

## January 2017

### Welcome to our first parish and town council newsletter of 2017

We hope the start of the New Year is treating you all well.

We have many upcoming events and plans detailed in the newsletter, which we hope you will find useful and informative.

Your ideas for content are always welcome so if there are any items of specific information you would like included in future newsletters then please send them through to [claire.vaughan@malvern hills.gov.uk](mailto:claire.vaughan@malvern hills.gov.uk).

**Jack Hegarty – Chief Executive**  
**Cllr Phil Grove – Leader of MHDC**

### Parish and Town Council Forum date

The next Parish and Town Council Forum takes place on Monday, 24 April between 6pm and 8.30pm in the Council Chamber in Avenue Road, Malvern.

If you have any ideas for agenda items then please email [Claire.vaughan@malvern hills.gov.uk](mailto:Claire.vaughan@malvern hills.gov.uk).

### Great British Spring Clean

This year we are supporting The Great British Spring Clean. This is a new campaign created by Keep Britain Tidy following the success of last year's Clean for The Queen campaign, which we also took part in.

The clean-up operation will take place from 3 to 5 March, where people, clubs, communities, schools and businesses across the country will be getting active to help clean up their neighbourhoods.

We will be organising a 'hit squad' made up of residents, staff and councillors to tackle a number of litter hotspot areas nominated by the public.

We also have equipment available to loan to local community groups who would like to conduct their own litter pick. However, we would advise all parish and town councils to check with their insurer that their public liability insurance covers these types of activities.

Overall the cleanliness of the district is of a high standard, but unfortunately there are still some areas where litter louts continue to drop litter.

Taking part in this campaign is a great way to get out and about and clean parts of the district so residents and visitors can continue to enjoy this wonderful area.

Please contact [claire.vaughan@malvern hills.gov.uk](mailto:claire.vaughan@malvern hills.gov.uk) for more information.  
Visit [www.greatbritishspringclean.org.uk](http://www.greatbritishspringclean.org.uk) for more information on the national campaign.  
Visit [www.malvern hills.gov.uk/report-it](http://www.malvern hills.gov.uk/report-it) to report an incident of littering, fly-tipping or dog fouling.

### Dog Control Consultation

We are proposing to adopt new powers to help us deal with dog fouling across the district and a number of other dog control related issues. We are currently consulting on the introduction of a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) which will cover the following:

- Failure to pick up dog mess when in control of a dog.
- Failure to carry a poop bag or other means to clean up after a dog.
- Failure to keep a dog on a lead in a designated area.

- Failure to exclude dogs from fenced off or enclosed children's playgrounds.

We want to hear your views about this. Please complete our short survey by visiting [www.malvern hills.gov.uk/public-notice s-consultations](http://www.malvern hills.gov.uk/public-notice s-consultations).

Consultation closes on Sunday 26 February 2017.

### **Adopt a box**

We recently contacted all parish and town councils to inform you of a consultation by BT, proposing to remove 52 of the traditional red phone boxes still in place in our district.

Thank you to everyone who completed the online survey. All your responses have now been sent to BT.

A number of you expressed an interest in adopting the boxes – without the phone in them – for £1. Your details have been passed on to BT and they should be in touch shortly to start the process.

However, anyone who wishes to contact them directly about this should email [adoptakiosk@bt.com](mailto:adoptakiosk@bt.com).

### **Superfast Worcestershire**

As you will know, there is a major programme of investment underway at the moment to bring superfast broadband to the vast majority of residents and businesses in the county.

The good news is, in the Malvern Hills area, 84 per cent of residents have access to superfast fibre coverage. This means that residents and businesses are able to access:

- Up to 80Mbps download speeds and up to 20Mbps upload speeds with Fibre to the Cabinet (FTTC).
- Up to 1Gbps download speeds and up to 220Mbps upload speeds with Fibre to the Premises (FTTP).

However, take-up of the service in Malvern Hills is just 35.4 per cent (as of Nov 2016).

Unfortunately, many residents aren't aware that while the technology has been installed, they will need to either upgrade with their existing supplier or switch to a new supplier to benefit from the new faster service. Please do what you can to make residents aware in your area that they can take advantage of these faster speeds.

[Click here](#) for more information.

It is also worth noting that in The Autumn Statement, the Chancellor Philip Hammond outlined further investment worth over £1 billion for digital infrastructure, including 5G trials. We are investigating what opportunities this will present for Worcestershire.

### **Local Transport Plan consultation**

Worcestershire County Council has launched a consultation on the new draft Local Transport Plan 4 (LTP4).

The document sets out the county council's aspirations for investing in transport networks, including infrastructure, technology and services which are essential to support planned growth and promote social and economic success.

Potential plans in Worcestershire include improvements investment in highways, walking and cycling infrastructure, passenger transport, traffic management, and parking.

The consultation runs until 17 March, for more information or to take part in the consultation visit [www.worcestershire.gov.uk/LTP](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/LTP).

### **Email alerts service launched**

We have recently launched an email subscription service to help improve the way we communicate with residents.

By signing up to the service, residents can choose to receive information on a number of topics from bins and recycling to festivals and events. To sign up to the service people just have to visit [www.malvern hills.gov.uk](http://www.malvern hills.gov.uk) and provide their email address in the pop up (as seen below) that appears or click on the icon on the top right hand page of the home page.



## Community awards

Groups and individuals that help reduce social isolation, prevent crime and support disabled children were among those recognised at the first Our Malvern Hills Community Awards.

Over 60 nominations were made across six categories, in total 20 people, projects, groups and businesses were celebrated for their achievements during a ceremony hosted at Langland Stadium, the home of Malvern Town FC, on Thursday 1 December 2016.

The awards were created to recognise dedicated members of the community as part of our commitment to build stronger and healthier communities.

There are many volunteers out there who are making a huge difference to people's lives day in day out, and it is important that we recognise these unsung heroes and show our appreciation.

Please look out when nominations open for this year's awards in autumn 2017 and be sure to put forward your unsung heroes.

Visit [www.malvernhillsgov.uk/communityawards](http://www.malvernhillsgov.uk/communityawards) to view the full list of nominees and awards for 2016.

## Smoke-free play areas

Last year Malvern Hills District Council signed the Local Government Declaration on Tobacco Control. This meant council owned play parks

within the Malvern Hills District became voluntary smoke free zones from 1 June 2016.

Smoke free signage is now up in seven of our play areas, including:

- Priory Park, Malvern
- Dean Close, Powick
- Montgomery Close, Powick
- Milestone Road, Upton
- Gainsborough Close, Welland
- Gifford Drive, Welland
- Blandford Close, Welland



Malvern Hills is the fourth council in Worcestershire to sign the declaration along with Worcestershire County Council, Wyre Forest District and Worcester City Councils.

Visit [www.malvernhillsgov.uk/smokefree](http://www.malvernhillsgov.uk/smokefree) to view the declaration and for more information.

## Meet Your Council events

Our scheme to bring councillors closer to residents and businesses has been a big hit so far and thank you to you all for your support.

The Meet Your Council programme was set up as part of our efforts to improve the way we communicate with our residents, giving them more opportunity to have their say on local issues.

The programme involves district councillors and senior officers visiting various parts of the district to talk to residents and businesses, pick up any issues of concern or suggestions for improving our services.

The final event of 2016 took place on Monday 12 December in Alfrick and Leigh Ward, where councillors Sarah Rouse and Tony

Warburton visited Alfrick Community shop, Chirkenhall B&B, Our Place School and The Fold.



The programme has helped support many residents, local businesses and community groups, by helping deliver more activities for the local community and donating ward budget monies to help businesses grow.

Since October 2015 there have been ten events throughout the district, with over 150 visits to local residents. We plan to roll out to all 22 wards by the end of 2017.

The programme has enabled us to see all the good that goes on in the district, the varied business ventures and the hard work of local residents. It is a great way to help us better understand and support our communities.

We will contact parish and town councils to tell you when we are next planning a visit in your area.



### **Self harm project up for award**

We recently ran a campaign to raise awareness of self-harm and mental health issues amongst young people, which has now been nominated for a national award.

The SELFie Where's the HARM project has been nominated for 'Campaign of the Year' in the annual Local Government Chronicle (LGC) awards.

Malvern Hills Community Safety Partnership (CSP) funded a specially devised theatre production – also entitled SELFie where's the HARM? This was performed across five high schools in Worcestershire to over 1,355 young people between the ages of 11 to 15.

We will soon be presenting the campaign to a panel of judges where we will then find out if we have won the award at a ceremony in March 2017.

The play was developed by CMP Consult, a specialist project management company for the education sector, and focuses on the consequences and impact of self-harm. It deals with the perception of mental health, people's attitude towards it and the pressures and influences of the internet and social media. We have committed to raising awareness of issues relating to self-harm amongst at least 500 young people over the next five years, as part of our new strategy. In Worcestershire 70,000 adults and 7,000 children are living with mental ill health at any one time.

The legacy will live on through a performance DVD which we will provide for all Malvern schools, community youth groups and relevant professionals to use for education purposes.

Visit [www.ylyc.worcestershire.gov.uk/information-and-advice/health-and-wellbeing/mental-health-support/](http://www.ylyc.worcestershire.gov.uk/information-and-advice/health-and-wellbeing/mental-health-support/) for more information on support available to deal with issues around mental ill health.

### **Five Year Plan update**

Last year we launched our Five Year Plan which set out almost 30 actions around three core priorities of building stronger and healthier communities, driving economic prosperity and growth and making the most of our superb environment.

Delivering this plan will help us achieve our vision of making Malvern Hills District an even better place to work, live and visit. We have been in the process of updating that plan following consultation with yourselves and the public towards the end of last year, to find new actions to replace those already completed.

As a result, seven new actions are proposed to be added to the plan and these will go to a meeting of the Council for discussion and approval on 24 January 2017.

A detailed report will also be sent to you after the meeting to thank you for your help and report on how we used your feedback to update the plan and develop these new actions.



## Parish councils and the Transparency Code

Parish councils with an annual turnover not exceeding £25,000 are now required to comply with the Smaller Authorities' Transparency Code in publishing information online.

The Government, through the National and County Associations of Local Councils, is providing funding (covering laptop purchase, website creation or training) to enable such parishes to comply with the code.

We are keen to ensure all eligible parishes know about the funding. Guidance notes and application forms are available from Richard Levett, WCALC - [Richard@worcscalc.org.uk](mailto:Richard@worcscalc.org.uk).

## St Richard's keen to engage with you

St Richard's Hospice would like to engage with parish and town councils to increase awareness of the free expert care and support provided amongst the rural communities they serve.

St Richard's Hospice Engagement Officer, Alice Spearing, would welcome the opportunity to attend a future parish meeting to explore the best way to raise awareness in your area.

This may be providing leaflets in the local shop or guest speakers from the hospice joining local

social groups. Please contact Alice on [aspearing@strichards.org.uk](mailto:aspearing@strichards.org.uk) or call 01905 763963.

## Key council decisions made

Here are some key decisions made by various Council committees over the last three months.

**Executive Committee:** Council Tax exemption for empty properties reduced to one month as from 1 April 2017.

For more information visit <https://goo.gl/GpRcsd>

The Council's Medium Term Financial Plan was agreed until 2021/22.

For more information visit <https://goo.gl/Q7Pmnl>

## Full Council

A revised Housing Assistance Policy was agreed in order to make use of the flexibility offered by the Government's Disabled Facility Grants. Visit <https://goo.gl/nmc400> for more information.

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