

Clerk Louise Harris  
Clerk to Churchill and Blakedown Parish Council

7<sup>th</sup> December 2025

Dear Louise,

**Re: Churchill and Blakedown Parish Council Meeting – 9<sup>th</sup> December 2025**

Please find my report for reading at the meeting and circulation to Parish Councillors and accept my apologies as I am at another meeting.

**Churchill and Blakedown Issues**

**Ongoing Issues**

1. I have asked for permanent barriers on the A456 as opposed to the temporary red and white plastic ones. This is still being considered, in essence there appears to be no budget / agreement on what the end position was going to be. I will pursue but will take a while.
2. I continue to report blocked drains for emptying across the Parish. There is a broken connection on one on the A456 near the Swan PH and following the jetting work remedial work is required and this is now scheduled for later in the year. It hasn't been done yet and I am chasing!
3. The work on the gully on the A456 dual carriageway as you head in the Kidderminster which is broken which I was told will be repaired this autumn hasn't been. It has been on the list for a while for a scheme of work as the gully blocks and ponds here when we have flash flooding. It hasn't been done yet and I am chasing!
4. WCC highways were waiting for heavy down pours before inspecting Station Drive. This has now been done and response as follows:-  
  
"I visited the other side of the road with a technician from maintenance, where water is pooling, the new gully is slightly higher than the road, I understand that this was because the fall is so shallow, the gully couldn't go any lower. I will update you further once they have had time to consider next steps.
5. A number of residents have raised the road safety along Stakenbridge Lane by the railway bridge. I asked WCC highways to do a HGV count with a view to pushing for a weight restriction. The last count was in 2023 and I have argued that volume has gone up since then. I now have the results which I have attached herewith to this report but sadly it doesn't meet the criteria

again. The number of HGVs, over 7.5 tonnes, as a percentage of the overall flow is 1.69%. The WCC policy on the consideration of a weight restriction TRO requires that this figure be at least 5% (beneath this is typical in terms of proportion of vehicles that could be servicing an area. Obviously, such HGVs requiring access would be exempt from this type of restriction). This 5% figure is also dependent on a minimum of 50 HGVs.

6. A local resident has contacted me regarding the dead trees and overhanging trees in Crown Lane and I have reported these for inspection. I am told these have been inspected now as has the Yew Tree check. There is a lot of work to be done here and dead trees will be removed. Some trees are on WCC land and some are on private land and WCC will liaise with private land owners. This is ongoing.
7. One or two new 'police notice no station parking' are on going.
8. I have been lobbying on behalf of residents regarding broadband connection having been contacted by residents and I contacted the relevant officer at WCC. I did receive a full response and have asked WCC to liaise with BT Openreach regarding this issue. Planning permission is not required but WCC can comment on locations on the grounds of highway safety.
9. A stage 2 hedge letter was sent to a landowner regarding the hedge on the A456/Churchill Lane junction. This expired on 31<sup>st</sup> October and so the Green Team are looking at this. I am chasing that they will cut the hedge back and seek to recharge the resident. I am very unhappy as this seems to be a constant battle.
10. Regarding the Stakenbridge Lane pavement from the railway bridge towards Churchill that has not been resurfaced I have now had this assessed and I am told that it can be done for circa £22,000 which happens to be my devolved allocation for pavement resurfacing in my division for 25-26 so I have allocated this. I have now been given a date for the work of 1<sup>st</sup> April 2026.
11. As you were aware there were yet more temporary lights in Blakedown, I am sure locals and commuters alike are fed up with this, but little I can do I am afraid. To compound matters the lights were extended for a third week. Pleasingly the work has of course now been completed and at least houses that have been empty for well over a decade are being brought back into life. Suffice to say, I received much email traffic and FB messages and I was on to WCC highways very regularly who sent inspectors out virtually every day to monitor traffic flow, waiting times and the works.
12. I have been contacted by a resident who has had no joy in contacting WCC re: a dropped kerb application and I have now assisted them in liaison with WFDC

## **New Issues**

1. The clerk raised with me a new issue in relation to the flooding on Birmingham Road in Blakedown at the bottom of the hill. Dean from WCC reports, "I've been informed today that the gullies have been inspected and are all fine. There is debris and silt at the location and I have submitted a request to WFDC to have the area swept. The Clerk stated that there is a soak away at the location, I am
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trying to confirm this and look into it accordingly in case this needs work doing here.”

2. A resident had contacted me about a gully being covered in tarmac at the junction of the new development of Pauline Hayward Drive with Station Drive.

Dean reports, “I’ve been to visit the site manager, the gully has been fully removed and they have installed new gullies within the development. The raised road entry into the new development will be lowered in due course so that surface water should run away from Station Drive into the new gullies.

They will also be making new footways either side of the new development entrance and extending to the main road and the telephone exchange so once all done, there will hopefully be no more water issues in that immediate area.”

3. I have been assisting a resident regarding the ownership of a large Oak tree at 79/81 Belbroughton Road, it is not the subject of a TPO nor is it owned by either WFDC or WCC so is on private land.
4. I have been in liaison with WCC and the Christmas Tree field owner in Churchill Lane to make sure there is sufficient signage to show the business is open as usual for access from the A456 Birmingham Road end. Obviously, there is Cadent works up to 19<sup>th</sup> December and there is no access from the Churchill Crossroads end.
5. I have been contacted by a resident with concerns regarding speeding along the B4188 Belbroughton Road. They have asked about speed enforcement and average speed cameras. I have explained what I have done and that speed enforcement is a police matter. I have also advised that I don’t believe that the road would meet the criteria for average speed cameras given the data used regarding accidents and personal injuries/fatalities.

### **Wyre Forest Issues**

Bewdley Bridge opened to two way traffic again on 6<sup>th</sup> November following its closure for about 6 weeks for Severn Trent works.

### **Strategic Issues County Wide**

In respect of local government reorganisation WCC and the six districts worked together to put in their initial proposals by 21<sup>st</sup> March and final proposals have now been submitted by the 28<sup>th</sup> November deadline. It will be at least next Summer before the Government make a decision on the submission.

There was not total agreement across the seven authorities as some are supporting a unitary in the north and a unitary in the south and some support a unitary for the whole of Worcestershire.

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Full Council met on 6<sup>th</sup> November and the Reform administration have confirmed they support a single unitary authority for Worcestershire. By a clear majority vote, the proposal for the business case was supported to go off to the Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board who met on 17<sup>th</sup> November for it to make final recommendations to the Cabinet who will be the ultimate decision makers at their meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> November. They duly agreed to support a single unitary authority for Worcestershire.

There is now some clarity on the new administration's capital programme as to what commitments they are going to continue with and which ones they will scrap. They look like ceasing funding for Redditch train station. Importantly they are scrapping £5 million of devolved highways funding in 26-27 and 27-28. This is allocated to local county councillors to get pavements resurfaced in their area. This will have a direct effect on local residents. I and my group opposed these proposals and their proposed capital programme amendments have been defeated for now.

Regarding county hall, they have now deemed this surplus and will market the building for sale. They plan to demolish it within 12 months. They have ruled out building a new secondary school on the site or indeed one at all now and have scrapped the proposals. They will bus school pupils from Worcester to Malvern!

Car parks have been rented out for use by the neighbouring hospital.

The Reform administration are also consulting on a 10% council tax rise for 26-27.

It was a very long meeting lasting from 10am – 6:30pm. I am not in any way complaining just indicating that there were lots of important things to discuss.

Finally, have a very Happy Christmas and Happy New Year.

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

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