

**County Councillor Report- Badsey & Aldington**  
**Month: May 2020**  
**Prepared by Alastair Adams**  
**Littletons Division, Worcestershire County Council**

Dear All,

Since my last report, the whole world has changed with the corona virus. Pubs, restaurants, shops, factories and borders are closed across the world. Never has anything like this ever happened before, and no one knows currently when we can all get back to normal.

Hopefully, there will some good news in May with lower daily new infections rates and a loosening of the lockdown. Hopefully some businesses will be back at work, and maybe there will be news about schools re-opening. Lets hope so!

However, in the meantime, please follow the government's advice and stay safe and save lives.

The response from most residents to support each other and especially those vulnerable in the community during these difficult times has been brilliant. Most villages in my Division seem to have set up something to help the vulnerable in their community. So WELL DONE to all the volunteers that have been helping to procure and deliver food and medicines to all those that must self-isolate, and cannot go outside to shop. A really wonderful example of community self -help and neighbourliness.

Similar Groups are operating across Worcestershire, but anyone that does not have a local support group can contact Worcestershire County Council via its website <http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/here2help> .

Other organisation are also helping such as the Police - as per this article below;-

## **PCC Launches Dedicated Fund For COVID-19 Support Groups**

**West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner has launched a dedicated fund to ensure support groups at the heart of the community have the resources they need during the current COVID-19 pandemic.**

The fund has been established to allow Town and Parish Councils across West Mercia to apply for money to purchase essential items that will allow them to continue providing support to those that need it most.

Community groups play a vital role in keeping spirits up and reducing the stresses of social isolation. Whilst face-to-face meetings and group gatherings are no longer possible there are still ways to ensure our most vulnerable neighbours are cared for.

The Commissioner said: "COVID-19 is a concern for us all across West Mercia and during these uncertain times we must work together to ease the situation. Keeping everyone connected is crucial in ensuring that the most vulnerable are not alone. I have seen communities come together throughout West Mercia to provide services such as collecting medication, essential shopping and offering phone and video calls.

"This new fund will give volunteer groups the opportunity to fund essential items such as face masks, gloves and ID badges, enabling them to continue the vital work they are doing in our communities. As Commissioner I would encourage you all listen to guidelines issued by the Government, look out for each other and register for volunteer schemes in your area."

For more information about the fund and how to apply visit: <https://www.westmercia-pcc.gov.uk/about-your-pcc/pcc-grants-scheme/>

**But as with everything, there are always those that try and take advantage, so please beware of fraudsters during these difficult times –**

## Trading Standards warn of Fake COVID-19 Appeals and Urge Safe Giving

Many charities are coming together to support people affected by COVID-19. Unfortunately, fraudsters are taking advantage of the pandemic by creating fake fundraising platforms and bogus crowdfunding, falsely claiming that donations will support research into a vaccine or help people who are ill or self-isolating.

At this time of national emergency, The Charity Commission and Fundraising Regulator are urging people to 'give safely'.

The regulators encourage people to support registered charities, including the National Emergencies Trust (NET) national coronavirus fundraising appeal, launched to raise funds for local charities responding to the pandemic, visit: <https://nationalemergenciestrust.org.uk/>

Thousands of other registered charities are also dealing with the pandemic or continuing to do important work throughout the country to support vulnerable people and communities.

**Advice for the public on giving safely to registered charities is:**

- Check the charity's name and registration number at <https://www.gov.uk/find-charity-information> most charities with an annual income of £5,000 or more must be registered
- Make sure the charity is genuine before giving any personal or financial information or a donation
- Be wary of emails and texts, even if they appear to come from genuine charities. Do not follow links or download attachments in suspicious emails.
- Contact or find out more online about the charity that you're seeking to donate to or work with to find out more about their spending. Visit their website by typing their genuine web address into your Internet browser.
- For more safe giving advice, visit: <https://www.fundraisingregulator.org.uk/more-from-us/resources/safer-giving-advice>

### **WHERE TO GET FURTHER INFORMATION, HELP AND ADVICE ON COVID-19?**

<http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/here2help>

or telephone **01905 768053** (staffed 8am-8pm 7 days a week)

<http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/coronavirus>

NHS Website for information on Coronavirus

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Carers who support a family member or friend who require support should contact the Worcestershire Association of Carers on [www.carersworcs.org.uk](http://www.carersworcs.org.uk) or call their Helpline 0300 012 4272.

Official statistics and information are available on the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-track-coronavirus-cases>

At the time I am writing this article, the number of people in Worcestershire that have been tested positive for COVID-19 is 1201 people. This equates to a rate of 202 people per 100,000. This compares to 217 per 100,000 in Warwickshire, and 293 per 100,000 in the whole of the UK.

## **Financial support for you**

If you are struggling financially then the advice is to make a claim for Universal Credit, Council Tax Support and other benefits you may be eligible for.

There is more information on the [coronavirus employments and benefits page](#).

## **Help paying your Council Tax**

If you are of working age and already receiving Council Tax Support you will get a one off reduction of up to £150. This will be applied automatically to your bill. New bills will be issued in the next few weeks.

You can apply online for [Council Tax Support](#) if you are struggling to pay your bill.

More information is available on our [Benefits and Council Tax page](#).

Even if you are not eligible for Council Tax Support, you still may be able to defer your payments for a short period, or spread them over 12 months instead of ten.

Please contact the Council's team by emailing [Revenues@southworcestershirevenues.gov.uk](mailto:Revenues@southworcestershirevenues.gov.uk) or call 03004 560560 to discuss your circumstances and they will do their best to help you.

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## **Help to find a job**

If you have been made redundant, are facing redundancy or are looking for work then the [Worcestershire Jobs Match scheme](#) can help. It has been created to help match businesses struggling to fill vacancies with individuals who have lost their jobs as a result of the Covid-19 outbreak.

We are also supporting the Pick for Britain campaign, to find thousands of workers to help support farmers to harvest fruit and vegetables and help feed the nation.

You can find out more about job opportunities available on our local farms, and other opportunities, on our [Local Job Opportunities page](#).

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## **Support for businesses**

We have paid out support payments totalling more than £19million to 1,683 businesses. If you are a business and have yet to apply, find out if you are eligible and more information on our [Business Rates Reliefs page](#).

The Government's furlough scheme is now open meaning businesses can apply for help to pay up to 80% of the wages of staff.

[www.businesssupport.gov.uk](http://www.businesssupport.gov.uk) has details of all the support available to businesses.

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### **Highways:**

Highways are still working but with a reduced team as some workers are self-isolating due to their health issues. However, all emergency works to Highways to keep them safe and roadworthy are continuing, and some planned work is also taking place.

To keep up to date on the roads affected see

[http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20602/roadworks\\_in\\_worcestershire](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20602/roadworks_in_worcestershire)

Or look at the national roadworks website below, and type in Bretforton in the top right box to search. [www.roadworks.org](http://www.roadworks.org)

1. **Speeding on the B4035 near Sladden Close** – Mobile Camera opposite the entrance to Sladden Close – location for van identified – Safer Road Partnership want a Grasscrete platform to be laid so the van won't sink into the mud. Highways agreed to install the platform. It turns out that the grass area where the platform was going to be built for the mobile camera van is not owned by the WCC, but by Rooftop – the Housing Association. So the County Council contacted Rooftop to seek their permission to install it, and after negotiations have got permission. Now waiting for the platform to be installed.
2. **Condicup Farm** – Highways to check works on this farm will not increase the risk of road flooding
- 3.

As always, if you have any issues on any Highways matters, please report it on the WCC website [http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/homepage/98/report\\_it](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/homepage/98/report_it)

Also remember a photo of the Highways problem is as good as “a thousand words” so always take a photo where possible.

### **County Council Divisional Fund**

The new financial year has started at the County Council, so new Divisional grants are available. So any community organisation that needs a little support to buy equipment or some essential service can apply by contacting me.

**Your County Councillor, Alastair Adams can be contacted on**  
[adams.pebworth@gmail.com](mailto:adams.pebworth@gmail.com) or mobile 07725 979 277 or [www.alastairadams.org](http://www.alastairadams.org)