

## **ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**

Minutes of the **ANNUAL TOWN MEETING** held on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2024 at 7.00pm held in The Pump Rooms, off Teme Street, Tenbury Wells, WR15 8BA

**PRESENT:** Mayor Cllr D. Patrick, Cllrs. S. Bowkett, L. Davies, M. Davies, D. Ingram, N. Ferguson and R. Perrin.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Cllr. D. Chambers WCC, Cllr. L. Bruton and Cllr. A. Wilmott, MHDC, 1 member of the press, 11 members of the public, the Town Clerk and the Assistant to the Town Clerk.

### **1. APOLOGIES**

Members received apologies for absence from Cllr. F. Gittens due to a family commitment.

### **2. MINUTES**

Proposed by Cllr. M. Davies seconded by Cllr. R. Perrin and unanimously

#### **RESOLVED:**

**The minutes of the previous meeting, held on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2023 were confirmed and signed by the Chair as a true and correct record of proceedings.**

### **3. FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT SCHEME**

Members received an update from the Environment Agency's Flood & Coastal Risk Management Advisor on the proposed Flood Risk Management Scheme for Tenbury, which the Mayor read aloud

'As previously mentioned, due to the current status of the project cost assessment and the Agency's strategic decision process, there are no outcomes to share at this time. There are still some key elements to be confirmed, and we are working with specific stakeholders to resolve these; once this is complete, we will provide a full update to yourselves, our partners and the wider community.

For awareness, the key focus areas include:

- Bridge Cottage
- Church House
- B4204 Kyre Brook Bridge

We hope to have a more detailed update for you in May.'

### **4. MAYOR'S ANNUAL REPORT**

The Mayor presented his report. Attached **[Appendix A]**.

### **5. DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT**

Cllr Bruton, representing Malvern Hills District Council presented her report. Attached **[Appendix B]**, which had been circulated.

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Cllr. Wilmott submitted a report which had been circulated. Attached **[Appendix C]**.

There were no questions.

### **6. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

Cllr D. Chambers, representing Worcestershire County Council presented his report. Attached **[Appendix D]**, which had been circulated.

There were no questions.

### **7. LOCAL POLICE REPORT**

The Mayor read the report submitted by the Safer Neighbourhood Team, which had been circulated. **[Appendix E]**

### **8. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

The Mayor stated that there had been 8 letters asking why the Town Council had made the decision not to continue with the Neighbourhood Plan. The Mayor explained that the ex-Deputy Mayor Cllr. Brittain had looked into the process and spoke to advisors on what would be involved going forward. The expected considerable expense and realistic 5 year timescale meant that the cost far outweighed the benefit and with the South Worcestershire Development Plan due to be completed within this timescale and the majority of development for Tenbury already completed, the decision was taken not to continue with the plan.

One letter was received in complaint at the continuous roadworks and the effect it is having on the local businesses.

A member of the public stated that it would be helpful to have a 3 year schedule of expected roadworks to let the businesses be able to plan in advance.

Worcestershire County Council, Cllr. David Chambers stated that the only other planned roadworks he is aware of is re-surfacing of Teme Street towards the end of the year. The County Council are trying to avoid any contentious dates. Also, a new sewer in Market Street is planned once the Pumping Station has been updated. A date has yet to be determined for this. He also stated that problems arise when utility companies apply for emergency works as it is impossible for these to be scheduled or advance warning given.

A Member asked if there could be communication between utilities to co-ordinate works in the same area at the same time.

Cllr. Chambers stated that he would find out if this was possible.

## **ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**

### **9. MAYOR'S COMMENDATIONS**

The Mayor presented his Commendation Awards.

#### **Louise Taylor**

In recognition of outstanding work with Tenbury Transport Trust and long term support and encouragement of the youth of Tenbury.

Meeting closed at 7.41 pm.

Signed.....

Date.....

### THE MAYOR'S ANNUAL REPORT 2024

It has been an honour and a privilege to have been appointed Mayor of the town to which I moved some 25 years ago, and where I have been delighted to live ever since. It is noteworthy that it is exactly 50 years since Tenbury Town Council came into existence with the major upheaval of the Local Government Act which came into force in 1974. Prior to that, for many years Tenbury Rural District Council was in charge.

In recognition of the Coronation of King Charles 111, the Council paid for and installed a Coronation bench in Teme Street, and obtained a grant to plant a small Coronation Orchard in the Civic Gardens.

During the year, the Council have provided grants to support a number of local charities, including £5000 to Tenbury Pool, £1000 to Citizens Advice Bureau, and £500 each to Tenbury Applefest Association, the Chamber of Trade for the Christmas Lights, Tenbury Blooms and Tenbury Transport Trust. The Mayor's charity supported Tenbury Food Bank and Kyrebrook Daycare Centre.

Almost certainly the most important issue for the town and the Council over the past year has been the progress with the proposed flood defences. The importance of these became even more self-evident over the past six months, with a number of flood alerts together with an actual flood which fortunately only affected some properties in Market Street plus cellars elsewhere. Although it sometimes appears that progress is far too slow, a substantial amount of work has been completed over the past year. In particular, the Environment Agency held workshops with other interested parties to finalise the best solutions for four of the most problematic sections of the defences, these being Church Street and St Mary's Church, Kyre Bridge, Teme Bridge, and Temeside House. These were successfully completed and will feed into the final design. Since then EA staff have been in Tenbury speaking to property owners and occupiers who will be directly affected by the works.

In addition, a pump is currently being installed in Market Street adjacent to Caldicotts and the Kyre Brook, in order to prevent the localised flooding of Market Street as happened most recently last winter. It is intended that the pump will trip in automatically when groundwater levels rise close to road level and will discharge water into Kyre Brook.

Following the Covid pandemic and lockdowns, Tenbury went through a period when police seemed to be almost totally absent from the town. It has been good therefore to see PC Paul Lawman and PCSO Abigail Partridge based at Tenbury Fire Station, patrolling in the town and engaging with businesses and the public. However, the police based here have to cover quite a wide area, not just the town, and we are still well short of the recommended allocation of 4 PCs. The Town Council will continue to press for the additional resources to be provided.

The Town Council have just signed a lease to allow the Doctor's Surgery in Teme Street to extend their private car park into an underused part of the Civic Gardens. This will allow for an extension to be built on to the rear of the surgery to provide additional consulting rooms and an increase in capacity, and allow for the increase in local population. It is as requested by the Doctors who run the practice, and I believe that retaining the Surgery in the middle of the town and easily accessible both on foot and from the town centre car parks is a real benefit to all.

Finally, I would like to thank Lesley, the Town Clerk, Susan her assistant, and David, our Groundsman for their hard work, and they together with Graham Brittain, the deputy Mayor all of my fellow Councillors for their support, help and advice over the past year.

David Patrick

## **Malvern Hills District Council Report (April 2024)**

### **Cllr Lesley Bruton (Tenbury Ward)**

It was an honour and a privilege to be re-elected last May as the District Council Member to represent the Tenbury Ward. Thank you to all residents who took the time to vote in the election.

Tenbury has been my home for the last 45 years since moving here with my family at the age of 11. I care passionately about the community, the town and surrounding area because it's my community.

It is an honour to help residents in so many ways and be able to make a difference to their lives from homelessness to planning issues. Thank you to all the residents' who have supported me and given me encouragement, which is very much appreciated.

Together with Tenbury Town Council and hundreds of councils across the country, Malvern Hills District Council on 1<sup>st</sup> April marked its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the Council being created under the Local Government Act 1972. The anniversary is a great opportunity to recognise the work undertaken by councils at all levels and the important contributions they make to our communities. Thank you to the Town and Parish Councillors who serve our communities, giving many hours of their time for free.

The District Council has provided grant funding in the town through several schemes including the Town Centre Support Scheme, Apprentice Bursary, Tourism Scheme and recently a large grant to The Regal through the Malvern Hills Rural Fund. Last year also saw significant investment in the renovation of the public conveniences located in Teme Street car park. The District Council has also supported the Town Council with grants for a planter, bunting, a Coronation Orchard and the planned D-Day event in June. During the Easter holidays the District Council through Tenbury TIC provided an Easter Bunny Trail. The trails are always very popular with the children.

This year I allocated my Ward Budget of £500 to Tenbury CofE Primary Academy to purchase new books for the school library. The school were able to purchase a set of books about diversity, which will benefit hundreds of children for many years. A school library plays a vital role in providing pupils a platform to gain knowledge, to support education and lifelong learning, to promote literacy and a love of reading. School libraries help reduce education inequality by providing children with equal access to the same breadth of reading as well as playing an important role for pupils' wellbeing and improves independent learning.

### **Council Tax & Budget 2024/25**

Council at its meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> February, approved a net budget of £6,034,410. The Band D equivalent for the District Council has increased by £5.00 (2.82%) to £182.60.

With such a small net budget, the District Council has an excellent track record of leveraging in external funding to support the district and communities.

### **Proposed Changes to Car Park Times & Charges**

The District Council is proposing to make changes to car park times and charges – the first change for most tariffs in 12 years. As part of a recent public consultation, there are several changes which include stay-time increases, as well as a cost increase for some.

The cost of the most popular tickets – the 50p one hour and £1.00 two-hour tickets will be frozen. These will remain some of the lowest parking rates in the county.

### **Spacehive Crowdfunding**

The District Council is encouraging individuals, organisations and businesses to come forward with ideas that could make their area greener, healthier and connected. Working with crowdfunding platform Spacehive, MHDC is launching the next round of funding as part of Crowdfund Malvern Hills, which gives local people the opportunity to create and deliver projects that aim to enhance the district.

The pitch requirement deadline is 24 April, please get in touch with Community Services who would love to hear your project ideas! A current project is Kyrebrook Daycare Centre, which has been allocated £18,617 through Malvern Hills District Council's Connected Communities Fund.

Contact: [communityservices@malvernhills.gov.uk](mailto:communityservices@malvernhills.gov.uk)

Visit: [www.spacehive.com/mevemet/mavernhills](http://www.spacehive.com/mevemet/mavernhills) for more information.

### **SWDP Review**

The Plan was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate for independent scrutiny towards the end of last year, a process known as examination. Dates for public hearings to provide inspectors with the opportunity to ask questions on parts of the plan and the evidence supporting it were expected to be announced this month.

While the inspectors say they have made good progress on preparing for the hearings they have requested for some evidence documents to be updated first. This will avoid delays further in the process and ensure people making representations at the hearings have the latest information available to them. Inspectors have requested further information about the impact of increased traffic generated by the plan on the surrounding road network.

It is worth noting that the plan states that development opportunities at Tenbury Wells are limited due to the flood risk, landscape and access issues. The plan allocates 147 dwellings at Tenbury Wells and proposes an additional 10 dwellings.

### **Home and Property Security Roadshow**

Thank you to the Community Safety Team (MHDC) for the excellent Home and Property Security Roadshow, which was held in The Pump Rooms on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> February. The drop-in event offered advice on a wide range of preventative security measures to reduce the likelihood of being a victim of theft or burglary. Free security devices as well as property marking was available. Officers were on hand to discuss any crime prevention questions and offering advice on how to maximise the chances of having stolen property rightfully returned.

The event was also supported by the Safer Neighbourhood Police Team and the Police Community Engagement Officer.

If residents require advice, please let me know and I will arrange a further session.

### **SkillsBoost Worcestershire**

SkillsBoost Worcestershire is a new programme to help organisations with the costs of upskilling and training their employees.

Worcestershire organisations can claim back 50% of their training costs, up to £6,000 for their Worcestershire based employees. This means that the funding can allow organisations to upskill or redeploy their employees to maximise their effectiveness. Businesses of any size and sector are eligible for the programme if the employees are looking to upskill or retrain in Worcestershire. The SkillsBoost Programme is part-funded by Malvern Hills District Council using its allocated UK Shared Prosperity funding.

Funding for the SkillsBoost programme is limited to on a first come first served basis and is only available from Tuesday 2 April 2024 until 31 March 2025.

Visit [www.worcestershiregrowthhub.co.uk/do-you-want-financial-support-to-upskill-your-staff](http://www.worcestershiregrowthhub.co.uk/do-you-want-financial-support-to-upskill-your-staff) for more information.

### **Talk to Tom**

Tenbury residents will have the opportunity on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> April to have their say about local issues when the Leader of Malvern Hills District Council, Cllr Tom Wells, holds his next 'Talk to Tom' session at The Pump Rooms from 10:00am to 12:00pm.

Visit: [www.malvern hills.gov.uk/talktotom](http://www.malvern hills.gov.uk/talktotom) to make an appointment via an online form.



### **£20m Malvern Theatres Project**

Residents and visitors will be able to have their say on the exciting £20million redevelopment of the Malvern Theatres at a consultation next week. The public consultation, 'Transforming Malvern', will be launched on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> April at an event at Malvern Theatres. People are invited to come along from 12:30pm to 6:30pm to look at plans and take part in a survey. Presentations will be held, along with a question-and-answer session.

The ambitious project, which has received funding of £20m from the UK Government's Levelling Up Fund, will aim to deliver a world-class cultural facility within the Malvern Hills District.





**Andrew Willmott  
District Councillor  
Tenbury Ward**

**Report on Items of Interest  
since my election in May 2023  
7 April 2024**

**Items in Current Reporting to  
Town and Parish Councils**

**Flood Defences, Tenbury Wells**

I have pressed the Environment Agency (EA) on basic unanswered questions since April last year, latterly under Freedom of Information rules. For example build height and ground water movement.

I have asked, and our MP has agreed to raise the issue of Government backed flood insurance for the Tenbury premises designated for protection under the Scheme until the Scheme is completed. We await EA reports on the “workshops”. If the Scheme is presented “clean” to MHDC Planning, it could clear Planning in two months. Current spend is £3.3 million. Estimated completion 2026?

**Planning. MHDC**

A raft of improvements were due to go live on 1 April that MHDC Planning expect to correct poor Planning performance over time. At a meeting with the then head of planning, I advocated more fundamental solutions. A performance review will follow to include any alternative action necessary.

**Speeding**

West Mercia Police have agreed to Operation Snap and the signs are up in the Rochford area and more recently we have added Hanley. Other communities are showing interest. A petition in favour of a scheme in Berrington Green is in process.

**parkrun**

Parkrun is a free, regular, safeguarded event for which funding is now in place. More volunteers are required to form the core team to run the Junior events in Tenbury on Palmers Meadow.

**Teme Bridge**

The official line has moved from “there is nothing wrong with the Bridge - it’s inconsiderate drivers” to County has reported that corrective action, including a new footbridge for our “no longer fit for purpose” Teme Bridge is not affordable for some time. Government funds are

being reallocated from HS2 to Local Authority transport schemes. I have asked, and our MP has agreed, to support our bid for a footbridge from this fund.

### **Road Works**

Roadworks methodology, how and when works are undertaken, is a local and national problem with roads closed and interrupted for long periods with no work being undertaken - for the convenience of those doing the work - to the inconvenience of those reliant on the road network. I have asked our MP to lobby to bring forward legislation to redress the balance with adequate weight given to the disruptive costs of delays and trade disruption suffered by those that rely on the network - in other words, most of us.

### **Tenbury Pharmacy**

I find that some individuals and groups are taking their trade to other towns because of service problems at our pharmacy, local stakeholders concur. I have written to the pharmacist's group headquarters to ask for a rectification of the problem.

### **Neighbourhood Plan**

A correctly framed Neighbourhood Plan provides significant protections against speculative development. In the absence of a provable 5 year housing land supply, a situation in which we have found ourselves, the adverse impact of allowing development that conflicts with the Neighbourhood Plan is likely to significantly and demonstrably outweigh the benefits. There are different views on whether speculative housing development in this area is over, given the severe pressures for more homes in the UK.

Tenbury Town Councillors decided not to have a Neighbourhood Plan in the past and now, not to have one for the future.

## **Past Items No Longer Reported Upon Plus Unreported Items That May Be Of Interest**

### **Severn Trent Mains Leakage**

A water main had burst no less than 24 times in 5 years causing significant disruption (and water loss!). Severn Trent were persuaded to fit a pressure reducing valve and to book a replacement water main in their next five year plan. The main has now held for the past few months.



### **Kyrebroke Day Centre**

The Centre has had difficulties attracting clients since the pandemic. This is odd given the need for support for the elderly and lonely in our area. Ria Baxter, the manager, has been tireless in bringing forward initiatives to ensure the viability of the Centre, thankfully, now bearing fruit. My Ward Budget for last year went to the Centre.

### **Local Economy**

I gave a paper to the Policy Development Panel advocating deregulation in the MHDC area in the same way that the Freeports initiative works for economic generation. My paper covered possibilities ranging from childcare to local energy production.

### **Tenbury Town Centre Plan**

I advocated a future second bridge and bypass to take the increasing load off the modified mediaeval Teme Bridge and narrow Town streets.

### **Natural Hydrogen**

Given the impetus to move to non-carbon based energy, more attention has been given recently to naturally produced “white hydrogen”. When hydrogen is used as a combustion fuel, the only waste product produced is water. Under advice from a national prospecting company, and the possibility of white hydrogen being present in our geological strata, I reported this to MHDC.

### **One Stop Shop**

Shropshire operate a system where a number of help agencies attend a centre together on a particular day. Thus people can access a number of specialists for aspects of their problems on the same day at the same place. I asked whether we should consider this approach in our area.

### **Electric Tenbury**

We are told that electric vehicles (EVs) are necessary to save the planet but charging capacity is inadequate. We have domestic capacity trickle chargers in Tenbury - no use for visitor shopping which needs fast chargers - for which Tenbury has grid capacity. Early adopter EV owners tend to be relatively well off because their vehicles are relatively expensive - just the shoppers we want to attract to Tenbury. The matter was passed to Tenbury Town Council.

### **Drain Diversion**

An elderly, frail, lone, partially sighted lady had her drive by her front door repeatedly flooded by an overflowing drain. She feared for the foundations of her house. For a year,

Worcestershire Highways and Severn Trent Water each blamed the other. Highways have now diverted their drain and are being pressed to decommission their abandoned inspection pit.

### **War**

At a recent Audit and Standards meeting I raised the question, given World tensions and the MHDC Disaster Management Plan, of local authority preparation for war, particularly the outpouring of envisaged West Midlands survivors of sky-bursts predicted and prepared for in the cold war. There are current proposals in Westminster to reintroduce the War Book for such events. My point was not minuted.

### **Stock-take**

At a recent Audit and Standards meeting I questioned whether a physical periodic check on the MHDC charge base (the physical premises) was undertaken. The answer was that it wasn't necessary. Having undertaken such checks in the past for large organisations, I have asked the Valuation Office for opinion. My point was not minuted.

### **Northern Area Planning Committee**

I have attended all site visits and Committee Meetings.

### **Malvern Hills District Council**

I have attended all meetings.

### **MHDC Committees**

I am a member of the Licensing and Appeals Committee, the Audit and Standards Committee, the Policy Development Panel - Economic Development, and I have attended all meetings.

### **Facebook**

I have a Facebook page and post topics every couple of weeks or so.

# On the beat in Tenbury

Safer Neighbourhood Team Newsletter

March 2024

## Tenbury Town Council report

### Appendix D

There have been 28 incidents reported to West Mercia Police through our Operational Control Centre.

Of these incidents 2 have been assaults, 2 concern for safety reports and 1 theft (which was shoplifting).

#### Safer Homes



#### Dwelling Burglary

There have been no residential burglaries reported for the past 3 months.

#### Safer Homes



#### Commercial / Other Burglary

There has been 0 non-dwelling burglary reported this month.

#### Crimes recorded

January	February	March
0	0	1

January	February	March
0	1	0

#### Safer People



#### Anti-social Behaviour

The number of incidents reported is negligible we have had 3 reports for ASB this month.

The team regularly patrol areas that have experienced ASB previously and will continue with targeted patrols.

#### Incidents reported

January	February	March
0	1	3

#### Crimes recorded

January	February	March
7	1	3

#### Safer People



#### Violence

I have included this category as it is often misconstrued or miscalculated when reported in local press.

There has been 3 violence related crime reports. In this incident the people involved were known to each



### Safer People



other. There were no reports of stranger violence.

### Shoplifting

There has been 1 report to the Police of shop thefts during March.

### Crimes recorded

January	February	March
1	1	2

### Safer Streets



### Vehicle crime

There have been 2 reports in March. I would like to add this is a wide category it covers all aspects such as car theft, car seizures, criminal damage to a car etc.

### Crimes recorded

January	February	March
0	3	2

### Team contact details

Email: [mt.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk](mailto:mt.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk)

### Sign up to Neighbourhood Matters ... your brand new community messaging service



Neighbourhood Matters enables residents, businesses and community groups to keep in touch with local policing teams. You can choose exactly what type of alert you wish to receive and how you receive them; whether that be by email, text or telephone.

Sign up now at: [www.neighbourhoodmatters.co.uk](http://www.neighbourhoodmatters.co.uk)