be inspected.
17. The lining scheme for the car park spaces at the station is still ongoing. Hayley is trying to get someone from Ringway the contractor to confirm how many spaces they feel they can safely have marked out. This is still ongoing as I am awaiting to hear.
18. I have been contacted by a number of residents concerned re: road safety outside the Primary School and met a parent on site last week to discuss this issue. I have asked for the barriers to be repaired. The only thing I can do is ask WCC to consider the installation of a further pelican crossing outside the school. The existing one will not be moved. This is located as it is as it serves the whole of the village. I am going to ask if there is any s.106 funding from the station Drive residential development.
19. I had asked for Roxall Close and Lynwood Drive pavements to be inspected and minor repair work has been undertaken.
20. I have reported blocked drains for emptying across the Parish.
21. I have reported the verge and hedges for cutting along the A456 from Kidderminster to Blakedown and these have been done. There was a safety cut outside Hodgehill about 4 weeks ago too in addition.
22. I have reported damaged bollards in Hurcott Lane for repair following an RTC.
23. I have a meeting with the Police and Crime Commissioner, police and highways to discuss speed enforcement across my division, including Churchill and Blakedown on 26<sup>th</sup> September. I will specifically be raising the lack of enforcement on Stakenbridge Lane.
24. I still do get complaints about Churchill Crossroads. WCC's road safety team have confirmed that it would be dangerous to change the priority and would risk shunt accidents and Staknbridge Lane is the busier road

### **Wyre Forest Issues**

Bewdley Bridge continues to operate one way over the bridge into the town for approximately 18 months whilst the Environment Agency (EA) undertake the work for the construction of the flood defences. This is now circa a £9.3m scheme, of which £500k is from WCC and the rest from the EA. The Government increased the capital funding by an additional £1.5m from the original funding grant for additional work.

### **Strategic Issues County Wide**

The Boundary Commission which was due to report with its final proposals on 1<sup>st</sup> July was delayed due to the General Election announced them on 9<sup>th</sup> July. I am very pleased to report that there were no changes to any of the Wyre Forest divisions from the draft proposals and Chaddesley Division remains named as is and continues to include the Parishes of :-

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Broome  
Chaddesley Corbett  
Churchill and Blakedown  
Rushock  
Stone

Together with the Spennells Estate but now to include the Lea Castle Development too. Elections for WCC will be held on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2025.

County Hall is closed whilst contractors assess the scale of the RAAC issue. At its July cabinet meeting, Cabinet approved a budget for this work to be undertaken. We should know more as to the scale of the problem and potential cost over the next month or so.

Formal meeting of the Council continue to be held at other District council venues across Worcestershire, primarily Wychavon DC, Wyre Forest DC and Bromsgrove DC.

Front line highways, children's and adult social care staff, together with senior officers are based in Wildwood which is a building adjacent to the County Hall campus of which WCC have a lease on. Approximately 250 staff are based here.

WCC is implementing the final stage of a HR process which sees circa 150 staff who have been in the same post since pre 2011 be dismissed and re-engaged on a 35 hour per week contract as opposed to a 37 hour contract to bring them in line with all other WCC employees not in exempt posts.

WCC undertook residents road shows throughout the summer cross the county.

Yours sincerely,



**Cllr. Marcus J. Hart**  
**County Councillor – Chaddesley Division**

Copy to: District Cllr. Robin M. Drew, Wyre Forest District Council  
District Cllr. Ian D. Hardiman, Wyre Forest District Council  
District Cllr. Marcus J. Hart, Wyre Forest District Council

**Marcus Hart**  
**Deputy Leader**  
**and Cabinet**  
**Member with**  
**Responsibility for**  
**Corporate and**  
**Communications**

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