

## crime falls 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.



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."*

## parking app is a resounding success

Thousands of motorists are now paying to park on Wyre Forest District Council car parks using the secure 'JustPark' website and phone app. The app has overtaken card payments, which are now just 5% of payments. The Council will soon remove card readers from the pay and display machines, as new encryption regulations would otherwise require all the machines to be replaced.

Cllr Rebecca Vale, Cabinet Member for Operational Services, said, *"Drivers will still be able to pay for parking with credit and debit cards, but by using their phones. With the number of people using the pay and display machines to pay by card declining it does not make sense to spend thousands*



*of pounds to replace them in order to comply with the new regulations."*

Cllr John Byng said, *"The District Council will continue to accept cash in all pay and display machines. We are seeing a growing number of people switching to the JustPark app. It costs exactly the same and it also offers extras such as real-time reminders and the ability to extend car parking if needed."*

# Wribbenhall and Arley Matters



the newsletter of your local Conservatives

Editors: Cllrs John Byng and Paul Harrison.

March 2019

## Election Day is on Thursday 2nd May 2019



Your Conservative Candidates for the 'All Out' Wyre Forest District Council election in May are Councillors John Byng and Paul Harrison. John and Paul are retired and both are Wribbenhall residents.

Both John and Paul have served on Bewdley Town Council since February 2017. Paul was also elected in 2018 to Wyre Forest District Council to represent Wribbenhall and Arley Ward, which includes Kidderminster Foreign Parish, Arley Village and Shatterford.

One of their personal priorities is the regular production and distribution of the blue *Wribbenhall and Arley Matters* newsletter, to provide information on the

activities of your local Councillors, and to provide a regular point of contact for local residents; all year round, not just at election time.

Your Councillors should be a strong voice for Wribbenhall and Arley residents within the Wyre Forest District. Please support us so that we can be that strong voice.

**On 2nd May vote for the Team that gets things done:**



### Contact Your Local Conservative Team

For local issues, please contact:  
John Byng on 01299 210459;  
Paul Harrison on 01299 489114;  
Rebecca Vale on 01562 743395; or  
Ian Hardiman on 07804 915327;

For national issues contact  
Mark Garnier MP on 01562 746771

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

### Your Conservative Team



John Byng Town Councillor  
Paul Harrison Town and District Councillor  
Rebecca Vale District Councillor and County Councillor Upper Arley  
Ian Hardiman County Councillor Wribbenhall and Kidderminster Foreign  
Mark Garnier MP

## A456 Wribbenhall to Bewdley Hill

County Councillor Ian Hardiman can now report that the two fatal accidents that occurred in 2015/2018 were not caused by vehicle high speeds. A recent study has found that there is not an issue of speeding nor a generally high average speed which would justify the introduction of a 40mph speed limit here.



However, given this section of the A456 is a very dark section of highway at night time, County Highways officers are seeking a means of introducing street lighting but recognise that the financing of such a scheme is not budgeted for and may be difficult to produce.

Ian says, "I will be making every effort I can to push for prioritisation of this scheme which is much needed in the interests of safety."

## Catchems End crossing tactile

Ian has now been assured that there will be domed studs introduced to produce a "Tactile" effect to assist persons with sight impairment. It has been deemed necessary to firstly re-tarmac the pavement by the crossing to ensure firm anchorage of the studs. This work should be carried out quite soon.

## Bewdley Schools pupils' safety and parking

At a meeting of District and County Council officers, consideration for introducing an additional entrance to the Leisure Centre's car park resulted in this possibility being discounted as there would be insufficient space for buses to manoeuvre when parents' vehicles were parked also within the car park.

At a subsequent meeting at the school, attended by a Highways Engineer, it was agreed to investigate two further options: extending the existing car park at the Leisure Centre using plastic grasscrete vehicle support sections, or constructing a bus-only lay-by adjacent to or outside the car park.

## Kidderminster Road highway flooding

Ian has been reminding Highways officers that the section of the highway to the front of All Saints' Church continually experiences flooding when heavy rainfall occurs and the drainage here should therefore be thoroughly investigated and improved if there are inherent faults with the system.

## Kidderminster Road safety barrier

The Highways Engineer has assured Ian that the replacement for the safety barrier damaged by a collision has been ordered and should soon be installed, for the safety of pedestrians and protection of the residences opposite the railway bridge.

## Museum reopens

The Town's Museum reopened on the first Saturday of March. Sunshine and a live band set the right atmosphere. During January and February Wyre Forest District Council has carried out maintenance and improvement works in the building, hence it was closed for public, a disappointment to local families during half term. New glass doors have been installed, which allows plenty of natural light into the windowless area of the museum shop.



Work has also started on a new fire escape for the Guildhall, and the new tenants of the cafe are bringing the concept of sustainable food into the heart of Bewdley.

As a member of Bewdley Museum Management Committee, Paul sees the challenge of making the Museum sustainable and supporting its prominent position in the heart of the Bewdley community.

## Election Day 2nd May 2019

On Thursday 2nd May, there will be 'All Out' elections for **Wyre Forest District Council**. You have two District Councillors in the **Wribbenhall and Arley Ward** and will have **two** votes.

Elections for **Bewdley Town Council** will also be held on Thursday 2nd May. There are **five** Town Councillors in the **Wribbenhall Ward** and you will have **five** votes.

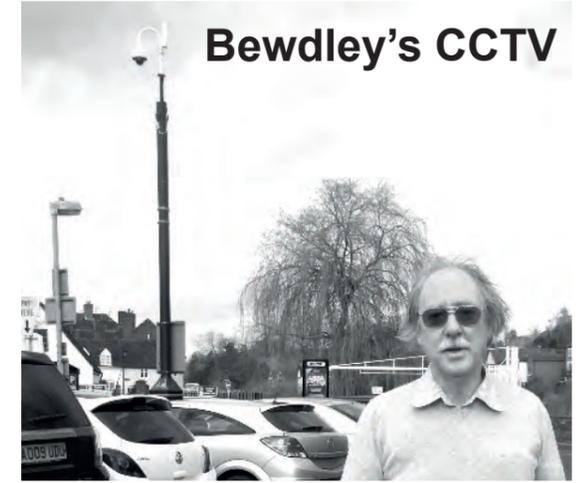
The Councillors elected will all serve four-year terms. Please vote for the Conservative candidates who will work hard for you all year round.

Elections for **Kidderminster Foreign Parish Council**, and **Upper Arley Parish Council** may also be held if these elections are contested.

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 a form.

Following recent cases of criminal damage at the premises of some local traders, the Conservative Team is investigating how effective CCTV cameras in the Town actually are.

Cllr Paul Harrison says, "There are four cameras in Bewdley, all of them installed more than ten years ago, and all are in need of an upgrade. Wyre Forest District Council has a contract with Redditch Borough Council for 24/7 monitoring."



We are delighted to report that the Police and Crime Commissioner has allocated funds to upgrade the Council's system to digital, providing the flexibility to add new cameras more easily and cheaply (digital being cheaper than analogue) and also to have mobile and re-deployable cameras.

A review is to be undertaken of the effectiveness of each of the Town's cameras. We need to make sure that Bewdley's cameras will be upgraded within the next twelve months.

## Bewdley Flood Volunteers

A meeting between the Flood Volunteers Group and the Environment Agency took place on 23 January, and a Spring workshop is planned.

As a volunteer, Cllr John Byng was especially interested in the level of protection offered to Wribbenhall residents in the vicinity of Beales Corner. The use of temporary barriers will continue at least until 2020; however, they offer limited protection to nineteen homes only.

A more viable long-term solution to manage flood risk is property-level resilience measures, and installation of flood doors is taking place which will result in forty-four protected properties.

## Delamere Road to Meadow Rise footpath

John has raised the problem of littering on the steps between Delamere Road and Meadow Rise, and on the adjacent land behind The Queensway, with the District Council. He's also querying the practicality of installing and emptying a litter bin.

