

Kidderminster Wins £38 million in Grants

The town was successful in winning some £38 million in grants which will transform the town centre and the town hall.

Work has already started in the town centre and work commencing on the town hall in October, with its closure, and is scheduled to open in the Spring of 2024 providing a regional centre for arts, entertainment and culture. The grants were made available from the Government's Future High Streets and the Levelling Up Funds.



The Town Hall will re-open in Spring 2024 as a regional centre for arts, entertainment and culture

Be Speed Aware! or Receive a Fine

Following concerns raised by residents David was able to ask, via the Police & Crime Commissioner, for vehicle speed checks to be increased in the ward. **Spot checks were carried out by West Mercia on the Habberley Road and Franche Road where a number of motorists were issued with a speeding fine.** This is part of an ongoing project which is delivered by the Safer Neighbourhood Team. **Other roads have been identified in the ward where speeding occurs and will be put forward to West Mercia for spot checks.**

Coningsby Drive Footpath



The footpath has been patched and will be fully resurfaced

Residents of Coningsby Drive met with County Councillor David Ross as they were concerned at the state of the repair done to the footpath at its junction with Audley Drive. **David arranged for the residents to meet with the County Highways Officer who assured them this was a temporary repair that will be replaced with a permanent repair.**

The County has pledged an additional £4 million per year to maintain and improve the county's footpaths. Your ward team makes regular inspections of the footpaths in your patch. Please contact us if you have concerns.

Neighbourly Help

Town Councillor George Connolly was pleased to be able to help a resident whose garden was being invaded by overgrown vegetation. The resident was happy to be able to reclaim their garden from the Triffids!!



Spring garden tidy up for a local resident

News In brief

Trimpley Drive - Untaxed Car

David would like to thank the Safer Neighbourhood Team who **removed an untaxed car from the Trimpley Drive area** following a complaint by residents. This was done in less than 48 hours of being reported.

Blocked Drains

With the rain it has become apparent that there are a number of blocked drains causing flooding on the roads. **You can report a blocked highway drain direct to the County Council or contact one of your Conservative Team.**

Footpath reported

It has been reported that the pathway that runs alongside the **Franch Allotments which is used as a shortcut from the Habberley Road to Franch Primary School is in a terrible state.** David has visited this with a county officer and they are seeking a solution to this problem.

Willowfield Drive

Residents have complained about **rubbish at the front of a property in Willowfield Drive.** David is working with the District Council to get this tidied up. The District Council is attempting to get the owner to deal with this.

Inflation is back Relief for households with energy bills



After years of low inflation, we are now seeing prices rise up to three times as quickly as we are used to. This is not just the UK. Prices are rising across Europe and the US – in some cases faster. And the cause? Energy prices.

As the world economy recovers from the pandemic, and we move away from coal, gas prices have shot up. And that has a knock on effect across prices.

The government will help households in three ways.

- 1 All households will get a £200 loan** to tackle the unexpected hike in fuel bills. This will be repayable at £40 a year for the following 5 years.
- 2 £150 non-repayable grant.** If you are in Council tax band A to D.
- 3 The government has made available £144 million** to local councils to help with people's fuel bills. At the discretion of local councils, this money will be available for other hard hit households.

The County Council has approved its £373 million net revenue budget

Over 70% of the budget will be spent on vulnerable adults and vulnerable children.

- **You tell us that the most important issues that you want us to invest in are highways related.**
 - ✓ additional £12 million each year for the next 3 years on road resurfacing.
 - ✓ a further £4 million for the next 3 years on pavement resurfacing.
 - ✓ £500,000 for the next 3 years to fund small scale schemes such as creating new pelican and zebra crossings.
 - ✓ additional £1 million for drainage including small schemes to support flood alleviation.
 - ✓ allocation of £22,500 per year for the next 3 years to spend on capital local highways schemes within their area.
- **Councillors will receive an allocation of £10,000 Divisional Funding per annum to support projects and community organisations.**
- **We are yet again keeping Council Tax increases under control and are one of the lowest county councils in the country. On a Band D property this will be an increase of £52.95, effectively £1 per week.**

Inconsiderate Parking Causing Hazards

A number of residents have contacted Cllr David Ross regarding the parking of vehicles on the Habberley Road at the weekends by people using the sports fields. The main issue is some drivers mount the footpath at the junction of Broomfield Road/Habberley Road thus obstructing the view of emerging traffic. David has asked for the District Council Civil Enforcement Officers to attend but so far this has not been done. David is working with the Highways Department and a fellow County Councillor to find a permanent solution to this problem of parking on the footpath.



Your local team is working to find a permanent solution to hazardous parking

Apply For A Grit Bin For Your Road

Through Kidderminster Town Council David was able to place two Grit Bins one in **Chichester Avenue** and the other by **Franche Community Church**.

Thank you to the resident and the church for raising this. If you think a Grit Bin would help your road contact the Conservative Team. **All Grit Bins' placements are subject to a survey and approval by either the County or Town Council.**

Your Conservative team for Franche and Habberley North



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