

Wyre Forest Rural Ward Councillors

Cllr. Robin M. Drew

Cllr. Ian D. Hardiman

Cllr. Marcus J. Hart

7th December 2025

Mrs. Louise Harris– Clerk to Churchill & Blakedown Parish Council

Dear Louise,

Churchill & Blakedown Parish Council Meeting – Tuesday 9th December 2025

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

Local Issues

We have been dealing with the usual routine casework, reporting litter and fly tipping on the main A roads and along the country lanes and continue to monitor all enforcement issues. Only last week we reported fly tipping in Crown Lane, this was inspected by WFDC and removed 48hrs.

Wyre Forest Issues

The Piano Building in Kidderminster is being actively marketed for office space on the first and second floors and food and beverage on the ground floor.

Work on the £2.4m HLF project at Brinton Park is progressing The Old Pals shelter has been demolished and its replacement is now being constructed.

Work has commenced to dig out where the duck pond will be. Work is due to complete next year. There will be a new café and toilet facilities and a changes places toilet.

Regarding devolution and unitary, WFDC and WCC have submitted their proposals in support of there being One Unitary Authority for Worcestershire; the five other Authorities are supporting Two Unitaries, for North / South Worcestershire.

We now await the Government's decision which we suspect won't be until the summer next year.

At WFDC Cabinet on 11th November, the following Reports were approved:

The WFDC Planning Obligations Supplementary Planning Document AND The Green Infrastructure SPD, to support the Local Plan.

The WFDC Budget Performance Monitoring, Q 2 Report; Council Tax planned increases as 3% for year 2026 and 2027 / existing Fees & Charges will generally be at least 5% (or CPI +3% if lower). Cabinet proposes to freeze car park charges, find further Savings & Efficiencies, increase demand for our charged services, continue to fund 7.7FTE Civil Enforcement Officers/ Invest in more litter pickers and provide more support for Cultural Events; and deliver a scheme for Stourport's Bridge Street, Car Park, linking the historic basins to the town centre.

Approved the Housing Growth & Improvement Action Plan, and Homelessness and Rough Sleeper Action Plan.

Approved the plan to bring the Home Adaptions Service into hosting by WFDC, from April 2026. (this refers to such as Disabled Facilities Grants).

Approved a Localism Report seeking agreement of various assets to be transferred to Stourport TC and Bewdley TC and outlined a proposed report about transfers to Kidderminster TC.

We will be offering free car parking in all WFDC car parks from 1st – 24th December from 3pm-6pm. A ticket is required to be displayed from the machine.

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

Finally, have a very Happy Christmas and New Year.

Yours sincerely,

RMDrew

Cllr. Marcus J. Hart

Cllr. Ian D. Hardiman

Cllr. Robin M. Drew

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