

crime is falling in West Mercia

Recorded crime in West Mercia is decreasing year on year. The figures which show a 2.4% decrease in overall crime, are welcomed by the Police and Crime Commissioner, who has been supporting West Mercia Police to be more effective.

The figures from ONS also show reductions in violence with injury, drugs offences, burglary, robbery, sexual offences, public order, vehicle offences and theft.

Conversely to the national trend, cyber crime offences have fallen in West Mercia and there are low numbers of offences involving knives and other bladed weapons.

Work will continue to ensure the Force is able address some of the areas, where

increases have been seen including offences relating to death and serious injury caused by unlawful driving, shoplifting and possession of weapons.

Commissioner John Campion said, *"I made a commitment to reform West Mercia Police and the latest crime figures show this approach is working. West Mercia is a place where people are safe and feel safe, and it is reassuring to see a decrease in the types of crimes which affect our communities the most. We are not complacent however and there are always areas to improve. I will continue to ensure the police can continue to work efficiently and effectively to tackle these."*



John Campion

Lickhill Matters

the newsletter of your local Conservatives



Editor: Cllr David Little.

March 2019



decent job of dealing with them. When funding is under pressure there will always be difficult choices to make. It would be all too simple to ask you for more Council Tax, but we have listened to you and we know that isn't what you want. Therefore, we have kept increases to a minimum, preferring instead to work with what we have and to made efficiencies where possible and to generate income in other ways.

We also know that in difficult times it's all too easy to become entrenched, but that's not our way. 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. Allow us to continue the work that we are doing and maintain the services that we provide for you, no matter how many times the wolf comes to the door!

You don't need us to tell you that as a Country we are going through some tough times, and potentially we may have some tougher times ahead. As a District, Wyre Forest is going through some equally difficult times and again has the potential for some difficult challenges ahead.

We believe that as an administration we are taking on the challenges and doing a

	David LITTLE The Conservative Party Candidate	X
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Do you need help from your Conservative Team?

Dear David, Chris and Paul
Something should be done about ...



Name

Address

Email

Telephone

If you enter your telephone number or e-mail address you consent to being contacted in this way.

Please return to: **Lickhill Conservatives,
35 Mill Street, Kidderminster. DY11 6XB**

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Contact Your Local Conservative Team

If you have a local issue, please contact:
Cllr David Little on 01299 824373;
Cllr Chris Rogers on 01299 879239;
Cllr Paul Harrison on 01299 489114;
or the office on 01562 823820.

For national issues, please contact
Mark Garnier on 01562 746771.

office@wyreforestconservatives.com
35 Mill Street, Kidderminster. DY11 6XB

Your Conservative Team



David Little Town and District Councillor	Chris Rogers County Councillor	Paul Harrison County Councillor	Mark Garnier MP
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Conservative-led Wyre Forest District Council's budget

As *Lickhill Matters* goes to press, your Conservative Team is delighted that the Conservative budget with so many positive proposals for Wyre Forest residents has been approved at the budget setting Council on 27th February.

Cllr David Little 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 organisations 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. David 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. David 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.

It is worth noting that since 2010, Government funding to the Council has fallen by circa 40% 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 proposed Council Tax increase is just 2.39%, exactly £5 per year on a Band D property so this would see the WFDC proportion of the bill rise from £209 per year to £214 per year. The WFDC portion represents just 12% of the overall bill.

David says thanks for the ramp



Cllr David Little was grateful for the efforts of Barhale in providing a footpath from Torridon Close to Burlish Top Nature Reserve, as this stretch of road is in heavy daily use by dog walkers and ramblers and it's made a big contribution to pedestrian safety.

He'd also like to thank the two local residents who provided a ramp at the kerb, at their own expense.

Election Day 2nd May 2019

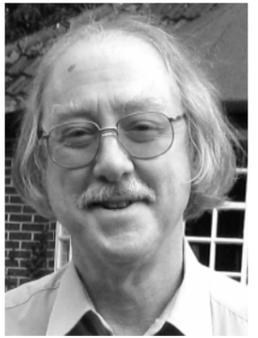
On Thursday 2nd May, there will be 'All Out' elections for **Wyre Forest District Council**. You have **one** District Councillor in the Lickhill Ward and will have one vote.

Elections for **Stourport-on-Severn Town Council** will also be held on Thursday 2nd May. You have **three** Town Councillors in the Lickhill Ward and will have three votes.

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

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** to ask them to send you for a form.

Worcestershire County Council budget update



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 Paul Harrison says, "These increases will see an average Band D property have its bill increase by about £48 per year, 93 pence per week, and is estimated to be £1,260 per year. Whilst I appreciate this will have an effect on us all as taxpayers and I always think very seriously before voting to increase the taxes that you pay, I supported all these proposals as the money is predominantly being used to protect the most vulnerable adults and children in society."

Worcestershire is still in the lowest percentage quartile compared to other Shire Counties, the national average being £1,277 in 18/19 and Worcestershire's was £1,212 in 18/19 for a Band D property.

Paul 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."

"We 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 Council's net revenue budget."



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 David Little 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."