



## Flood Defences for Beales Corner It is in Planning!

Back in February 2020 saw further devastating floods across Worcestershire and the flood defences were breached yet again at Beales Corner. This was no longer a 100 year crisis for people living and working on this side of the river it was now a horrendous annual event.

As the clean up continued in March 2020 Boris Johnson met with residents and the agencies who had worked around the clock for weeks during the period of high alert. Boris vowed that he would get Bewdley done!

The baton was firmly passed to Mark Garnier MP, to lobby the government to get this job done. Unlike other towns, such as Tenbury Wells, there were no designs or costings for defences. Covid hit, more floods hit, but the fight for money

continued to ensure Beales Corner was top of the list. In July 2021 the announcement came, £6.2 million of government funding was secured for Beales Corner. During this time County Councillor for Wribenhall, Ian Hardiman, also secured £500,000 from Worcestershire County Council.

The Environment Agency went to the drawing board, plans drawn up, consultations took place with the community - concerns raised - plans amended and finally the submission to planning took place on December 15<sup>th</sup> 2022.

**The planning application is now live on the Wyre Forest District Planning portal for public submission, the relevant planning references are: Ref. No: 22/1034/FUL and Ref. No: 22/1006/LBC.**

## Wyre Forest District Council's Conservative Group Propose Alternative Budget

Conservative Group on WFDC believe that the current Labour, Green and Independent led Council is letting residents down. Consistently now you are being asked to pay more Council Tax for less. **Front line services that are important to you should not only be protected but enhanced.** Which is why the Conservatives are proposing:-

- **To increase the number of Environmental Protection Officers** that tackle fly tipping from two to four officers.
- **To increase the number of Civil Enforcement Officers** from six to seven to specifically tackle parking enforcement on double yellow lines in our villages.
- **To increase the number of litter pickers** at peak seasonal times across the District.
- **To increase the grant support to our Parish Councils** to undertake litter picking, bin emptying and grass cutting on a local level.
- **To invest in arts, leisure and cultural activities** in our District.



Nick Wilson, Emily Bourne and Dan Morehead

Cllr Dan Morehead says, "We believe these investments will make a real difference to the lives of local residents."

Cllr Emily Bourne added, "It is clear that your local Wyre Forest Rural Conservatives are on your side, tackling the issues that matter to you. I recognise and support the need for the additional officers to tackle illegal fly tipping and illegal car parking."

Nick Wilson added, "We are so fortunate to live in Bewdley with the River Severn and the Wyre Forest on our door step, litter must be controlled to protect the environment for all."

Restore **PRIDE** in our District by removing the **CHAOS** of the Labour, Green and Independent controlled council

## High Street Weight Restriction

Numerous residents living in the surrounds of High Street have contacted the Bewdley Conservative team about the size, weight and speed of vehicles travelling on this road.

Dan Morehead has raised this with various departments at County Council and unfortunately, has been advised that we cannot apply further restrictions on size or weight of vehicles due to nature of access needed from different directions/ areas of the county. Dan has therefore asked for consideration to be given to alternative options to improve traffic flow and safety of



pedestrians and our residents living on this road.

Further to this, this area will be considered as part of the 20mph scheme with engineering options being explored to help naturally reduce speed and make it safer for pedestrians.



## Pension Triple Lock

The Chancellor has announced that the September inflation rate of 10.1% is confirmed for increasing the State Pension from April 2023.

The triple lock was brought in under a Conservative Government to rectify the low pension rate after years of low rises under Labour.

State Pension increased by only 44% in the last 10 years of the previous Labour government, compared to 72% between 2011-2021 with the Conservatives.

\* All benefits will increase by 10.1% including the benefit cap

## Illegal Channel Crossings 5 point action plan for 2023

- **A new agreement with Albania so that the vast majority of Albanian claimants can be removed** with weekly flights until all Albanians in our backlog are sent home.
- **A new, permanent, unified Small Boats Operational Command in the channel with 700 new staff** to bring together military and civilian capabilities.
- **Tougher immigration enforcement with 200 new staff and better data sharing with banks** so they are unable to open bank accounts.
- **Cheaper accommodation sites so we can move migrants out of expensive hotels.** We will identify a range of alternative sites such as disused holiday parks, former student halls and surplus military land.
- **Clear the initial asylum backlog by 2023** by doubling the number of caseworkers and radically streamlining the process.

## Proposals are on their way for 20mph zone



Worcestershire County Council are now starting to draft the 20mph zone proposal and information that will be put out for public engagement . If we have a positive outcome in favour of this scheme, the Traffic team will begin the legal process and begin designing the signage and markings proposal for springtime 2023.

To further support concerns from residents, we now have a (VAS Vehicle Activated Sign) at the bottom of Woodthorpe Drive to alert drivers if they are exceeding 30mph and provide better warning to drivers both coming into and leaving the town on Dowles Road. Dan has also agreed and funded 30mph road markings to further increase driver awareness and as mentioned earlier in the report, the 20mph speed zone for Bewdley is progressing further.

### Your Conservative team for Bewdley & Rock



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