

Urgent Action - Bus Services For The Future

As many of you will have seen, Diamond Buses are reviewing their contract for services across Worcestershire and this will impact residents in Bewdley.

A Bus Travel Task Force for Worcestershire is being set up to review current bus provision and to ensure bus travel is able to meet residents' needs across the county. This group will be comprised of the County Council, bus operators, passenger groups, and the Members of Parliament for Worcestershire.

The Task Force meetings will be an opportunity for all key partners and the County Council to hear about the challenges that are currently being faced by bus users, bus companies and bus employees. The Task Force will travel to each constituency within the county to ensure it is close to the issues in the local areas.

The aim of the task force is to provide a platform for new solutions and ideas on how the current issues can be addressed, these can then be shared with the Department for Transport.

Local Councillors will also be invited to the Task Force and residents are being encouraged to have their say by contacting their local councillors or by using passenger forums, who will be represented at the meetings.



An emergency task force is being formed to ensure the County's Bus network. Residents views will be sought to ensure that it meets residents needs

Parking Overflows Onto Our Streets

The decision by the Progressive Alliance controlled District Council to remove the one-hour free parking and increase parking charges is causing havoc on our residential streets.

As your local County Councillor, Dan Morehead is working with an increasing number of residents that are being impacted by visitors to the Town who are parking in the streets on the outskirts of the Town centre. This is causing issues with residents accessing their

properties, access to roads and in some cases WFDC refuse lorries being unable to complete routes.

Put simply, we need WFDC to seriously look at parking costs in the Town and getting them to reverse their decision to remove all free parking.

Emily Bourne says, "We need an element of free parking in our Town more than ever now with the increased cost of living and businesses needing our support."

Bewdley Museum In Limbo



What does the future hold for our Town's gem? WFDC must come back to the Town

Your local Conservative Town Councillors were pleased when the District Council's Localism agenda eventually resulted in Borough House, the public toilets, and Riverside North Park being transferred to Bewdley Town Council.

But there are concerns with the future of our Town's museum after the prospective new Trustees of the Bewdley Museum have resigned en bloc, with no obvious reaction from the District Council.

"This leaves the future of the Museum up in the air", says Dan, "with no indication from the District Council if the promised transfer of the freehold of the Guildhall and The Queen Elizabeth II Jubilee Gardens to Bewdley Town Council will now take place." Emily added, "It also leaves a big question mark over the Museum's future funding, which is loved by both visitors and residents."

20 is plenty for Bewdley Town Centre

The work to get a full 20mph scheme to a public consultation is progressing well and we hope, with the support of Highways and WCC, to have an outline proposal to put out to the public in the near future to understand the true appetite for this and the next steps from that point.

Bag It - Bin It

Emily Bourne has received a number of complaints about dog fouling in Bewdley, which seems to have increased over a period of time. Emily has reported an incident on Hales Park and requested increased enforcement. Not clearing up after your dog is an offence with a fixed penalty fine of £100.

Additionally Emily has also requested a dog poo bin to be placed on Dry Mill Lane car park. A number of full poo bags are being discarded due to no bin facilities present at this popular dog walking location.

Cleaning up after your dog is all part of being a responsible dog owner. Ignoring it is just anti-social and inconsiderate to the wider community.



Protecting Consumers from Rogue Builders

Recently, Mark Garnier 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.**

Cost of Living Crisis

WHY IS INFLATION RISING

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

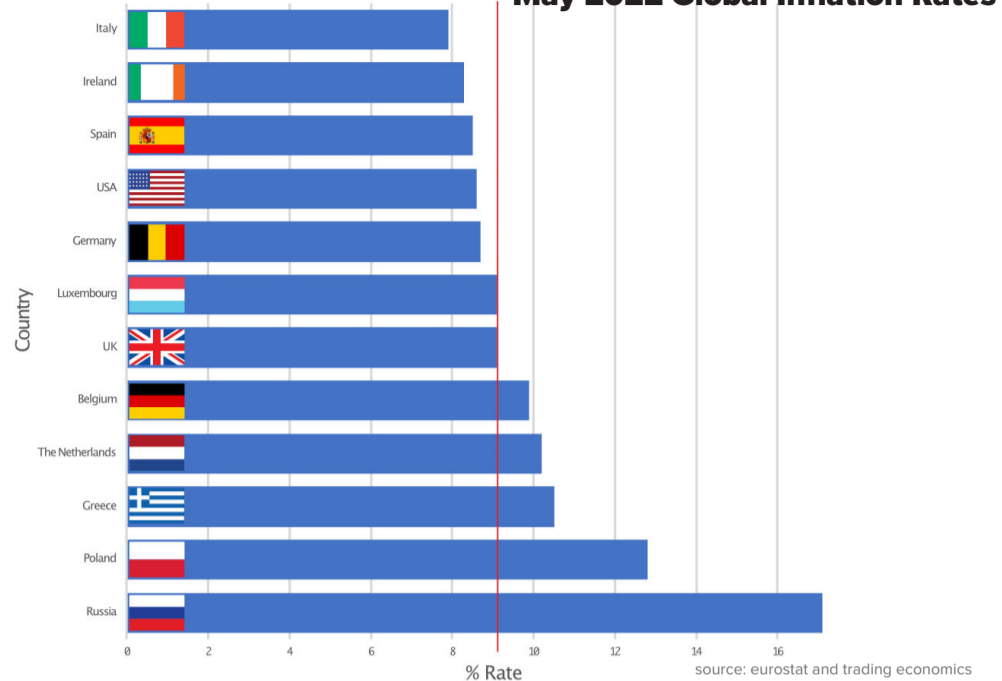
The two biggest cost rises to families are heating and eating. The UK's official independent statistician – The Office of National Statistics – tells us that these rises are a direct consequence of the war in Ukraine.

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.

May 2022 Global Inflation Rates



- 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**

More Help Announced

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.

Supporting Our Towns

Bewdley The brilliant flood defences put in nearly twenty years ago have proved to be just the job when the River Severn floods. But only for the west bank. In recent years, the temporary defences put up to protect Beales Corner have failed, with misery for local residents and the paralysing of the town's economy.

No more. **After bringing Prime Minister Boris Johnson to the town in early 2021, Mark and Boris promised to "Get Bewdley Done". True to their word, £6.2 million has been pledged to develop a combination of demountable and permanent flood defences.**

The plans are being worked up and should be **completed by early 2024.** **After years of suffering, the town will finally be properly defended from flooding.**



Funding is secured and the plans are being compiled for submission to planning. Protecting homes and businesses from the River Severn.

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



Police Officer numbers have increased by a further 400 in 016 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."

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.**"

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