

Malvern Hills District Council

PARISH NEWS UPDATE



Dear Parish and Town Council colleagues

We hope this finds you safe and well.

We aim to continue to provide you with regular bi-monthly bulletins so please expect your next bulletin in July. Claire continues to be a point of contact for you, should you need anything.

We produce these newsletters for Parish and Town Councils in the Malvern Hills District and we produce separate bulletins for residents. [Sign up for our e-bulletins.](#)

You can also keep up to date with all our public messaging by following our social media accounts or checking the coronavirus updates on our [webpage](#)

Take care and stay safe.

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We need your help

We are working closely with Public Health in Worcestershire to understand Covid-19 vaccination hesitancy across Malvern Hills district and address any concerns or barriers.

We would welcome your help to find out from residents any concerns they have that may prevent them from having the vaccine.

There has been a high take up so far but we want to know why there is still a percentage of eligible residents that still have not booked to receive their jab.

Many of you engage frequently with residents and so if there is an opportunity to do so, we would be grateful if you could start having conversations around the vaccine to support the overall effort to protect people and help us get back to a more normal way of life. We are only asking for you to do this when it is safe to do so and when you know and are comfortable talking with those local residents and they are comfortable in talking to you. This is not meant to be accusatory, we are simply trying to gather information about why people are opting not to have the vaccination. We do not need any personal information.

We then ask that you report back to us with any key information by emailing: communityservices@malvern hills.gov.uk.

Here are some suggested areas for discussion.

- Can they get to the vaccination centre? If not, what support do they need?
- Do they have time to get the vaccination? If not, what would be better for them?
- What are the language barriers?
- Where do they access information from? How do they know it is accurate?
- What are their fears and worries?
- If they have concerns, what are they i.e. side effects or safety?
- Are there relevant social or cultural or faith-based narratives around vaccinations? What are these?

Please encourage the resident to get in touch with their GP if they are expressing any concerns.

Guidance for village halls on safely re-opening

MHCLG has updated the [guidance](#) for those managing community centres, village halls and other community facilities on safely re-opening to reflect the further easing of national restrictions which came into effect on Monday, 17 May.

Traveller and Travelling Showpeople site allocations consultation

Hopefully you will all be aware of the Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Site Allocations Development Plan public consultation.

If not then please see our [media release](#) and [explainer video](#). The deadline for responses is 5 July 2021.

Verge cutting

Our Malvern Hills District Council Environment Policy Development Panel recently looked at the issue of verge maintenance and the role it had to play in supporting biodiversity. The county council provided the following information on the highway verge maintenance programme, which we thought our parish and town council colleagues would also find useful:

General Rural Cut

The rural verge management for our network consists of approximately 2,500 kilometres (around 1,800 miles) and is managed by Worcestershire County Council and Ringway, our term maintenance contractor. Works are focussed on safety and not for purposes of amenity.

There are normally two safety cuts during the growing season, the first cut will see a metre-wide strip at the edge of the verge being cleared and a short swathe leading up to any highway's signs. This season, the first full verge cut will start on **10th May**, later than previous years due to the unseasonably cold weather we have experienced. The second cut will take place in late August or early September, again dependant on the growing season. The tractor drivers will cut back as they do for the Spring cut but will also tackle a full verge width cut on one third of the network.

Visibility splays and key hotspots

Pre-identified visibility splays and sight lines on bends that are known hazard hot spots are monitored throughout the season and cut as and when required.

Urban grass cutting

Our six District Council partners also carry out urban grass cutting within their own areas on our behalf. Worcestershire County Council recommends (and provides funding for) a minimum of five service cuts in urban areas for highway safety purposes. The District Councils may choose to exceed this number for amenity and aesthetic purposes.

A note on biodiversity

Our entire rural and dual carriageway network is managed primarily for safety and maintenance purposes. We are aware however that our verges can provide important biodiversity corridors if managed properly. In spring we cut as little as possible to allow nectar and habitat to be available for pollinator species, while in Autumn we cut much more. Cutting back the full verge width at this time of year removes any scrub or self sett saplings, leaving the verge available to be colonised by lowland meadow species plants. As a pollinator friendly county, it is important that we encourage good management practices for biodiversity as well as for safety. Members of the public may see this approach as a lack of maintenance as verges can appear unkempt. We answer any public enquires stating that safety is our primary concern, but we will encourage biodiversity wherever possible with managed reduced cutting.

Spacehive - local projects crowdfunding now

A number of local projects are currently crowdfunding on Spacehive. Please feel free to share the details with your residents and groups. In brief, the projects are:

North (Tenbury, Teme and surrounding area)

- Just Jerseys Community Micro Dairy are hoping to create a traditional mobile micro dairy with 10+ pedigree jersey cows producing fresh quality milk daily. [Find out more](#)
- Teme Wheels pioneering electric vehicle operation are trying set-up and implement an electric MPV service for the local rural community. [Find out more](#)

Malvern and surrounding area (including Suckley)

- Lost Fritillaries project is looking to reintroduce an endangered butterfly called the pearl-bordered fritillary, to improve the habitat for wildlife and to increase biodiversity. [Find out more](#)
- The Octagon Centre are hoping to turn their outdoor space into a lovely welcoming seating area. [Find out more](#)
- The user-friendly versatile space in Suckley Church needs a WC & kitchen. [Find out more](#)
- The Smile Project would like to renovate its outdoor area into an all-weather play and development area for children aged between 0-25 years with special education needs and disabilities. [Find out more](#)

£500,00 Economic Recovery Fund

We have recently approved the creation of a £500,000 Economic Recovery Fund to support the district's recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic.

The money will support the delivery of actions in Malvern Hills District Council's Five Year Plan.

The funding will be used to provide:

- A programme to support businesses to take on apprentices, graduates and other trainees
- An event development budget to support events that will generate footfall for the district's town centres
- A Town Centre Transformation Scheme which will include grants to help businesses improve shop fronts, support for businesses to trade online, marketing and branding activity and free parking after 3pm during April and May
- Funding to unlock gigabit local community fibre broadband schemes across the district
- Support for schemes to expand the district's low carbon economy

- A Sustainable Tourism Fund to include the creation of a sustainable tourism grant scheme
- More money for marketing of The Malverns to increase overnight stays and the amount of money spent by visitors
- A growth and innovation programme to support the growth plans of businesses, working with Worcestershire LEP
- Grants to help support the growth of rural businesses

[Read our Economic Recovery Fund media release for more information.](#)

NHS and community power – call for evidence

New Local has launched a big [new research project](#) which will consider how community power can play a greater role in the NHS. As part of this, they've opened a [call for evidence](#), to gather insights from people with experience of the NHS, including those who work in and alongside it.

There is a growing challenge of rising demand for acute hospital services, and a long-recognised need to shift towards a more sustainable system of prevention. So they are looking for examples of community power in healthcare, and ideas about how to create a more preventative, person-centred system. Your submissions will inform a major report which will be published later this year.

Worcestershire Jobs website launched

The new [Worcestershire Jobs website](#) works by collating local jobs, training courses, further educational courses or apprenticeship listings on job sites and displays them in one place. This helps to speed up the searching process for residents or those interested in working in Worcestershire.

Users can even filter their results based on location or on keywords such as skills or industries (i.e. Marketing Jobs). This is set to help people easily find jobs, training options and educational courses that are relevant to them.

Free Police CyberAlarm internet security tool

[Police CyberAlarm](#) is a police led project to help organisations understand and monitor suspicious activity. Police CyberAlarm acts like a 'CCTV camera' monitoring traffic seen by your organisations' connection to the internet. It will detect and provide regular reports of suspected malicious activity helping you protect your organisation. It is a free tool being rolled out nationally and is currently live for organisations in Worcestershire.

List of meetings for Malvern Hills District Council

The following are due to take place via Zoom in June/July (subject to change). Most of our committees will be shown live on our YouTube channel. Visit our [webpage](#) to watch.

Date	Committee	Time
22 June	Executive Committee	5pm
30 June	Southern Area Planning Committee	6pm
7 July	Northern Area Planning Committee	6pm
20 July	Council	6pm
21 July	Southern Area Planning Committee	6pm
27 July	Overview and Scrutiny Committee	5pm



CORONAVIRUS

Here to help you through this

- Supporting businesses
- Helping those facing hardship
- Protecting the homeless
- Maintaining critical services
- Working with communities to support the vulnerable
- Keeping you informed

www.malvern hills.gov.uk/coronavirus #hereforyou

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