

Clerk Louise Harris
Clerk to Churchill and Blakedown Parish Council

13th October 2025

Dear Louise,

Re: Churchill and Blakedown Parish Council Meeting – 14th October 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. The work to resurface the pavement along Stakenbridge Lane from the railway line up to Stoney Lane has been completed. I have had positive feedback in respect for this and now a request that from the bridge to where it has been previously been resurfaced along Stakenbridge Lane is done.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. The work on the gully on the A456 dual carriageway as you head in the Kidderminster which is broken will be repaired this autumn. 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.
5. WCC highways are waiting for heavy down pours before inspecting Station Drive.
6. A number of residents have raised the road safety along Stakenbridge Lane by the railway bridge. I have 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.

7. 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 and work is planned and indeed there is a check on the Yew trees scheduled for a round about now in any event.
8. The trees on WCC land on Lynwood Drive on the former Callows Yard should be cut back this month. I was told September but the date is 30th October.
9. There have been numerous road closures in Churchill Lane and Stakenbridge Lane of late together with the Station Drive closure and this has caused issues of which I am aware of and residents have contacted me. I have liaised with WCC highways to ensure that the official diversion has not been Churchill Lane but the A roads but of course drivers will take whatever route they know if they think it is quicker. I am also chasing the re-opening of Station Drive but the permit is until 16th October.

New Issues

1. Perriford Lane is to have an edge of carriageway repair commencing the 27th October.
2. It appears that not all residents wish the no station parking signs to remain in situ so I will be putting this on Facebook in due course to gauge opinion. Your clerk contacted me in respect of this.
3. I have also been lobbying on behalf of residents regarding broadband connection having been contacted by residents.

Wyre Forest Issues

Bewdley Bridge having been opened up to two way traffic is now one way over the bridge again for about another 6 weeks whilst Severn Trent now do their work. This work could not be done at the time of the EA work.

Strategic Issues County Wide

In respect of local government reorganisation WCC and the six districts worked together to put in their initial proposals by 21st March and final proposals by 28th November.

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.

Full Council met on 11th September and the Reform administration confirmed they 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 affect on local residents.

Regarding county hall, they appear to have deemed this surplus but it's future proposed use still appears unclear. Car parks have been rented out for use by the neighbouring hospital. This is something that was planned pre-May. I believe the new Worcester Secondary School should be built on this site.

The administration are currently consulting on their budget including the potential to increase council tax by the full 5% and have a referendum if higher.

Yours sincerely,



Cllr. Marcus J. Hart
County Councillor – Chaddesley Division

Copy to: District Cllr. Robin M. Drew, Wyre Forest District Council
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