

## Conservative-led Wyre Forest District Council's budget

Your Conservative Team is pleased that the Conservative budget with so many positive proposals for Wyre Forest residents was approved at the budget setting Council on 27th February.

Cllr Steven Walker says, "This is a very sensible budget for the benefit of all local residents. I fully support the continuation of the £33,000 Community Leadership Fund which provides each ward councillor with £1,000 to support local causes or projects within their ward and a further £50,000 Localism Fund allocation which supports community groups and local Parish Councils."

The proposals include funding for an additional Enforcement Officer to tackle planning enforcement issues for a fixed term period of two years. Steve says, "We receive many complaints in our rural communities on planning issues and this additional resource will be most welcome and feel that it will have a positive impact in dealing with these issues."

An additional Enforcement Officer for environmental protection for a fixed term period of two years is also proposed. Steve says, "This post will be most welcome to tackle fly tipping, littering and dog fouling issues. We have beautiful countryside all around us and it is very sad that fly tipping is a constant issue we are having to deal with in our country lanes."

There is also money proposed to help rough sleepers on the coldest nights.

Government funding to the Council has fallen by circa 40% since 2010, and our net revenue budget will have reduced from £16.4m in 2010 to £11.7m in 2021.

Since 2010, your Conservative led Council has rationalised its offices and leisure centres which has produced revenue savings of over £1m a year. It has continued to relentlessly reform the Council and drive out inefficiencies in its quest to protect frontline services, whilst either freezing Council Tax or having increases below the rate of inflation.

Our Council Tax increase is just 2.39%, exactly £5 per year on a Band D property so this will see the WFDC proportion of the bill rise from £209 per year

to £214 per year. This portion represents just 12% of the overall bill.

## Car parking charges frozen for 2019/2020

We are delighted that the Conservative-led WFDC Cabinet have proposed the freezing of charges in all pay and display car parks and for season tickets.

Cllr Steven Walker says, "The Council has considered this matter very carefully and balanced the loss in revenue with the need to encourage our town centres to be used, together with the need to continue to provide value for money and decided to have a freeze for this year. I am sure residents will welcome this news."

## Worcestershire County Council budget

At its 14th February budget-setting Council meeting a 2.99% increase in Council tax and a 1% increase in the Social Care levy was approved, which are the maximum increases permissible without a referendum.

Cllr Steven Walker says, "These increases will see an average Band D property have its bill increase by about £48 per year to £1,260.75. Whilst I appreciate this will have an effect on us all as taxpayers, this money is predominantly being used to protect the most vulnerable adults and children in society."

Steve added, "Residents may be interested to know that the net revenue base budget will be £330.4m in 2019/2020, an actual net cash increase from £324.2m in 2018/2019."

"The Conservatives are investing an additional £14.1m into Adult Social Care, £7.7m into Children's Social Care, £3m for apprenticeships, skills development and business growth and £2.8m into regeneration and infrastructure projects."

"In 19/20, it is proposed to spend £140 million on Adult Social Care and public health and £104 million on Children's Social Care and communities, which is 74% of the County Council's net revenue budget."



# Broadwaters Matters

the newsletter of your local Conservatives



Editor: Cllr Steven Walker.

Spring 2019

## Wyre Forest District Council Elections Thursday 2nd May 2019



Wyre Forest District is going through difficult times and has further challenges ahead. As an administration, we believe that we are taking on the challenges and doing a decent job of dealing with them.

We have worked hard to keep Council Tax increases to a minimum, working with what we have and making efficiencies where possible and generating income in other ways.

We want to know what you think and to listen to any ideas or suggestions that you

have. Please don't hesitate to get in touch with us and let us have your views.

Most of all we ask that you support us at the ballot box on 2nd May, to continue the work that we are doing to maintain the services that the Council provides for you.

Please support



## contact your local Conservative Team

For local issues please call  
Cllr Steven Walker on 07899 843228;  
Cllr Nathan Desmond on 01562 228086;  
or the office on 01562 823820.

For national issues please contact  
Mark Garnier on 01562 746771.

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## Your Conservative Team



District Councillor Steven Walker



Nathan Desmond County Cllr St Marys



Mark Garnier MP

## Cllr Steve Walker reports back

Broken drain by St Georges Church my Ref No: 653919, a tripping hazard and dangerous to pedestrians or mobility scooters, and animals. I contacted County Council who investigated the area and found it to be a BT cover and a 2hr response was given to British Telecom to make safe the cover - and replace with new cover.

Rodent Infestation in Maureen Aston Court has been logged with Wyre Forest Community Housing to investigate and deal with as landlords for the said property, but ask all residents to be more vigilant when putting items out by the bin area ensure the bins are used if food waste contained.



Steve went out on patrol with an Enforcement Officer around Broadwaters on 22nd February and checked vehicle parking enforcement, dog fouling enforcement, and Public Open Spaces/Parks. In Baxter Gardens it was lovely to meet various residents, and see they had plenty of dog waste bags, and none of the play equipment was damaged, weather was good and everyone in good spirits, children playing and laughing and this is what we all want for our children.

Park encroachment - residents, private or Housing Association, are reminded that if they live in Usmere Road, Homfray Road, or anywhere their properties back onto the boundaries of Springfield Park they can NOT under any circumstances enlarge their gardens by putting up new fencing etc, this causes incidents and could lead to prosecutions.

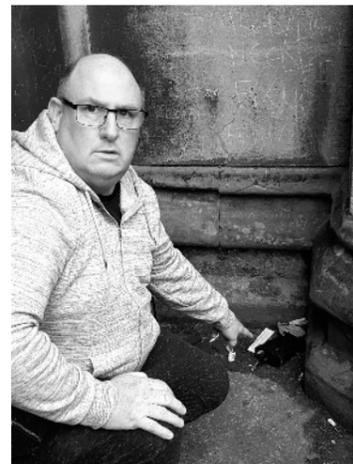
Steve has had several complaints about school parking, this is always an issue and being a parent himself understands the frustrations when dropping off children or picking them up and the dangers this

may cause. Parking on pathways and blocking pedestrian or pram/double buggy access is annoying when parents have to then manoeuvre to walk on the road to access the pavement again and carry on their journey, or driveways are blocked for residents living by schools. All councillors including myself have to deal with this matter but I ask all residents to please give a bit of consideration for others as Enforcement Officers, Schools, Police, PCSOs etc are all looking out for your safety and that of your children.



Steve has been attending the Simply Limitless Wellbeing Centre as WFDC Armed Forces Champion trying to help the Veterans within the Wyre Forest who need help and support with housing, drink, drugs related problems that want help and he got Swanswell to communicate with Simply Limitless also to possibly give help and support with this area, again supporting residents, ([www.simply-limitless.org](http://www.simply-limitless.org)) or call 01562 751144 if you would like to know more.

Steve is also an Armed Forces Champion for Wyre Forest District Council with Cllr Nicky Gale and they have been working closely with the Worcestershire Armed Forces Partnership and both are trying to help veterans, serving or retired, (TA / Regular or Reservists) from any service with Mental Health issues or PTSD within Wyre Forest / Worcestershire area, and a Veteran Hub pilot scheme may be set up in Worcester Town Centre. This is still being discussed and further updates are to follow.



Speed of traffic going up Sion Hill has been reported as an ongoing safety issue. There is a pedestrian crossing on the brow of the hill and concerns have been raised over several near misses for residents walking across what should be a safe place

to walk, police and councillors with the help of residents are monitoring this area.

Steve has awarded 14 Recognition Community Awards out over the past four months to various organisations for their continued support to Broadwaters and the local area and residents. Steve congratulates every one of them for their dedication and service and for all of the amazing volunteers giving up their free time to help the community.

Steve has spent 11 years working around Broadwaters and assisting various groups where he can, and is a strong believer if he can't do it himself then why should others. Steve on his days off goes around Broadwaters collecting litter and speaking to residents, checking all aspects, and works closely with groups within his Ward and attends functions when not working.



Hurcott Village suffers speeding traffic through from Hurcott Lane in both directions which is causing residents concern. Steve is in talks with WCC and WFDC to see what can be done. There have also been a couple of instances where fly tipping has been reported and has had to be cleared up.

Fly tipping in Springfield Park is still an ongoing issue but councillors are working with residents



and housing association to deal with this matter which has now been going on for a very long time, but it is work in progress and still being worked on and monitored. Wyre Forest District Council are enforcing ASB, littering and the dumping of garden waste.

Grass cuttings are garden waste and is a criminal offence to throw it over your fence or throw it on grass areas or greens outside your home which are not in your garden, you now have been advised and warned please if you see anything call 101, or report to your local councillors. WFDC Enforcement Officers are now on the look out for culprits who can be dealt with by an immediate fine.



Steve has also become a Keep Britain Tidy - Litter Ambassador for Wyre Forest supporting and even attending various litter picking events and has arranged an event.

## Election Day 2nd May 2019

On Thursday 2nd May, there will be 'All Out' elections for **Wyre Forest District Council**. You have **three** District Councillor in the Broadwaters Ward and will have up to three votes.

The Councillors elected will all serve four-year terms. Please vote for Steve Walker the Conservative candidate who will work hard for you all year round.

Not sure if you're on the Electoral Register? Away on Polling Day?

If you are going to be away on Election Day then do you need a **Postal Vote** or a **Proxy Vote**? You can contact the Wyre Forest District Council elections office on **01562 732762** or e-mail: [electoral@wyreforestdc.gov.uk](mailto:electoral@wyreforestdc.gov.uk) to ask them to send you a form.