

District and County Councillor Report Oct 2022 from Kathy and Tom Wells

Road repairs in Callow End

Worcestershire County Council Highways Department have been carrying out extensive repair work to several stretches of road in Callow End, centred on Upper and Lower Ferry Lanes.

The crew have worked to improve the substructure of the roads to create a sound base for the final layer – or wearing course – to be applied next summer.

Annual Residents' Survey

The Malvern Hills District Council's Annual Residents' Survey has returned and is a great opportunity for residents to have their say and influence council decisions.

The survey asks questions on a variety of different topics, including social isolation, safety, whether council services are value for money and the impact of the cost-of-living crisis.

It will be available until the deadline on 16 October 2022.

The survey takes about 15 to 20 minutes to complete but progress can be saved so it can be completed in stages. As always, feedback will be used to improve services.

As well as this, there will be a £50 voucher up for grabs for three lucky people who take part. The voucher can be used for a local, independent restaurant or shop in the area of their choice within the Malvern Hills District.

[Take part in the Annual Residents' Survey.](#) The survey is only open to Malvern Hills District residents.

Plan for South Worcestershire's future

A key planning document that will shape the way South Worcestershire develops over the next 20 years is set to be considered by councillors.

The Review of the existing South Worcestershire Development Plan (SWDP) sets out Worcester City, Malvern Hills District and Wychavon District Councils' vision for the area up to 2041.

Most of the new housing will be provided through new settlements, known as strategic sites. These will be located close to existing or new railway links. Providing new greenspaces will also be a key part of the Plan.

The strategic sites are as follows:

- Up to 2041, 5,000 new homes will be built at **Worcestershire Parkway** with up to 40% affordable housing and 50 hectares of employment land. Another 5,000 homes are planned after 2041. The settlement will be carbon neutral with renewable energy providing the development's energy needs. The focus will be on making sure residents' needs are met nearer to where they live including a new town centre, schools, local neighbourhood centres and community facilities. Together with investment in walking and cycling infrastructure it will promote sustainability and reduced car use.

- At **Throckmorton**, a carbon neutral settlement of 2,000 homes with 40% affordable housing and 20 hectares of employment land will be created by 2041. In the second phase after 2041, another 3,000 new homes are planned, as well as 40 hectares of employment land. Again, the focus will be on sustainability with a town centre, schools and community facilities part of the proposals. New infrastructure will include direct walking and cycling links to Pershore Railway Station, which will also be enhanced.
- At **Rushwick** 1,000 new homes are planned as well as five hectares of employment land, a new railway station, primary school, retail and other supporting services including a new or improved village hall, community park, allotments and orchards. Up to 40% of the housing will be affordable and no development will be allowed before land necessary to allow the railway station to be built and other critical infrastructure has been secured.
- Land near Mitton close to Bredon and next to Tewkesbury Town, has also been identified to provide 1,000 new homes, a new primary school, community facilities and walking and cycling links.

Smaller sites have also been identified for new housing in each area during the plan period, including 376 in parishes across the Malvern Hills District. As well as housing, the new Plan provides new employment land to support business growth, strengthened protections to prevent development on the Green Belt and new open green space for people to enjoy.

The document will need to be approved by all three councils at meetings in Worcester City on 17 October, Malvern Hills on 18 October and Wychavon on 19 October.

OCTOBER IS FESTIVAL MONTH

The Great Malvern Gin Festival

The Great Malvern Gin Festival is free and takes place from **6th to 8th October**.

There are nine popular venues signed up to take part with more than 100 gins available to test out from the classic tastes to the weird and wonderful. There will also be live music and an opportunity to talk to the experts.

The following venues signed up to take part: The Fig, The Great Malvern Hotel, Malvern Cellar, Malvern Lounge, Bar Limon, The Water Cure, Faun, Weavers and The Red Lion.

Malvern Cellar will not only be offering cocktails throughout the festival, but you can go and talk to the experts Angus and Lewis who can showcase over 90 gins.

Special guests and experts from Malvern Gin will also be in Malvern Cellar between 12pm-4pm on Saturday 8 October where you can sample local gins made from Hollywell Malvern Spring Water.

Trail maps will be available to download from the website or will be available in participating venues.

The event is part of MHDC's ambition to increase the number of events across the district to generate footfall and support businesses as part of the new Town Centre Plans.

[Read more about the Great Malvern Gin Festival.](#)

The Great Malvern Festival of Stories for Children

The Great Malvern Festival of Stories for Children has a family programme on **Saturday 22nd and Sunday 23rd October** which is open to everyone in a number of venues throughout Malvern, including Great Malvern Priory, The Lyttelton Well, The Coach House Theatre, The Cube, Malvern Library and Malvern Theatres.

The Festival promises to be a celebration of stories and storytelling, featuring an exciting programme of professional storytellers, children's authors, illustrators, puppet companies, musicians, and theatre.

Showcasing their illustration skills at the event will be Horrible Histories' illustrator Martin Brown, and Jonny Duddle, illustrator of the celebrated Harry Potter books.

The festival programme also includes:

- Recently appointed Children's Laureate Joseph Coelho.
- Popular children's author and illustrator Korkey Paul.
- Internationally renowned storytellers Peter Chand and Cat Weatherill.
- Puppet Theatre by Lempen Puppets, Indigo Moon Puppet Theatre and Sealegs Puppets.

In addition to this there will be author signed copies of books for sale, the Worcestershire Travelling Music Box, and a Children's Window Trail with a prize book voucher from Malvern Book Co-operative.

[Read more about the Great Malvern Festival of Stories.](#)

Festival of Innovation

The annual Malvern Festival of Innovation for its 11th year with the aim of engaging and inspiring people across the town. The festival will take place from **4th to 8th October**.

On Thursday, 6 October, Malvern Hills Science Park opens its doors with a Tech Day exhibition and talks to showcase some of the technology-focused businesses based on site and elsewhere in and around Malvern.

On Friday evening, the popular and fun Science and Technology Comedy Night returns, this year in the Malvern Cube.

And on Saturday, the Family Day will be held in Malvern Library, giving an opportunity for younger children and their parents or grandparents to engage with Science Technology Engineering and Maths organisations to try out some hands-on experiments and investigations.

The mini-exhibition is free for all to attend, with a ticketed talk during the morning on fusion energy given by popular science communicator Leah Morgan.

[Read more about Malvern Festival of Innovation.](#)