

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

Dear All,

**Update on COVID-19 outbreak in Blackminster**

Since my last report in August, the update from Worcestershire County is as follows:

*“Worcestershire County Council continues to work with Public Health England (PHE) Midlands to support Evesham Vale Growers Limited, at Blackminster near Evesham, following an outbreak of COVID-19 among their workforce.*

*Key workers at EVG were re-swabbed on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> August. This is a routine practice, at the end of the 14 day isolation period to check if there are any new cases in the incubation period.*

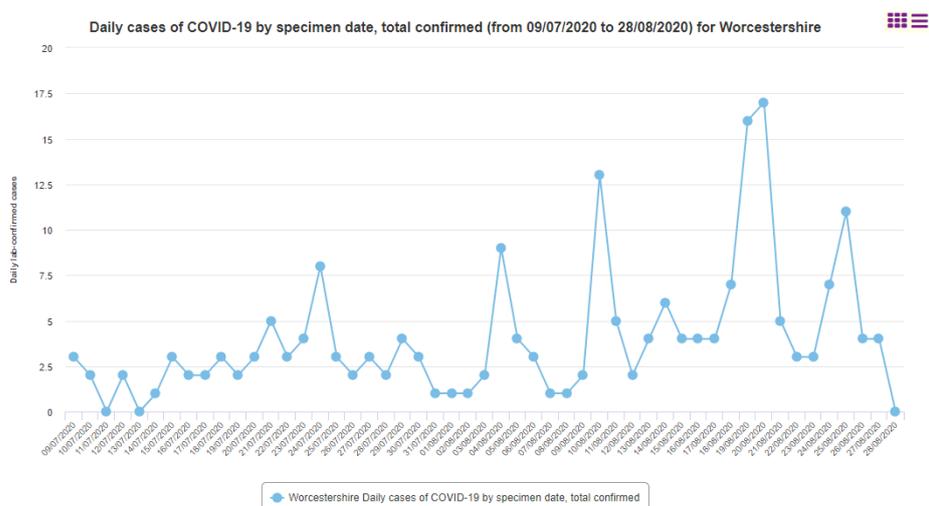
*All of those tested received negative results.*

*Workers will start to return to work under guidance from Public Health. Alongside existing measures, EVG have introduced additional stringent practices in the workplace and for those living on site, to ensure they can live and work in a COVID secure environment.*

*We would like to thank the management and staff at EVG for working with us to quickly contain and manage the outbreak, which has now allowed staff and the business to begin to return to normal.”*

It is good to hear that the outbreak was quickly contained, and there was no need for any of the workers affected to be admitted into hospital. However, it is a reminder to us all that Coronavirus has not gone away and we must stay alert, continue to wash our hands regularly wear a face mask where necessary and follow the socially distance rules.

However, please be assured that Worcestershire has a very low number of COVID-19 cases, and on 28/8/20 there were no reported new cases. See graph below.



## BACK TO SCHOOL

This month the schools go back, and Worcestershire County Council via **Worcestershire Children First** have been working very closely with school leaders and other colleagues, including public health, to ensure that each school has an individual tailored plan for their wider reopening, based on their individual circumstances as well as looking forward to the future.

All schools have completed a risk assessment ahead of them reopening their doors to ensure that their plans and all aspects of school life meet both Government guidance and the individual needs of the staff and students who work there.

Schools and colleges will have the discretion to require face coverings for Year 7s and above in communal areas where social distancing cannot be safely managed. See

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/face-coverings-in-education/face-coverings-in-education>

Worcestershire County Council are organising School transport from the beginning of August Term, and would appreciate the support of parents and carers of pupils travelling on home to school transport services to communicate the safety rules for travelling on school transport services outlined below to their children. See

[http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20826/worcestershire\\_school\\_transport\\_guidance\\_autumn\\_2020](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20826/worcestershire_school_transport_guidance_autumn_2020)

## COVID-19 STATISTICS

Official statistics and information are available on the link below:

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

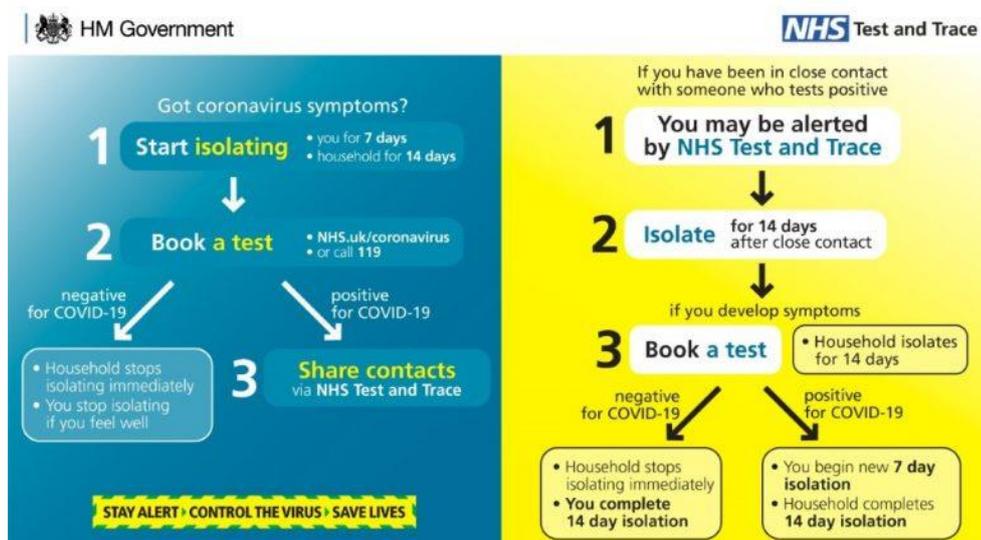
## WHERE CAN I GET FURTHER INFORMATION, HELP AND ADVICE?

Worcestershire County Council website

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

NHS Website for information on Coronavirus

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



## 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

The Council's new business support programme, **Here2Help Business** is live [http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20807/here2help\\_business](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20807/here2help_business)  
It is a £3m programme designed to assist local Worcestershire Businesses to recover, adapt, develop and support future resilience as lockdown measures reduce

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

## **Highway issues effecting Badsey:-**

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 Badsey in the top right box to search. [www.roadworks.org](http://www.roadworks.org)

There are a lot of road closures at the moment in the area. Below are just some. Please note that many road closures are as a result of the Utilities carrying out maintenance or upgrades to their networks (BT/Western Power, Electricity/Severn Trent, Water/ British Gas/British Rail)

1. **B4085 Birmingham Rd Blackminster - Road Closure - railway maintenance - 2 days from 14 Sept**
2. **Mickleton Rd in Honeybourne to be closed 5<sup>th</sup> October** for overhead electrical works
3. **Back Lane Pebworth to be closed between Front Street and Friday Street for carriage repairs/patching in week commencing 26<sup>th</sup> Oct (Half-term) .**
4. **Streetworks in Pebworth means Front Street will be closed during the daytime between 5 Oct to 16 Oct**
5. **Temporary Road Closure Shinehill Lane/Sheenhill Rd** – from 7/9/2020 for up to 19 days for multiple utility works.
6. **Buckle Street Road from Station Rd to Sheenhill Rd - Closure - Severn Trent meter renewing works - 3 days from 7 Oct**
7. **Stratford Rd Honeybourne Road Closure - 2/11/20** for Bridge inspection by Network Rail
8. **High Street Honeybourne** – Closed most of August to fit new raising water mains.
9. **Loose road drain cover** adjacent to 49 Bretforton Road Badsey WR11 7XQ. Severn Trent have been instructed to rectify it.
10. **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. Meeting took place between Bob Haynes from West Mercia Police and Barry Barnes Highways last month to set out the exact location of the Grasscrete platform. It was suggested some of the signage will need to be relocated and they suggested an existing post for a VAS on the corner of Horsebridge Avenue would need to be removed from the camera sightline. This was agreed with Andre, Clerk to Badsey PC. Now it is up to Highways to schedule the work. Barry Barnes is the co-ordinator, and I have chased him, but no start dates yet confirmed.
11. **B4085 - Dangerous pavement from junction Village St to Horsebridge Avenue** – following a resident's complaint, I have asked Highways to visit Badsey and look at this pavement. It was widened a few years ago in an attempt to make it safer.

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**

- Offenham Cricket Club- grant request for a contribution of £500 towards a new mower – grant approved.
- Pebworth In Bloom have applied for a grant to help cover the cost of the bedding plants and hanging baskets planted around the village. Due to COVID 19 the “Open Gardens event” in Pebworth was cancelled which had an adverse effect on the funding of PIB. Normally PIB raise a significant amount during this event by offering teas to visitors, but this year no teas means no funds!

If you run a community organisation that needs a little support to buy equipment or some essential service, then please apply for a Divisional Fund by contacting me.

**Your County Councillor, Alastair Adams can be contacted on**  
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