

# Matters

## HOOBROOK ISLAND CONGESTION SCHEME WELL UNDERWAY

As Spennells residents will have seen we are now about 6 weeks into this £3.6m congestion reduction scheme, which will see the 3 A road arms signalised. Marcus says, "I stood by a commitment in 2017 to tackle this major congestion hotspot and I am delighted to be delivering on this promise. Clearly there will be an element of disruption over the next few months and I thank residents for their patience.



Cllr Marcus Hart on Hoobrook Island, which is currently undergoing £3.6 million congestion reduction works

### Trees on the Estate

Thank you to all residents who have raised issues of individual trees. Rest assured I am liaising with the relevant landowners for action.

### Bovis Homes Land

I would like to reassure local residents that I have been relentlessly pursuing the regional director to take action to manage the woodland area behind the houses on Jay Park Crescent. I am pleased that their arborist has been out on site and prepared a report on works to be done and I have put them in contact with the WFDC arboricultural officer to discuss what work can be done as all trees older than pre-1969 have a blanket tree preservation order on.



### Spennells Estate Roads

"I met with a highways engineer and the Cabinet Member for Highways back in December to mark my extreme displeasure at the

poor way in which the roads were surfaced dressed with both the excess chippings and the fatting up. I have asked that these roads

are properly resurfaced during the lifetime of the next Council and recently they have been swept again to remove excess chippings."



Cllr Marcus Hart raising concerns with Cllr Amos, WCC Member for Highways

### Pavement between Teal Crescent and Oriole Grove

I would like to advise residents that I have reported the poor pavement running through the WFDC nature reserve for action as it is very uneven and cracked. I am assured that this will be done.

### Bus Shelter

At the time of going to press, I am still waiting for WFDC to confirm when the shelters will move to their new locations. They are waiting on Clear Channel to disconnect the services. I am anxious this has been dragging on and I do keep pressing for action."

## County Council Budget Approved

WCC met on 18<sup>th</sup> February to approve the budget and I was delighted to support it. Council tax has been increased by just 2.5% this year (1.5% general taxation and 1% social care levy), the maximum allowed being 5%.

Marcus says, "This is just under £33 per year on a Band D property, which is just 63 pence per week. It is important to strike the right balance to ensure we fund services important to you and that we protect the most vulnerable in society whilst at the same time bearing in mind it has been a tough 12 months for many in our society.

We are investing an additional £4m in pavements, £6m in highways, £600k into public rights of way,

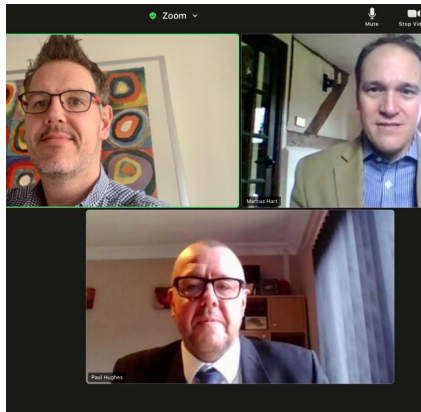
£2.5m in lighting to convert to LED lights and £2.5m in flood mitigation and drainage.

I am delighted that we will be continuing with the Councillor's £10k divisional funding scheme which allows me to support local Spennells groups such as the Scouts and extra-curricular resources for Heronswood Primary School. I will also have £22,000 to spend on minor highways capital projects in my area."

Spennells resident Paul Hughes added, "This is a great budget for Spennells residents and I am very grateful to our County Councillor Marcus Hart for working so hard for us. This additional investment will definitely benefit us here locally on Spennells."

### Marcus and Paul meet the Police Commissioner

Paul Hughes says, "I was delighted to arrange a meeting with our local County Councillor Marcus Hart and Police and Crime Commissioner John Campion to raise a number of crime and anti-social behaviour issues. John has been very supportive and assured me that the Safer Neighbourhood Team are on hand to tackle these issues."



### Captains Pool Road – Double Yellow Lines

Marcus is delighted that the additional double yellow lines he requested and approved have been installed on time. These should improve the traffic flow at peak times, especially at school pick up time.

### Litter on the Estate

A number of local residents have contacted me with their concerns regarding the amount of litter on the estate, bins not being emptied and excess litter on WFDC's nature reserve. I am grateful to local residents who have personally litter picked. I would like to reassure residents that I have raised all of these matters to WFDC for action as it is essential that WFDC gives residents of Spennells the service which it deserves. If you do have a litter hotspot please tell me.

### Elections Update

The Government has confirmed that elections will be going ahead on **6<sup>th</sup> May**. On Spennells you will be voting in 3 sets of elections for your Police and Crime Commissioner, your Worcestershire County Councillor and your Kidderminster Town Councillors. Why not have a postal vote to avoid going to the polling station? The deadline for registering for a postal vote is 20<sup>th</sup> April at 5pm. If you would like a postal vote please contact WFDC or Marcus and he will be pleased to help.

**Your Conservative County Councillor for Spennells - Marcus Hart**

01299 402424



spennellsconservatives@yahoo.com



cllrmarcushart



wyreforestconservatives.com

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