

## Mark Garnier Takes Unwanted Quarrying To

**Westminster**

The communities of Cookley and Wolverley have faced uncertainty over proposed quarrying between their two villages. This 106 acre site would be within 1km of 5 schools.

**The county council rejected the planning application, but Mark is working with cross party MPs to get the Government to change the law on acceptable levels of dust in the air. Right now, UK laws allow levels of dust not acceptable in close contact with communities in other countries.**

Mark pays tribute to the Stop the Quarry Campaign. *“The team in Wolverley and Cookley have done a brilliant job lobbying councillors to block these proposals. But an appeal by the applicant may reverse common sense. That is why I am working with cross party colleagues in Parliament to present a solid argument that the UK must keep up with international standards. If we are successful, this will not just protect our local communities; it will protect all communities in the UK.”*

## Brinton Park

# A cracking time had by all at Easter Egg Hunt in the park

**A great morning was had by all on April 16th in Brinton Park at the annual Easter Egg Hunt, supported by Cllr Tracey Onslow and Cllr Edward Stokes and organised with Churches Together in Kidderminster.**

Over 1000 people, including 310 children came to see us and took part in the trail, had their face painted, enjoyed circus skills and crazy golf put on by Lois & Charlie from

Active Youth Outreach Services and went home with a balloon and, of course, an Easter Egg!

The event was free to all thanks to Community Leadership Funding from Cllr Tracey Onslow. Thank you also to other ward councillors for helping support us on the day.



Tracey, Edward and the team at the Brinton Park Easter Egg Hunt

## Protecting Consumers from Rogue Builders



**Recently, Mark brought a private members' bill to protect future victims of rogue builders. For too long, home owners have been ripped off by dishonest and unqualified builders.**

The only recourse for victims is contract law. However, it is hugely expensive to take advantage of this route, and rogue builders simply close their business and start again, ripping off a new set of victims.

Mark's proposals, worked up with the Federation of Master Builders, to license all builders in the domestic arena means rogue builders will lose their license if they abuse consumers. **Without a license, they don't have a livelihood and there are no more victims. This restores the balance of power in favour of unprotected consumers.**

## Taking action on your concerns

- ✓ **Bewdley Hill Woods:** Edward has had the leftover metal signage removed, which was left at the entrance to the alleyway on Birchfield Road, following the temporary closure of the alleyway.
- ✓ **St Johns Avenue:** Following damage caused by a car accident, Tracey has had the bollards outside Nos 36 and 37 repaired/replaced. The yellow lines have also been put back denoting the school alleyway entrances.
- ✓ **Peel Street/Wood Street:** Edward has had the street light repaired in Peel Street and Tracey in Wood Street.
- ✓ **Talbot Street:** Following his work with the Friends of Brinton Park Group, Edward was pleased to see the CCTV camera up in Talbot Street, to deter anti-social behaviour in the park.
- ✓ **Brinton Park:** Tracey has attended several meetings about issues in Brinton Park, and is very pleased to report that the North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership will be funding additional lighting in the park.
- ✓ **Woodfield Crescent:** Following support from affected local residents, Tracey was pleased to see that – Covid finally allowing – the tree outside No 62 has finally been replanted! Sadly, the original tree had to be removed in 2020 after it was found to have a fungal infection!
- ✓ **Holmwood Avenue:** Tracey has had the raised manhole covers addressed, following the recent road resurfacing.
- ✓ **Church Walk:** Edward was pleased to see that the No Cycling Sign was finally replaced.
- ✓ **Bewdley Hill:** Edward has had the large stones blocking the pavement outside Tesco removed, after they were knocked down in a car accident.
- ✓ **Divisional Funding:** Tracey has again used her funding to subsidise the Dial-A-Ride bus that services Habberley Estate. Thanks again to the team at DaR.

## Supporting our Towns Kidderminster

Mark Garnier has been working with Wyre Forest District Council to **secure government investment in to Kidderminster Town Centre. With two successful bids to the Levelling Up Fund and the Town Centre Fund, Kidderminster will see:**

- The old Crown House site developed into a 21st century amenity
- The Town Hall upgraded to a first class community arts hub
- The Piano Building repurposed for the town
- The Old Magistrates Court redeveloped into a state of the art workplace
- The canal tow-path upgraded
- Derelict buildings cleared to open up the town centre



The Old Magistrates Courts to be redeveloped

“These projects,” says Mark, “**will make Kidderminster fit for the 21st Century and make it an attractive town to live, work and play in. This is all brilliant news for Worcestershire’s second biggest community.**”

## Belle Orchard parking/access problems

After several incidents with parking and pedestrian access in Belle Orchard, Edward is working with local police and Worcestershire County Council on solving this ongoing issue.



## Update from John Campion West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner Visible in our Communities

**Police Officer numbers have increased by a further 400 since 2016 and will increase by another 125 this year.**

PCC John Campion said “I am proud that police officer numbers will have risen to record levels under my tenure as PCC. Working with the Conservative Government we have delivered our promises to recruit additional police

officers. My pledge to make sure communities in Wyre Forest and across West Mercia receive maximum benefit as a result. That means seeing a police officer more often in our community, crime coming down further, victim satisfaction improving and confidence in policing rising.”

## Working hard on your priorities

**Parkland Avenue:** still chasing up Highways in respect of the works to the very large tree outside No 4. Tracey has also asked for a quote to cut back and open up the bushed area on the right as you enter Parkland.

**Park Lane:** Tracey would like to reassure concerned local residents that she is still investigating the closure of the steps from Park Lane to Hill Street.

**Blakebrook Close:** Tracey has asked for a price for installing bollards on the green at Blakebrook Close.

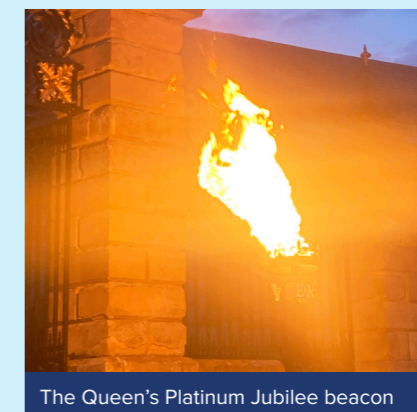
**Blakebrook Slip Road:** Following constant chasing, Tracey has been advised that the 4th new date for resurfacing will be 25th July. Works have been held up on several occasions, for several reasons, the latest being work having to be tied in with Cadent who need to renew pipework along this stretch and the traffic lights at the junction of Bewdley Road/Sutton Road/Bewdley Hill/Summer Place.

**Castle Road:** Edward has been advised that the scaffolding will be removed from the pavement by Caldwell Tower in September.

**Crestwood Avenue:** Tracey is chasing the completion of the works around the large tree area, following the excellent pavement resurfacing work.

**Habberley Road Field:** Tracey has asked WFDC to fill in the large hole, which has appeared in the field, adjacent to the school driveway.

## The Queen’s Platinum Jubilee Round-up A royally good time celebrating Her Majesty



The Queen's Platinum Jubilee beacon

**Cllr Edward Stokes was very pleased to represent the ward at various events to celebrate The Queen’s Platinum Jubilee.**

Kidderminster Town Council presented a number of events including a party at the Town Hall, a church service of thanksgiving and the lighting of a Queen’s Platinum Jubilee beacon outside St Mary & All Saints Church.

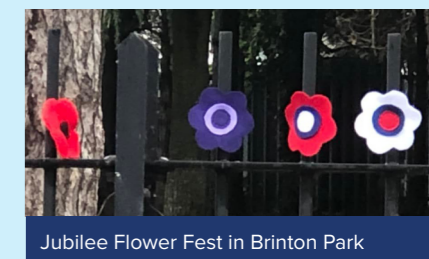
Edward said “It was wonderful to attend these special events to celebrate, and give thanks for Her Majesty’s 70 years on the throne and her service to the Nation and the Commonwealth.”

Cllr Stokes was also pleased to support the Brinton Park Jubilee Fete which took place on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> June.

Edward helped kick start the Friends Group again last year and has been actively involved since. Alongside Cllr Juliet Smith, he was very happy to use a portion of his community ward grant to support the fete.

It was a wonderful day and included live music on the Bandstand, family-friendly activities and games, food and craft stalls, dog training displays, bouncy castles, an Eco-Zone and lots more. Thank you to the key members of the Friends Group and for all the volunteers for putting on such a great event which was enjoyed by hundreds of people from across the community.

And finally, a big thank you to all the residents, groups and organisations who spent hours making flowers to decorate Brinton Park - it looked absolutely amazing and a brilliant community effort to make the park look beautiful for The Queen’s Platinum Jubilee.



Jubilee Flower Fest in Brinton Park

## Get in touch with us

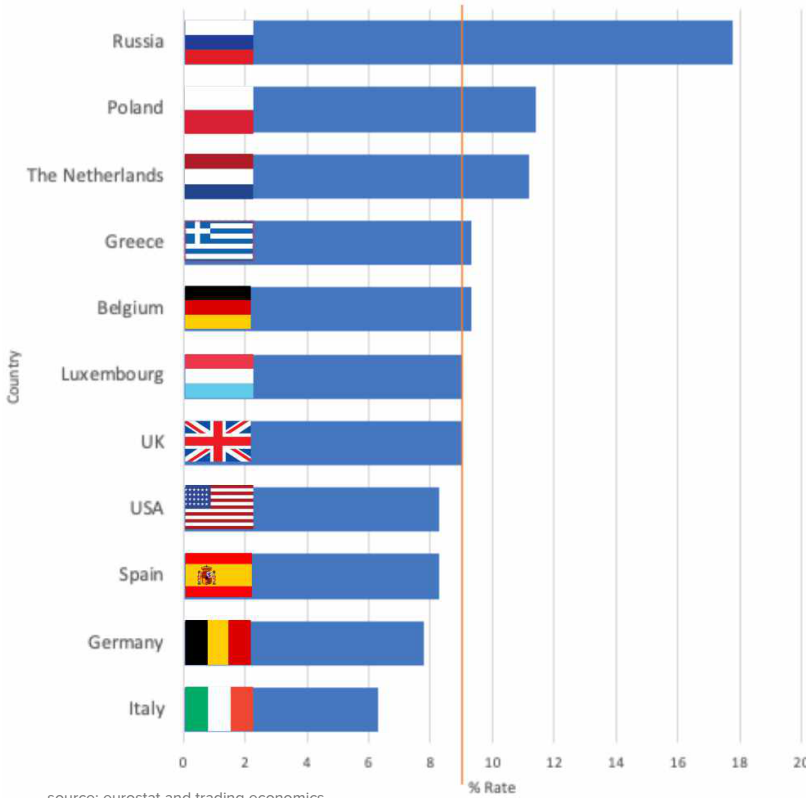
If you have any concerns, issues or problems we can support or assist you with please do get in touch with one of the team who will be happy to help.

[bhs@wyreforestconservatives.com](mailto:bhs@wyreforestconservatives.com)  
Or call Cllr Stokes on 07813 311496



# Cost of Living Crisis

Inflation Rate April 2022



source: eurostat and trading economics

## WHY IS INFLATION RISING

Rising prices are a serious issue – especially when they rise the fastest in a generation.

**The two biggest cost rises to families are heating and eating. The UK's official independent statistician – The Office of National Statistics – tells us that these rises are a direct consequence of the war in Ukraine.**

When one of the world's biggest energy exporters illegally invades one of the world's biggest food exporters, we know we are in for a difficult time. Although the UK is one of the countries least reliant on Russian oil and gas, the global market for energy has been starved of supply as sanctions against Russia bite. With less global supply, but the same global demand, prices inevitably go up.

Meanwhile, Ukraine, struggling valiantly against the Russian invaders, has lost a third of its food production capability, leaving wheat growing severely restricted.

And with Covid lockdowns in China still having a knock on effect to global shipping patterns and international trade, prices across the board are rising.

## More Help Announced for Cost of Living Crisis

Due to the war in Ukraine, world prices of oil and gas have soared.

This means unexpected profits for our oil and gas companies. Already subject to corporation tax, the Government wants energy companies to use this money wisely.

That is why we have asked them to invest into more energy production - both green and traditional - to ensure better energy security for the UK. If they don't - the Government will impose a short term levy to help fund these measures aimed at supporting households through the crisis.

**Pensioners Winter Fuel Payment an additional £300**

**Low income families £650 cost of living payment**

**Disability benefit recipients £150 cost of living payment**

**Household energy bill relief doubled to £400**

**Household Support Fund increased by a further £500m**

**Reduced Fuel Duty by 5p per litre**

### Your Conservative team for **Blakebrook and Habberley South**



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**Wyre Forest Conservatives - working hard all year round**