

JULY 2018 COUNTY COUNCIL UPDATE

Works starts on 18th July on the highways improvements ahead of the main project to transform Kidderminster Railway station.

The station is set to undergo a dramatic redevelopment including a new glass-fronted building twice the size of the existing one, which will include a new café and shop.

Improvements to Comberton Hill as a transport interchange include the installation of two new bus shelters and a pedestrian crossing.



School pupils from Worcestershire have been learning about what it takes to design and build a new railway station.

Year 7 youngsters from St Barnabas C of E First & Middle School in Drakes Broughton became 'engineers for a day' recently by looking at the challenges in designing Worcestershire Parkway Station.

We first visited the school last autumn to talk to pupils about civil engineering and other professions involved in the construction industry. They also recently enjoyed a visit to the site where their classroom learning was brought to life in a real life construction environment.

With Worcestershire Parkway Station on their doorstep, it was the perfect opportunity to talk to pupils about engineering in action.

We plan to invite the press for a briefing on progress later this month.

A new way of delivering arts and youth music is now available in Worcestershire.

Severn Arts (previously Worcester Youth Music) is a new 'not for profit' company and is now operating as a social enterprise to deliver music education and wider arts opportunities, running the service independently from the Council. Severn Arts has set up as a business entity separate from the Council. It means going forward they can develop business partnerships, attract grants from the Arts Council and will offer a wider range of services to children, young people and adults across the county.

Over the last few months we have been engaging with key stakeholders including staff, children and young people to develop the name of the new Alternative Delivery Model (ADM) company. The process involved face to face workshops with social workers, children's social care managers, with children at schools, and importantly with looked after children and care leavers.

A shortlist of company names was produced and overwhelmingly the preferred name that staff felt best captures the purpose and values of the company was '**Worcestershire Children First**'.

This name has been endorsed by the ADM Board and is being recommended to Cabinet for approval at their meeting on 12 July before beginning the process of registering the company name with Companies House and further developing the company brand.

For more information on the ADM please visit www.worcestershire.gov.uk/adm or alternatively you can email the ADM Programme Team on adm@worcestershires.gov.uk.

On Wednesday 27th June, the Worcestershire Shared Lives team held an event in the Council Chamber to celebrate the Shared Lives carers across the county.

The scheme supports adults who cannot live alone, but may still be fairly independent, and matches them with a suitable carer. The event gave the team an opportunity to thank all the carers, as well as discuss with those interested what the scheme is and how much it can improve independence for those living within the scheme.

Watch more: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gp93QS15aw&t> and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VHGuy7VXASE&t=1s>

We're recognising the county's small businesses for their commitment to reducing single use plastic, by awarding '**Plastic Pledge**' certificates.

The certificates will be issued to businesses who have managed to significantly reduce their plastic use.

At County Hall, we're trying to reduce the amount of single use plastic used on site; over 100,000 coffee cups were thrown away on this site last year alone.

Our catering suppliers Servest no longer supply plastic packaging for any food that is made or produced on-site, including plastic salad or dessert pots or plastic cutlery.

These have been replaced with packaging and disposables that are made from plants and are compostable.

Discussions are also continuing in Cabinet regarding how we can reduce the amount of plastic that is used across the county.

Our summer resident roadshows will soon start.

These annual roadshows give officers and councillors the opportunity to meet and speak to residents, to answer questions and to raise awareness of the services that the Council provides.

We will be talking to residents about the Council budget, active living and understanding what they like the best about living in Worcestershire. Residents can of course also raise any matter they wish with the officers and members in attendance.

The roadshows are:

Sunday 8th July - Redditch Green Fair

Sunday 15th July – Bewdley Riverside Market

Saturday 4th August – Tenbury Countryside Show

Sunday 12th August – Worcester Show

Sunday 26th August – Pershore Plum Festival

Sunday 16th September – Sanders Park Bromsgrove 50th anniversary celebrations

For more information or if any member would like to attend any of the roadshows please contact Tom Parker in the Comms Team: TParker@worcestershire.gov.uk.