

**LITTLE WITLEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**10.09.18**  
**COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT**

**1. Rail Developments**

In July, I mentioned our aspirations for further developments in our rail network. I was able to pursue these at a meeting at the House of Commons last Thursday, courtesy of GWR. The MD of Network Rail's Midland Region, Mark Langman, was lobbied in detail by Harriett Baldwin, Tenbury's MP, and by me, as a member of the North Cotswold Line Task Force.

We are hopeful that we will see dualling of the North Cotswold Line in the near future, complementing the opening of the Worcestershire Parkway station next year. It is crucial in our arguments with the Department for Transport, Network Rail and Midlands Connect that these rail improvements will help move some traffic off our motorway and major roads that are already experiencing congestion.

**2. The Financial Position**

Councillors will be aware of the extensive and detailed examination of all county expenditure necessary because of our financial position. One area under examination is supporting bus services and councillors will be aware of the reduction of some commercial services that have been announced recently.

The Tenbury area has the advantage of the excellent service provided by Tenbury Transport Trust and I am hopeful that the DfT will amend legislation to combat the impact of a recent court case that threatened the continued use of volunteer drivers.

There are notices of motion at this week's full Council meeting calling for more support for bus services and, while we are all aware of their value, any public subsidy needs to be justified. If there is insufficient demand, it is hard to argue that the public sector should intervene when many isolated communities have not been able to avail themselves of such services for many years.

At Cabinet on the 27<sup>th</sup> September, a detailed examination of our library services across the county will be presented. While it would be premature to go into detail, it is noted that Tenbury is recognised as having the third highest need in the county behind Redditch and Evesham. This should indicate it is secure, although visits have declined by 6% in the last year.

Stourport library lies 10<sup>th</sup> in the table for greatest need, and its recent relocation has resulted in a 28% increase in visits.

**3. Tenbury Public Realm works**

We will all be aware of various small items of work needed to complete the second phase of the Public Realm work on Teme Street, and I am assured that these problems will be tackled starting today. The work will include the following:

- Permanent repairs to the footway areas outside the Vaults and Smarty Pants
- Installation of bollards at discrete locations to protect against further vehicle loading
- Replacement of the 'wobbly' service covers outside the old post office.
- Repairs to the vent to the cellar beneath Smarty Pants

I would be grateful for any information from residents as to further work that needs correction. I am aware of the drainage problems outside the Bridge Hotel and I trust these will be sorted soon. We

await certain works to be paid for by Tesco's that are still not finished, including the seat to be positioned outside the Regal.

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**10.09.18**