

Open

Council

Agenda

6pm
Wednesday, 7 December 2022
Council Chamber
Wyre Forest House
Finepoint Way
Kidderminster



Council

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COUNCIL MEETING

29 November 2022

TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL AND HONORARY ALDERMEN

PRESS AND PUBLIC

Dear Member

YOU ARE INVITED to attend a meeting of the Wyre Forest District Council to be held **at 6.00p.m. on Wednesday 7 December 2022**, in the Council Chamber, Wyre Forest House, Finepoint Way, Kidderminster.

The Agenda for the meeting is enclosed.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "I R Miller".

Ian Miller
Chief Executive

Declaration of Interests by Members – interests of members in contracts and other matters

Declarations of Interest are a standard item on every Council and Committee agenda and each Member must provide a full record of their interests in the Public Register.

In addition, alongside the Register of Interest, the Members Code of Conduct (“the Code”) requires the Declaration of Interests at meetings. Members have to decide first whether or not they have a disclosable interest in the matter under discussion.

Please see the Members’ Code of Conduct as set out in Section 14 of the Council’s constitution for full details.

Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (DPI) / Other Disclosable Interest (ODI)

DPI’s and ODI’s are interests defined in the Code of Conduct that has been adopted by the District.

If you have a DPI (as defined in the Code) in a matter being considered at a meeting of the Council (as defined in the Code), the Council’s Standing Orders require you to leave the room where the meeting is held, for the duration of any discussion or voting on that matter.

If you have an ODI (as defined in the Code) you will need to consider whether you need to leave the room during the consideration of the matter.

(A) TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE COUNCIL

The Council

1. Is the ultimate decision making Body.
2. Determines the Budget (but reserves powers to itself in relation to requirements).
3. Is responsible for appointing (and dismissing) the Leader of the Council.
4. Appoints at its Annual Meeting, the Regulatory Committees, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and any other Committees/Forums necessary to conduct the Council’s business.
5. Decides on matters where the Cabinet is not minded to determine a matter in accordance with Council policy.

(B) MATTERS RESERVED TO THE COUNCIL

1. Those reserved by Law e.g. levying a rate, borrowing money, promotion of or opposition to a Bill in Parliament.
2. Matters reserved to the Council by financial regulations.
3. The adoption and amendment of Standing Orders, including the powers and duties of Committees and other forums.
4. Power to make, amend, revoke or enact or enforce any byelaws.
5. The determination of the objectives of the Council.
6. Matters of new policy or variation of existing policy as contained within the budget and policy framework.
7. Local Development Framework adoption.
8. Any function where a decision would be contrary to a plan, policy, budget or strategy previously adopted by the Council, which would be contrary to the Council’s Standing Orders, Financial Regulations or Executive arrangements.
9. The Scheme of Delegations to Officers.

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At the start of the meeting the Chairman will confirm if all or part of the meeting is being filmed.

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By entering the meeting room and using the public seating area, you are consenting to be filmed and to the possible use of those images and sound recordings for webcasting and or training purposes.

If members of the public do not wish to have their image captured they should sit in the Stourport and Bewdley Room where they can still view the meeting.

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If you have any queries regarding this, please speak with the Council's Legal Officer at the meeting.

* Unless there are no reports in the open session.

Wyre Forest District Council

Council

Wednesday, 7 December 2022

Council Chamber, Wyre Forest House, Finepoint Way, Kidderminster

Part 1

Open to the press and public

Agenda item	Subject	Page Number
1.	Prayers To be read by Rev Sue Levitt – Stourport and Bewdley, Methodist Church	
2.	Apologies for Absence	
3.	Declarations of Interests by Members In accordance with the Code of Conduct, to invite Members to declare the existence and nature of any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPI's) and / or Other Disclosable Interests (ODI's) in the following agenda items and indicate the action that they will be taking when the item is considered. Please see the Members' Code of Conduct as set out in Section 14 of the Council's Constitution for full details.	
4.	Minutes To approve as a correct record and sign the Minutes of the last meeting held on 21 September 2022.	9
5.	Public Participation In accordance with the Council's Scheme for Public Speaking at Meetings of Full Council, to allow members of the public to present petitions, ask questions, or make statements, details of which have been received by 12 noon on Monday 28 November 2022. No requests for public participation were received by the deadline. <i>If you wish to speak on an urgent matter that has arisen since the deadline and you could not reasonably have known about it at the time, you should register your interest in speaking no later than 9am on the day of the meeting of Council. In the case of a request to speak on an urgent matter, the Solicitor to the Council will rule on whether or not the matter is urgent and that ruling will be final.</i>	
6.	Chairman's Communications To note the engagements of the Chairman of the Council since the Council's last meeting.	23

7.	<p>Leader of the Council Announcements</p> <p>To receive announcements from the Leader of the Council.</p>	
8.	<p>Review of Polling Places in the Wyre Forest District - report on the review and decision on changes</p> <p>To receive a report from the Chief Executive & Returning Officer for the Council to take decisions following the review of polling districts and places in Areley Kings & Riverside and Blakebrook & Habberley South which was commissioned by Council on 21 September 2022.</p>	24
9.	<p>Report back on motions agreed at September 2022 Council</p> <p>To receive a report from the Chief Executive which provides Council with reports back on two matters set out in motions agreed at its last meeting.</p>	61
10.	<p>Policy and Budget Framework</p> <p>Matters which require a Decision by Council.</p> <p>(a) Recommendations from Treasury Management Review Panel – 31 October 2022</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Report on Treasury Management Service and Actual Prudential Indicators 2021-22 <p>(b) Recommendations from Treasury Management Review Panel – 31 October 2022</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy Mid-year Review Report 2022-23 <p>(c) Recommendations from Cabinet – 7 November 2022</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council tax reduction scheme review 2023/24 <p>(d) Recommendations from Licensing & Environmental Committee – 5 December 2022</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of Fees and Charges for the Council’s Licensing and Regulatory Services Function 2023/24 <p>Please note that the reports and associated documents, referred to above, have been circulated electronically to Members. Public inspection copies are available on request. Please refer to the front cover for contact details.</p>	65 66 67 67a
11.	<p>Questions</p> <p>To receive questions submitted by Members of the Council and the replies of the Leader of the Council, or relevant Cabinet Member, in accordance with Standing Order 1.9, details of which have been received by 12 noon on Monday 28 November 2022.</p>	68

	<p>Nine questions have been received by the deadline.</p> <p><i>In the case of an urgent matter that has arisen since the deadline above, and could not have been reasonably known at that time, it must be delivered in writing to the Solicitor to the Council no later than 9am on the day of Council.</i></p>	
12.	<p>Motions Submitted under Standing Orders</p> <p>To consider Motions in the order in which notice has been received.</p> <p>No motions were received by the deadline.</p>	
13.	<p>Emergency Motions submitted under Standing Orders</p> <p>To consider Emergency Motions submitted in accordance with Standing Order 4.1 (i).</p>	
14.	<p>To consider any other business, details of which have been communicated to the Solicitor to the Council before the commencement of the meeting, which the Chairman by reason of special circumstances considers to be of so urgent a nature that it cannot wait until the next meeting.</p>	
15.	<p>Exclusion of the Press and Public</p> <p>To consider passing the following resolution:</p> <p>“That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the press and public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of “exempt information” as defined in the paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act”.</p>	

Part 2

Not open to the Press and Public

16.	<p>To consider any other business, details of which have been communicated to the Solicitor to the Council before the commencement of the meeting, which the Chairman by reason of special circumstances considers to be of so urgent a nature that it cannot wait until the next meeting.</p>	
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WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

COUNCIL

COUNCIL CHAMBER, WYRE FOREST HOUSE, FINEPOINT WAY,
KIDDERMINSTER

21 SEPTEMBER 2022 (6PM)

Present:

Councillors: P Dyke (Chairman), C Edginton-White (Vice-Chairman), J Aston, G W Ballinger, C J Barnett, B Brookes, J F Byng, V Caulfield, S J Chambers, A Coleman, R H Coleman, B S Dawes, N J Desmond, H E Dyke, N Gale, I Hardiman, P Harrison, M J Hart, K Henderson, L J Jones, N Martin, S Miah, F M Oborski MBE, T L Onslow, M Rayner, C Rogers, S E N Rook, D Ross, D R Sheppard, J W R Thomas, A Totty, L Whitehouse and P W M Young.

C.34 Prayers

Prayers were said by Rev David Hildred, Team Rector, Kidderminster East.

C.35 Apologies for Absence

The Chairman advised that Councillor S Chambers would be late attending the meeting.

C.36 Tributes to Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Second

Council observed a few moments' silence for Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Second; and Honorary Alderman Pauline Hayward who had sadly died since the last Council meeting.

Tributes were given by the Chairman of the Council, the Leader of the Council, and the Leaders of the Conservative, Liberal Democrat and Labour Groups.

The Chairman said that there was great sorrow at the passing of the Queen and it was a difficult time for us all. He wished the new King all the very best for the future and said that he will do the Country proud.

The Chairman passed his condolences onto the friends and family of Honorary Alderman Hayward

The Leader said that Her Late Majesty, and the late Prince Phillip had set an outstanding example of public service. Her Late Majesty had reigned with dignity and decency throughout her 70 years on the throne. She said it was impossible to find anything new to say at this point as there had been such an outpouring of love and respect; so she would like to say a simple thank you on behalf of the residents of Wyre Forest for the years of service,

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devotion and dedication that she had given to the Country and its people. The Leader offered the Royal Family her condolences at this very sad time.

On behalf of the Conservative Group, Councillor M Hart paid tribute to the late Councillor Pauline Hayward. He said that she had led a life of distinction and service within the district and sent his best wishes to her family.

Councillor Hart thanked Her Late Majesty most sincerely for a lifetime of dedicated service. He said that she reigned with dignity and distinction and touched the lives of millions of people across the Country, Commonwealth, and indeed the world. He said she was a shining example of leadership.

On behalf of the Liberal Democrat Group, Councillor F Oborski MBE thanked Her Late Majesty for 70 years of impeccable service and total loyalty to the Country and people across the world. She said that she hoped she would rest in peace and rise in glory.

Councillor S Chambers joined the meeting at 6.14pm.

On behalf of the Labour Group, Councillor L Whitehouse thanked Her Late Majesty for dedicating her life to serve us all and may she rest in eternal peace.

C.37 Declarations of Interests by Members

No declarations of interest were made.

C.38 Minutes

Decision: The minutes of the meeting held on 20 July 2022 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

C.39 Public Participation

There was no public participation.

C.40 Chairman's Communications

The Council received a list of functions attended by the Chairman or Vice-Chairman since the Council's last meeting.

C.41 Leader of the Council Announcements

The Leader of the Council referred members to her tabled report.

C.42 Review of Polling Places in the Wyre Forest District

Council considered a report from the Returning Officer & Chief Executive that advised Council of the need to conduct a review of two designated polling places in the Wyre Forest District.

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The Cabinet Member for Housing, Health, Well-being and Democratic Services presented the report and formally moved the recommendations for approval.

The Cabinet Member drew members' attention to a typographical error in the report in that the town centre electors were part of BHS-4 and the correct polling district would be used in the consultation. She explained that the Gainsborough Hotel and Stourport Workmen's club were no longer available, and the report outlined the alternatives that would be the subject of consultation.

She added that it was important that any alternative polling place was fully accessible for disabled people and that was why St John's church was not considered suitable, in particular because there was no nearby parking.

In conclusion she said that Council would have the opportunity at its December meeting to consider the outcome of the consultation process and take decisions in light of views from electors, representatives of disabled people and others.

The Leader seconded the proposals.

Upon a vote, the proposals were agreed.

Decision: Council NOTED that:

- 1.1 A review will be undertaken of polling places for polling districts BHS-4 and BHS-5 and AKR-SC to take effect from 1 January 2023;**
- 1.2 A report on the review and decision on changes will be required at the Council's meeting in December.**

C.43 Grading structure and pay policy statement: recruitment and retention of staff

Council received a report from the Chief Executive to consider mitigating actions in response to the corporate risk on "Organisational capacity to deliver - unable to maintain skilled, balanced and motivated workforce".

The Cabinet Member for Housing, Health, Well-being and Democratic Services presented the report and formally moved the recommendations for approval.

The Cabinet Member explained that in September 2019 Council resolved to return to the national pay agreements for determining annual increases in pay with effect from April 2021. Prior to this there were several years of local pay arrangements. She added that recently the authority was experiencing an increase in staff resignations compared to previous years; this included specialist and unique roles within the Council such as the Planning Manager who had 21 years of experience and knowledge.

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The Cabinet Member said that there was a growing concern that if the trend continued the authority would lose excessive amounts of corporate knowledge and expertise; which potentially could increase the corporate risk and damage our ability to deliver the range of services that local residents and businesses value.

She added that the local pay arrangements achieved their objective: they reduced costs for the council and saved over £1m. She said the savings had been banked in past years and would not be lost because of the proposals in the report. However, they also meant that the council valued, and continued to value, its staff less highly than other councils.

The Cabinet Member said it was important to act now in respect of this corporate risk. She acknowledged that it was not guaranteed to solve or reduce the problem. However, if the authority did nothing, there would be no change. The risk of current problems with recruitment and retention would continue and potentially get worse.

In conclusion, she asked Council to support the case for action now to mitigate the risk. She said that it should do so in a way that treats all staff equally and show that the Council values its staff and the excellent work that they do.

The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Community Safety seconded the proposals.

A robust debate ensued. Several members spoke against the proposals and outlined their reasons for being unable to support the recommendations. A member expressed concern about the figures provided by West Midlands Employers as set out in paragraph 3.5 of the report and said that their group would support the proposals put forward by the Progressive Alliance.

Upon a vote, the proposals were agreed.

Decision: Council:

- 1.1 CONFIRMED that pay points for all staff should be increased by 5% with effect from 1 October 2022;**
- 1.2 ADOPTED the revised pay policy statement in Appendix 1 of the report.**

C.44 Policy And Budget Framework

- a. Recommendation from the Ethics and Standards Committee – 8 September 2022**
 - Amended Member Code of Conduct**

The Chairman of the Committee, Councillor C Edginton-White presented the recommendations and formally moved them for approval. Councillor M

Hart seconded the proposal.
Upon a vote, the proposal was agreed.

Decision: Council AGREED to adopt the national Local Government Association (LGA) Model Councillor Code of Conduct 2020. Adoption of the national code to be implemented with training following the May 2023 elections.

C.45

Questions

1. Question to the Cabinet Member for Operational Services from Councillor A Totty

Can the Cabinet member tell me what actions, if any, is this Council taking to introduce food waste collection from households?

Answer from Cabinet Member for Operational Services

Wyre Forest District Council is working across Worcestershire, with other councils, to prepare for the implementation of food waste collections as set out in the latest Environment Act. We are not at the moment taking steps to select a preferred option because of the expense that needs to be incurred for the vehicles, the equipment and staffing. We are waiting on the government to confirm the timetable for the implementation and the funding to cover these extra costs. At the moment there has been silence from DEFRA for several months now. So, I am afraid they are dragging their heels a bit but as soon as we know more, I am assured we will be getting on with it.

Supplementary question

Would the Cabinet Member please keep the Council informed as you find out what is happening?

Answer

Yes, I am happy to do that.

2. Question to the Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration, Planning and Localism from Councillor M Hart

Could the Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Economic, Regeneration and Localism advise this Council, when we are going to see the Bridge Street car park redeveloped?

Answer from Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration, Planning and Localism

I am happy to report to Council that funding has recently been allocated for a feasibility study to produce development proposals and these proposals will be considered by Cabinet in due course.

Supplementary question

Given that this was a promise by certain candidates pre-May 2019 and given that when the Progressive Alliance took control of this Council in 2019 would she agree with me that, notwithstanding the feasibility study, by the time of next May and their four year term is ended, we need to see a

development on this site?

Answer

I cannot be responsible for what candidates may or may not have said before the last elections and I would agree with you that this site does need to have a development of some description in the very near future and we will be working hard to do so but I won't be tied down to dates because it would be wrong of me to do that at this point .

3. Question to the Cabinet Member for Finance and Capital Portfolio from Councillor L Jones

Could the Cabinet Member for Finance and Capital Portfolio confirm whether or not he thinks that the WFDC main switchboard automated message is acceptable in its new format, given that it is difficult to understand and follow as a result of the numerous breaks in the speech pattern?

Answer from Leader of the Cabinet Member for Finance and Capital Portfolio

We have had text to speech messages in use since April 2020 and so it is not a new format. This system is much more efficient than having to take up officer time to record the messages every time we need to adapt our messages quickly to meet our customer demands. We have, and have had, significant number of calls that were not a District Council function. People would have to wait in a queue just to be told they had to call another number. Hence, the long message played to all callers directing people to the correct organisation at the onset. We are moving to a different, new telephone phone system in November, which will have new text to speech system, too, and is far more efficient so next month we are hoping that this will be in place and will alleviate any stutters or differences. I would like to take this opportunity to mention that, since it has been installed over 2 years ago, we have had over 64,000 calls and we have received no complaints.

4. Question to the Cabinet Member for Operational Services from Councillor B Brookes

Given the ongoing issues with the quality of street cleansing and litter bin emptying previously raised would the Cabinet Member for Operational Services care to join myself and one of my fellow ward colleagues Cllr. David Ross for a meeting on site in the ward to discuss these issues so he can see for himself some of the problems?

Answer from Cabinet Member for Operational Services

I have recently visited your ward and note that there have been no concerns raised through the Council's formal reporting procedures about excessive quantities of litter in the ward, plus the fact that your fellow ward colleague and Deputy Leader of the Council, Councillor Ballinger, has raised no concerns with me over this issue, I will politely decline your invitation.

Supplementary question

I am very disappointed that Councillor Thomas is not joining myself and Councillor Ross on our tours of the ward. Would the Cabinet Member also

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like to arrange further meetings with my fellow Conservative colleagues to look at the dreadful state in which their wards are also in, as it seems that only Conservative Councillors are able to see the neglect and awful condition that this district is in, and we are the only ones trying to do something about it?

Answer

As I said, I do go around all these wards. At present, once a week I visit many of the wards in the district and if you do not believe me, you may want to go down to the depot and see me there either on a Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday. I am down there, and I do go out with officers to look at the problems within the area. So, as I said, no, I do not see that there is a reason for me meeting with ward councillors.

5. Question to the Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration, Planning and Localism from Councillor J Byng

Since the Progressive Alliance took control of WFDC in 2019, could the Leader of the Council, who has responsibility for Localism, tell this Council what level of savings have been made by asset transfers and savings, broken down specifically and for the years 2019-2020, 2020-2021 and 2021-2022?

Answer from Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration, Planning and Localism

The savings achieved for the 3 years are as follows:

2019-2020 Zero, because in that year we have not set ourselves a target because we were at the start of negotiations.

2020-2021 £74,000, increasing to £155,000 in 2021-2022.

If Councillor Byng would like, I can ensure that he gets sent a table with those figures in.

Supplementary question

Are the savings to date on forecast, or better or worse than forecast?

Answer

Several factors mean not having achieved a higher level of savings such as we have been trying for some time to work with Kidderminster Town Council on the transfer of 3 parks and for various reasons we have not been able to progress them at the speed we would like to. I can say that we are moving quite quickly now and hope to have some success there. So, we have hit hitches along the way, as I am sure you will be aware, but we keep working at it and aim to be successful and reach our targets as soon as and when possible.

6. Question to the Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Community Safety from Councillor N Desmond

Following Full Council's approval last December for electric vehicle charging points across Wyre Forest, could the Cabinet Member for Culture,

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Leisure and Community Safety update me on what has happened on this issue over the last 9 months and when can we expect the first electrical charging point to be fully operational by?

Answer from Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Community Safety

Councillor Desmond needs to read the Overview and Scrutiny committee papers that he had just less than 3 weeks ago. I have got a copy of that document from the meeting on 1 September when the following information was given in the report:

Electric Vehicle Charging feasibility work completed and capital funding agreed. Procurement process underway, the Energy Savings Trust have been engaged to support and to assist with future funding opportunities, and we have had a meeting with them. So, it is in progress and installation is expected in the autumn and winter 2022.

Supplementary question

Can the Cabinet Member explain what impact the sharp rise in energy costs and general material and building costs over the last 9 months has had on the business model and is delivery still within budget, please?

Answer

I have set out the schedule and that is the schedule. If you want an update on that, we will give you that separately but that is the timetable that was agreed and was put to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

7. Question to the Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Community Safety from Councillor I Hardiman

Can the Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Community Safety please provide an update on whether this Council is still considering establishing a Solar Farm on land owned by the Council?

Answer from Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Community Safety

The answer is similar to my previous answer. Councillor Hardiman was an observer at the Scrutiny Committee on 1 September when the following information was given in one of the reports:

Item 3, renewable energy generation on Council land –feasibility work funding agreed and consultants been procured to complete this work. Business case to be taken through the formal decision-making process during the winter, and formal report expected during the winter 2022.

Supplementary question

Given that the Conservative group raised the subject, indeed tabled a motion on this subject in September 2019, does the Cabinet Member agree that findings and a conclusion are taking far too long for this Council?

Answer

We would have liked it faster but I cannot speculate on the content of the

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consultant's report. When that work is completed it will be shared with all members of council. Councillor Hardiman has just got to be patient and wait for it like the rest of us. It would have been better if it had been quicker.

8. Question to the Cabinet Member for Housing, Health, Well-being and Democratic Services from Councillor S Miah

Given that some placements under the Government's Homes for Ukraine Scheme have already come to an end and more may do so as the initial 6 month commitment by hosts is reached, what steps is WFDC taking to ensure that Ukrainian refugees whose placement cannot continue are able to find either new hosts or residential tenancies locally?

Answer from Cabinet Member for Housing, Health, Well-being and Democratic Services

All of our Ukrainians are contacted at the 4.5 month stage of their stay by our housing team and it is there that we try to establish their intent and their needs going forward and the intent and the needs of the host going forward. We are currently undertaking DBS and other checks of the hosts who would like to host in the future after this current stage and we have already selected 10 hosts. I believe that you were given the figure of 3 Ukrainian families but actually that is now one Ukrainian family that wish to continue.

Supplementary question

I am sure you will agree that our housing team have done some fantastic work and I am sure you will also agree with me that our hosts have been a God-send to those people who have been affected by the Ukrainian war.

What steps are being taken, or will be taken, to see if current hosts will extend their hosting in the event that some will not be rehoused? What impact will that have on the local housing needs and how will that be addressed and what assistance will be given to those looking to get into private rented accommodation?

Answer

The hosts are being contacted at the moment, just like the families so it is my understanding that our excellent housing team is currently in contact with those hosts. We already have 10 hosts so with 10 hosts and only one Ukrainian family seeking refuge, it is my understanding that there will be no major issues. ,

9. Question to the Cabinet Member for Operational Services from Councillor M Hart

Could the Cabinet Member for Operational Services advise this Council whether he is satisfied with the level of street cleansing that is taking place on our estates throughout the District?

Answer from Cabinet Member for Operational Services

Yes, I am satisfied.

Supplementary question

Would he respectfully reconsider the very reasonable request by our

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Conservative colleague, Councillor Brookes, when he invited him to join us as Conservative members in our respective wards because why is he so fearful because we are all so friendly; we will show him around so will he reconsider and when he drives around on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, across this district, could he confirm whether he has his eyes open or shut?

Answer

I can assure you that when I drive around, I do drive around with my eyes open. If I drive with my eyes closed, I will be heading for a big accident and I can assure you I am not going to do that.

C.46

Motions Submitted under Standing Orders

Three motions had been submitted in accordance with standing orders.

1. Notice of Motion from the Conservative and Liberal Democrat Groups.

Councillor M Hart presented the motion, which was seconded by Councillor F Oborski MBE.

Councillor Hart outlined the reasons for the motion. A debate ensued and a number of members spoke in favour of the motion. The Leader said that in the spirit of working together, the Progressive Alliance would support the motion and the Cabinet would consider the request and report back to Council with their conclusions.

Upon a show of hands, the motion was unanimously agreed.

Decision: The following motion from the Conservative and Liberal Democrat Groups be agreed:

This Council values the Community Leadership Fund that councillors are allocated in order to spend on good causes, community groups and organisations within their ward.

This Council agrees that this funding provides much needed pump priming to these groups and organisations, especially in the current financial situation and that this is an important resource in assisting councillors to be community champions.

Following the decision taken at Full Council on 23rd February, 2022 as part of the budget setting process and medium term financial strategy, to reduce the Community Leadership Fund allocation from £1,000 to £500 per councillor, this Council calls upon the Cabinet to urgently re-consider this matter and report back to the next meeting of Full Council, working with the Solicitor to the Council and Head of Resources, to consider taking all necessary steps to reinstate the fund per member from £500 to £1,000 as soon as is practicable, having satisfied the necessary legislative and regulatory requirements, recognising that this will have in year revenue

implications of £16,500.

At 7.50pm the meeting was adjourned for a short comfort break and resumed at 8pm.

2. Notice of Motion from the Liberal Democrat Group

Councillor S Miah presented and outlined the reasons for the motion. The motion was seconded by Councillor F Oborski MBE.

Councillor M Hart tabled an amendment to the motion on behalf of the Conservative Group. He outlined the reasons for the amendment which was seconded by Councillor I Hardiman.

A debate on the amendment ensued. A number of members spoke in favour of the amendment and urged Council to support it.

Several members spoke against the amendment. Councillor Miah outlined the reasons why he was unable to support the amendment and urged members to vote against it.

A vote on the amendment to the motion was taken. Upon a show of hands, the amendment was defeated.

A vote upon the substantive motion was taken and agreed.

Decision: The following motion from the Liberal Democrat Group be agreed:

This Council recognises we are in the middle of the worst cost of living crisis for 50 years. Inflation is forecast to hit 18% next year and spiralling energy costs are leaving many people in Wyre Forest struggling to pay their household bills.

Council notes the disastrous impact this year's increases in the energy price cap has had on local people:

- On 1 April 2022, Ofgem increased the energy price cap by 54 per cent. This has increased the average energy bill by £693 a year.
- In October the energy price cap is due to rise again – increasing average energy bills by over £1900 a year.

Council notes the decision taken in June 2022 to impose a Windfall Tax on the profits of giant oil and gas companies. This will be used to fund a £400 reduction in energy bills in late 2022 / early 2023 – a policy first raised by Liberal Democrat leader Sir Ed Davey.

Council further notes Lib Dem leader Ed Davey became the first major party leader to call for October's energy price cap rise to be scrapped, and for a further Windfall Tax to be imposed on gas and oil giants. This measure would save the average household in Wyre Forest £1400.

Agenda Item No. 4

Council recognises the numerous ways in which both National and Local Government can provide support to local people to ease the burden of rising prices. Council therefore calls on the Government to:

- Immediately reduce the standard rate of VAT from 20 per cent to 17.5 per cent for one year, saving the average household in Wyre Forest a further £600 this year
- Immediately re-introduce the pensions triple lock to support Wyre Forest pensioners, rather than wait until next Spring, saving elderly residents an additional £300.
- Immediately restore the Universal Credit supplement of £20, which was cancelled by the Government in September 2021.

Council instructs the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions to express the Council's demands for the October energy price cap rise to be cancelled, VAT to be cut to 17.5%, the pensions triple-lock to be re-introduced and the £20 Universal Credit supplement to be restored.

Council calls for a local Cost-of-Living Emergency Summit, with stakeholders, including Citizens Advice, Food Banks, Local Trades Unions, the Chamber of Commerce and local MP to explore how more local help can be provided for those struggling with the cost of living – including extending the use of discretionary payments.

Finally Council instructs the Chief Executive to write to the Leader of all other District Councils in Worcestershire asking them to pass similar emergency motions so we can take a united stand as Local Government to force the Government to do more to help local people.

3. Notice of Motion from the Liberal Democrat Group

Councillor S Miah presented and outlined the reasons for the motion. The motion was seconded by Councillor F Oborski MBE.

Councillor M Hart tabled an amendment to the motion on behalf of the Conservative Group. He outlined the reasons for the amendment which was seconded by Councillor N Gale.

A discussion on the amendment ensued. Councillor Miah said that he welcomed the amendment and was happy to accept it. Councillor F Oborski seconded the proposal.

The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Community Safety thanked the Liberal Democrat Group for submitting the motion and raising the issues.

Upon a show of hands, the motion as amended, was unanimously agreed.

Agenda Item No. 4

Decision: The following motion from the Liberal Democrat Group, as amended by the Conservative Group be agreed: This Council:-

Notes the obligations it owes to the Armed Forces community within Wyre Forest as enshrined in the Armed Forces Covenant;

Welcomes the Armed Forces Act 2021, which passed Royal Assent 15 December 2021 and places a new statutory duty on local authorities to have due regard to the Armed Forces Covenant;

Looks forward to early commencement of the legislation that will give force to the Statutory Guidance on the Armed Forces Covenant Duty, and welcomes the Government's engagement with Councils in drafting this guidance.

Notes that the Local Authorities can set an example for local employers in also supporting our Armed Forces Community by signing up for the Defence Employer Recognition Scheme and encouraging others to do so. Welcomes that the Council already disregards, in calculating entitlement to council tax reduction scheme and housing benefit, military compensation awarded through the War Pension Scheme (WPS), Armed Forces Compensation Scheme (AFCS) or through a veteran's occupational occupation Armed Forces Pension Scheme (AFPS), known as Service Invaliding Pensions (SIPs) or Service Attributable Pensions (SAPs). This Council expresses concern that similar disregards are not applied for all military compensation schemes when assessing eligibility for support in respect of Disabled Facilities Grants, as a result of the means test prescribed in legislation.

Notes that the Council has the opportunity to set-out policy priorities through the Housing Assistance Policy 2020 for specific groups and calls for a review of this policy.

In support of the recommendations and findings of the Royal British Legion's 2020 report Making the Benefits System Fit for Service and also recognising this Council can do more to support our Armed Forces Community, this Council resolves to:-

Call on the Government quickly to amend legislation and guidance in respect of Disabled Facilities Grants so that military compensation is not treated as income or taken into account in assessing eligibility for support; Request officers to bring back a report to Council outlining how it could offer priority for Disabled Facilities Grant funding for members of the Armed Forces Community, especially those that have been injured during service.

Request that the CEO ensure the Council work towards achieving the Defence Employer Recognition Scheme Bronze Award.

To work with partners across Worcestershire to update the Armed Forces Covenant in light of the time since it was signed in 2012 and reflecting improved commitment to our veterans in the Armed Forces Act 2021.

Agenda Item No. 4

To communicate this motion to the Member of Parliament for Wyre Forest and thank him for supporting the Armed Forces Act and seek a response from the relevant Government Minister, to be reported to a future meeting of Council.

C.47 Emergency Motions submitted under Standing Orders

There were no urgent motions.

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 9.02pm.

The meeting is available for viewing on the Council's website
<https://wyreforestdc.public-i.tv/core/portal/webcasts>

Chairman's List of Functions – 2022/23

September to December 2022

17 th Sept	Soroptimist International Kidderminster & District – St Michael's Church - St Michael's Church in Stourport to support ladies in Bangladesh
18 th Sept	the Lord Lieutenant of Worcester- Thanksgiving for the Life of Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth in Worcester Cathedral
23 rd Sept	Bewdley Major's Charity Quiz Night
*23 rd Sept	Mayor of Worcester Inaugural Banquet, The Guildhall, Worcester
25 th Sept	Upton upon Severn Mayor's Civic Service in St Peter and St Paul's Church
*29 th Sept	Mayor of Ludlow Charity Market
*30 th Sept	Bewdley Festival – The Wyre Forest Gallery, Bewdley Museum
7 th Oct	Malvern Hills District Council – Skittles Evening
12 th Oct	Chairman's Autumn Civic Soiree, Bromsgrove District Council
21 st Oct	Mayor's Quiz Night – Corn Exchange, Kidderminster
13 th Nov	Remembrance Sunday, Townhall, Kidderminster
*13 th Nov	Remembrance Sunday, Bewdley
18 th Nov	Wyre Forest Young Voices Concert – Kidderminster Town Hall
25 th Nov	Stourport's Three Kings Parade

* Denotes attendance by Vice Chairman

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

COUNCIL
7 DECEMBER 2022

Review of Polling Places in the Wyre Forest District

OPEN	
CABINET MEMBER:	Councillor Nicky Martin, Cabinet Member for Housing, Health, Well-being & Democratic Services
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	Ian Miller, Chief Executive and Returning Officer
CONTACT OFFICER:	Ian Dobson, Interim Electoral Services Manager Ext 2762
APPENDICES: (These appendices are being circulated electronically only)	Appendix A – Notice of Review Appendix B – ARO Comments Appendix C – Survey responses Appendix D – Email and written responses

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 For the Council to take decisions following the review of polling districts and places in Areley Kings & Riverside and Blakebrook & Habberley South which was commissioned by Council on 21 September 2022.

2. RECOMMENDATION

The Council is **RECOMMENDED** to:

- 2.1 **Consider the report and consultation; and to determine the polling places for the wards of Areley Kings & Riverside and Blakebrook & Habberley South with effect from 1 January 2023 as follows:**

AKR-SC – Stourport Community Centre, Lower Lickhill Road
BHS-4 – Trinity Methodist Church, Churchfields
BHS-5 – Habberley Social Club, Habberley Estate

3. POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES REVIEW - BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 amended the Representation of the People Act 1983 and introduced a change to the timing of compulsory reviews of UK Parliamentary polling districts and places. The most recent review was completed in February 2020.
- 3.2 The Council commissioned a specified review of polling places at its meeting on 21 September 2022 to find alternatives to Gainsborough House Hotel and Stourport Workmen’s Club which are no longer available.

4. PURPOSE

4.1 The aim of any such review as outlined in Electoral guidance is:

- Seek to ensure that all electors in a constituency in the local authority area have such reasonable facilities as are practicable in the circumstances
- Seek to ensure that, so far as is reasonable and practicable, every polling place which the local authority is responsible for is accessible to electors who are disabled

5. THE REVIEW

5.1 The consultation period ran from 12 October 2022 to 11 November 2022, with the options of completing an online survey or responding in writing or email and began with the publication of The Notice of Review which is set out in Appendix A.

5.2 The Notice of Review proposed changes affecting the wards of Blakebrook & Habberley South and Areley Kings & Riverside and invited comments on options for alternatives to existing polling places that had become unavailable.

5.3 In each case, the consultation included proposals and allowed those responding to the consultation to propose specific alternative locations. The consultation proposed changes in Blakebrook and Habberley South were the relocation of the polling place currently at Gainsborough House Hotel to the Habberley Social Club on the Habberley Estate for electors in polling district BHS-5; and also that electors in polling district BHS-4 should vote at Trinity Methodist Church, Churchfields. Trinity Methodist Church is located in the adjacent ward but provides convenient voting arrangements for the BHS-4 polling district and is closest to the majority of electors.

5.4 The proposed changes in the Areley Kings & Riverside ward were for electors in polling district AKR-SC to vote at Stourport Bowling Green Club or Stourport Community Centre.

5.5 The Acting Returning Officer is satisfied that the polling places consulted upon all provide good facilities for voting.

6. RESPONSES - Areley Kings & Riverside Ward

6.1 The Consultation had 22 responses to the online survey.

6.2 All questions were optional in the survey and were:

- The capacity in which they were responding
- Seeking support for Consultation proposals
- Respondent's name
- Postcode
- Any comments?

6.3 A breakdown of the responses to the main questions is set out in Tables 1 to 3 and the full responses to the call for comments can be found in Appendix C.

Table 1 – Question 4 – Post Code?

	Responded
DY10	1
DY13	21
Skipped	0

Table 2 - Question 1- Please identify the capacity in which you are responding

	Responses
Voter	18
MP	0
County Councillor	0
District Councillor	2
Town/Parish Councillor	2
Disability organisation	0
Other	0
Skipped	0

Table 3 - Question 2 – The Stourport Workmen’s Club is no longer available as a polling place for Areley Kings & Riverside ward. We are consulting on two alternative locations, but you can make other suggestions too. Which option do you support?

	Responded
Stourport Bowling Green Club	5
Stourport Community Centre	15
Another location	2

- 6.4 16 people skipped the question asking for comments whilst 6 people left a comment. 3 comments supported the option of Stourport Bowling Green Club citing the closeness of the venue to the current polling place as a benefit that would reduce voter confusion. 1 comment suggested that the Stourport Community Centre is a better venue but acknowledge the closeness of the alternative venue for town based electors. 1 comment suggested that a polling station be set up for electors in Areley Kings Village.
- 6.5 No written or email responses were received in response to proposals for Areley Kings & Riverside ward.

7. RESPONSES – Blakebrook & Habberley South

- 7.1 The Consultation had 197 responses of which 166 were received through the online survey.
- 7.2 All questions were optional in the survey and were:
- The capacity in which they were responding
 - Seeking support for Consultation proposals
 - Respondent’s name

- Postcode
- Any comments?

7.3 A breakdown of the responses to the main questions is set out in Tables 1 to 6 and the full responses to the call for comments can be found in Appendix C.

Table 1 – Question 7 – Post Code?

	Responded
DY10	13
DY11	133
Skipped	20

Table 2 - Question 1- Please identify the capacity in which you are responding

	Responses
Voter	157
MP	0
County Councillor	0
District Councillor	4
Town/Parish Councillor	1
Disability organisation	0
Other	1
Skipped	0

Table 3 - Question 2 – Do you agree with proposals to move the polling place to the Habberley Social Club for voters living in the Habberley estate area (BHS-5)?

	Responded
Yes	120
No	46

Where respondents did not support the proposals, they were asked the following question.

Table 4 - Question 3 – If not the Habberley Social Club. Where do you think electors living in the Habberley estate area should vote?

	Responded
Scout Hut – Habberley Playing Fields	35
At a school	7
At another location	4

Where respondents supported use of a school as a polling place, they were asked which school should be used as summarised in Table 5 below.

Table 5 - Question 4

	Responded
Baxter College	2
Wyre Forest School	0
St John's C of E Primary School	2

- 7.4 3 of the 7 respondents favouring use of a school skipped this question. 4 comments were made around using alternative polling places or keeping the existing polling place.
- 7.5 In addition to the online responses, 29 written and 2 email responses from electors were received in relation to the polling place proposals for the Habberley estate (BHS-5). 17 were in favour of using the Scout Hut on Habberley Playing fields and 13 were in favour of using the Habberley Social Club. A small number of comments made alternative suggestions. The email and written responses can be found in Appendix D.
- 7.6 The online survey consulted on arrangements for electors living in the town centre (BHS-4) with the following question.

Table 6 - Question 5 – Where do you think electors who live in the town centre (BHS-4) should vote?

	Responded
Trinity Methodist Church	78
Habberley Social Club	43
Somewhere else	10

- 7.7 35 respondents skipped this question. Alternative suggested locations include the Scout Hut on Habberley Playing Fields, the Rugby Club on Marlpool Lane, the old Registry Office Building [which is no longer available], or somewhere else along the lower part of Bewdley Road.

8. OVERALL RESPONSE

- 8.1 The overall response for all three polling districts provides clear majority support for the recommendation set out in this report. Table 7 summarises majority support for both the survey and email and written responses.

8.2 Table 7 – Summary of consultation

	Responses in favour/responses received
Blakebrook & Habberley South	
Habberley Social Club (BHS-5)	133/197
Trinity Methodist Church (BHS-4)	78/131
Areley Kings & Riverside	

Stourport Community Centre (AKR-SC)	15/22
-------------------------------------	-------

9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 The consultation was undertaken within existing resources and involved only use of staff time.
- 9.2 No additional financial implications will arise from this report if Council agrees the recommendations to the polling districts and polling places as the purpose of the review is to replace polling places that have become unavailable.

10. LEGAL AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 The Review has been carried out in accordance with the Electoral Administration Act 2013 and Representation of the People Act 1983.

11. EQUALITY IMPACT NEEDS ASSESSMENT

- 11.1 There are no equalities implications arising directly from this report as it does not recommend any change. However, all elections and electoral registration activity have due regard to the public sector equality duty in section 149 of the Equality Act 2010. In particular, the review of polling places has to consider their suitability for access by disabled people. The recommended polling places are considered to provide suitable access, having regard to which buildings may be available in any given polling district.

12. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 12.1 All elections and electoral registration work is supported by robust risk management plans to ensure contingency arrangements are in place for meeting electoral legislation at all times.

13. CONCLUSION

- 13.1 The Council is invited to consider the recommendation to designate new polling places in the wards of Blakebrook & Habberley South and Areley Kings & Riverside based on the outcome of the consultation.

14. CONSULTEES

- 14.1 Cabinet Member for Housing, Health, Well-being & Democratic Services
- 14.2 Corporate Leadership Team

15. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 15.1 The Electoral Commission’s guidance on conducting the Polling district and polling places review can be found at

<https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/electoral-administrator/polling-place-reviews>

- 15.2 The report of the Council meeting in September commissioning the specified review can be found at https://forms.wyreforestdc.gov.uk/council/docs/doc57877_20220921_council_agenda.pdf

Review of Specified Polling Places in the Wyre Forest District

In accordance with paragraph 1 of Schedule A1 to the Representation of the People Act 1983, Wyre Forest District Council gives notice that it is conducting a review of polling places (polling stations) in the Blakebrook & Habberley South and Areley Kings & Riverside wards.

The Council welcomes views or comments from electors and any persons or bodies with expertise in access to premises or facilities for persons with any type of disability. Local political parties, District and County Councillors and Town Councils will also be consulted.

The proposals for polling places will be published by 14 October 2022 and will be available for inspection at Wyre Forest House, Finepoint Way, Kidderminster, DY11 7WF and on the council's website www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk. Information on the current polling districts and polling places is contained within the proposals.

Representations should be made by email to electoral@wyreforestdc.gov.uk or in writing to the Electoral Registration Officer, Wyre Forest House, Finepoint Way, Kidderminster, DY11 7WF. Details of representations received will be made available for public inspection. The deadline for making representations is 5pm on **11 November 2022**

The Council will consider the proposals on 7 December 2022 and the outcome of the review will then be published

Further information may be obtained by contacting Electoral Services on 01562 732733.

Ian Miller

Electoral Registration Officer, Wyre Forest

12 October 2022

REVIEW OF SPECIFIED POLLING PLACES IN WYRE FOREST

RESPONSE OF THE ACTING RETURNING OFFICER

I have considered the proposals for changes that would affect the polling places for certain polling districts in the wards of Areley Kings & Riverside and Blakebrook & Habberley South.

In my view, all the potential locations that are specifically mentioned in the consultation document would be suitable.

In respect of schools in the Blakebrook & Habberley South ward (allowing for the possibility that the consultation might demonstrate support for using one of them, notwithstanding the Council's general preference to avoid designating schools as polling places), my response would be that only Baxter College is appropriate. St John's Primary School was used as a polling place in the past but suffers from poor vehicular access and parking arrangements if the school remains open, as it did when last used for electoral purposes. In my view, it would not be appropriate to designate the Wyre Forest School because it is a special school: the case for avoiding potential disruption to the curriculum and support for students is even stronger than is the case for mainstream schools.

Ward	Polling Places for Consultation	Comments
Areley Kings & Riverside	Stourport Bowling Green Club	Good facilities for voting. Located next to existing polling place.
Areley Kings & Riverside	Stourport Community Centre	Good facilities for voting. Was previously used as a polling place. Located across Lickhill Road from the ward but closer to majority of electorate in AKR-SC.
Blakebrook & Habberley South	Habberley Social Club	Good facilities for voting. Has been considered in earlier reviews as possible

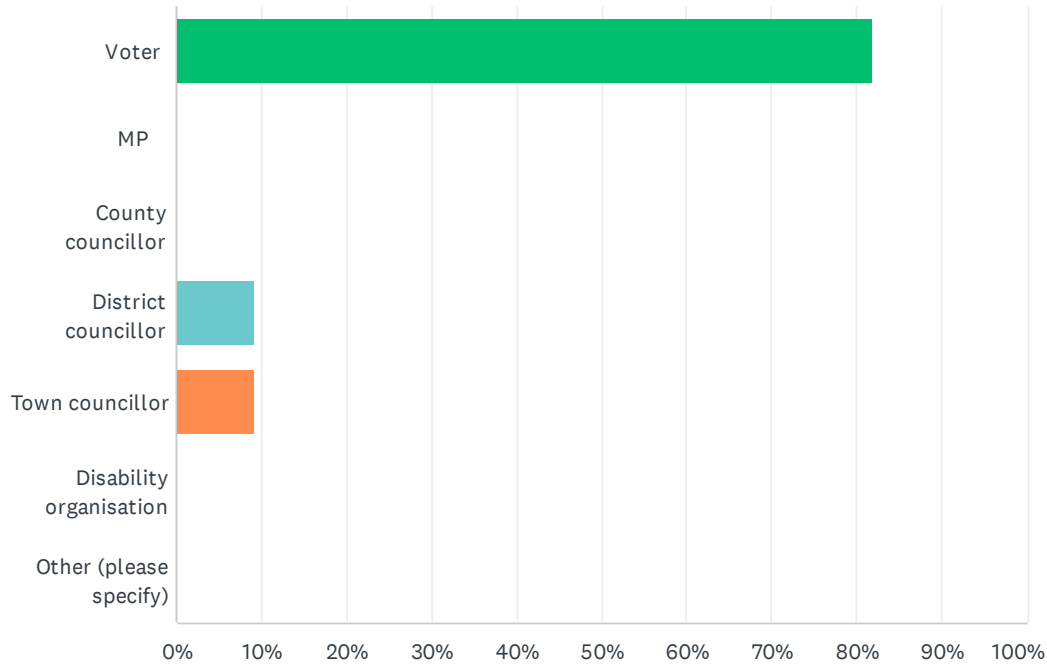
Agenda Item No. 8 Appendix B

		location for polling place. Convenient location for majority of electors in BHS-5
Blakebrook & Habberley South	Scout Hut on Habberley Playing Fields	Good facilities for voting. Located c.100 metres from edge of road, distance from car park is less than that – flat path.
Blakebrook & Habberley South	Schools in Blakebrook & Habberley South	See introductory comments.
Blakebrook & Habberley South	Trinity Methodist Church	Good facilities for voting. Already operates as double polling station. Could accommodate a third polling station for BHS-4 given the low number of electors in the polling district. Located in the adjacent ward but provides convenient arrangements as it is closer to majority of electors in BHS-4 than the polling place serving BHS-5.

Ian Miller**(Acting) Returning Officer****15 October 2022**

Q1 Please tell us the capacity in which you are responding.

Answered: 22 Skipped: 0

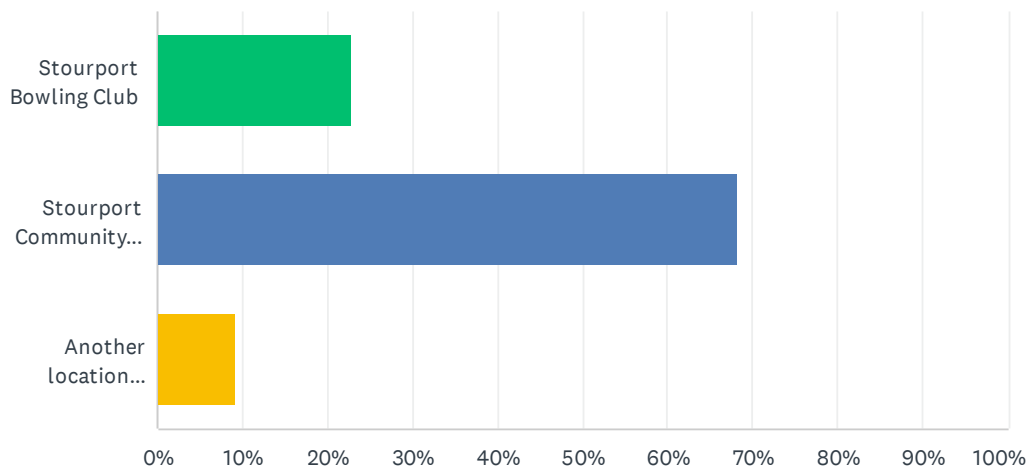


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Voter	81.82%	18
MP	0.00%	0
County councillor	0.00%	0
District councillor	9.09%	2
Town councillor	9.09%	2
Disability organisation	0.00%	0
Other (please specify)	0.00%	0
TOTAL		22

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
	There are no responses.	

Q2 The Stourport Workmen’s Club is no longer available as a polling place for Areley Kings & Riverside ward (AKR-SC). We are consulting on two alternative locations, but you can make other suggestions too. The Stourport Bowling Green Club is situated very close to the current polling place of Stourport Workmen’s Club. Another option is to use the Stourport Community Centre which is in the adjacent ward. It is in Lickhill Memorial Park. This venue is believed to be closer to the majority of electors in the polling district. Which option do you support?

Answered: 22 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Stourport Bowling Club	22.73% 5
Stourport Community Centre	68.18% 15
Another location (please specify)	9.09% 2
TOTAL	22

#	ANOTHER LOCATION (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Arley kings village hall	11/4/2022 5:58 PM
2	areley kings village hall	10/19/2022 9:19 AM

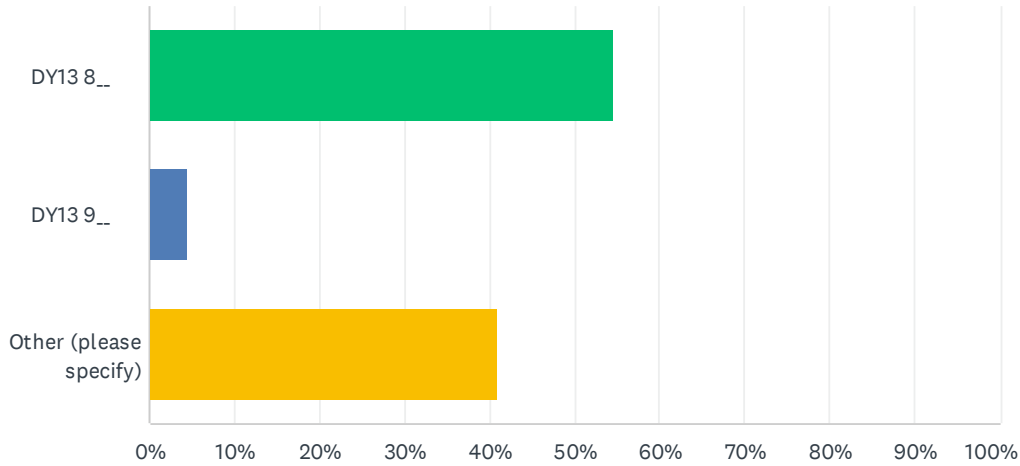
Q3 Please tell us your name.

Answered: 20 Skipped: 2

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	[REDACTED]	11/8/2022 3:56 PM
2	[REDACTED]	11/5/2022 2:57 PM
3	[REDACTED]	11/5/2022 11:30 AM
4	[REDACTED]	11/5/2022 2:44 AM
5	[REDACTED]	11/4/2022 5:58 PM
6	[REDACTED]	10/25/2022 12:54 PM
7	[REDACTED]	10/25/2022 12:35 PM
8	[REDACTED]	10/23/2022 5:12 PM
9	[REDACTED]	10/20/2022 3:26 PM
10	[REDACTED]	10/20/2022 2:33 PM
11	[REDACTED]	10/18/2022 11:36 PM
12	[REDACTED]	10/18/2022 10:15 PM
13	[REDACTED]	10/18/2022 9:15 PM
14	[REDACTED]	10/18/2022 6:47 PM
15	[REDACTED]	10/18/2022 6:07 PM
16	[REDACTED]	10/16/2022 11:44 PM
17	[REDACTED]	10/16/2022 10:02 PM
18	[REDACTED]	10/16/2022 9:48 PM
19	[REDACTED]	10/14/2022 9:52 PM
20	[REDACTED]	10/14/2022 4:16 PM

Q4 What is the start of your postcode?

Answered: 22 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
DY13 8__	54.55% 12
DY13 9__	4.55% 1
Other (please specify)	40.91% 9
TOTAL	22

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	██████	11/4/2022 5:58 PM
2	██████	10/25/2022 12:54 PM
3	██████	10/23/2022 5:12 PM
4	██████	10/20/2022 2:33 PM
5	██████	10/19/2022 9:19 AM
6	██████	10/18/2022 11:36 PM
7	██████	10/16/2022 10:02 PM
8	██████	10/14/2022 9:52 PM
9	██████	10/14/2022 4:16 PM

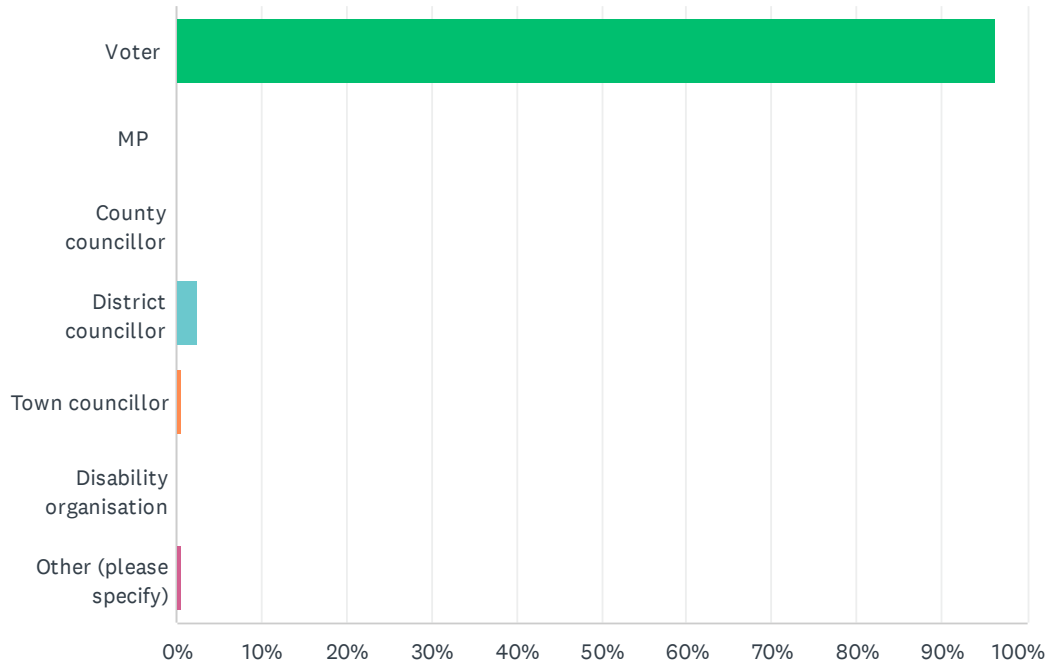
Q5 Please leave us any other comments about the changes to polling places for Areley Kings & Riverside in the box below.

Answered: 6 Skipped: 16

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Surely Arley kings should have a polling station in the alley kings area, and Riverside should have on in the Riverside area. For voters in arley kings to travel to the other side of town seems a bit odd.	11/4/2022 5:58 PM
2	like postal vote	10/25/2022 12:54 PM
3	The bowling club will be ideal for a polling station, it has ample parking and is next to the workmans club so voters will know where it is	10/25/2022 12:35 PM
4	I feel that elderly electors would get confused by the change of polling Station. The bowling club is next door to the original polling station, so signs would be visible. If the polling station was moved elsewhere i feel that electors would be confused and go home without voting	10/16/2022 10:02 PM
5	Stourport Bowling Club is next door to the the past polling station (Workmens Club). I feel that the electorate may be confused by any changes, but signs will be displayed very close by to the previous polling station . If the polling station is moved to an area where it takes more walking or driving the electorate will disappear and go home without voting	10/14/2022 9:52 PM
6	With the closure of the Working Men's Club I think the better option is The Stourport Community Centre. However the Bowling Green is closer for the town based voters. We found the when you closed the Walshes Community Hall the majority of voters from there wouldn't go to AK Village Hall to vote and wouldn't bother with postal votes either. So it needs careful consideration.	10/14/2022 4:16 PM

Q1 Please tell us the capacity in which you are responding.

Answered: 163 Skipped: 3

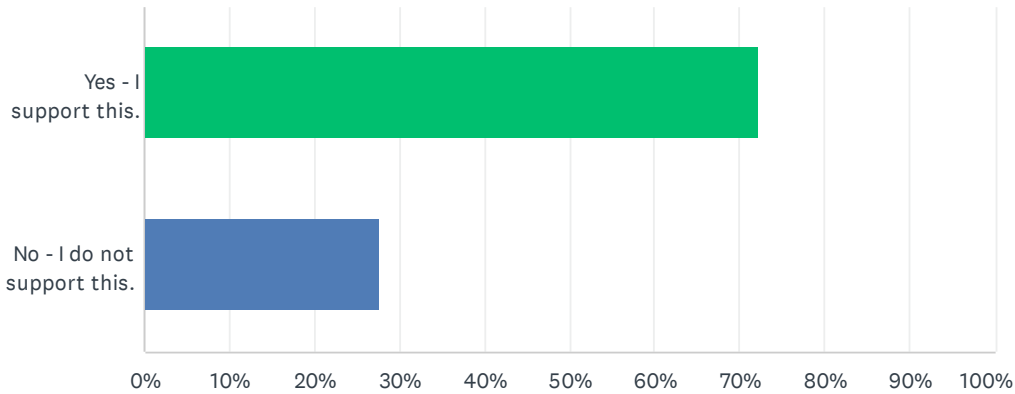


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Voter	96.32% 157
MP	0.00% 0
County councillor	0.00% 0
District councillor	2.45% 4
Town councillor	0.61% 1
Disability organisation	0.00% 0
Other (please specify)	0.61% 1
TOTAL	163

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Carer	10/14/2022 10:09 PM

Q2 The Gainsborough House Hotel is no longer available as a polling place for Blakebrook & Habberley South ward (polling districts BHS-4 & BHS-5). Do you agree with the proposals to move the polling place to the Habberley Social Club for voters living in the Habberley estate area (BHS-5)?

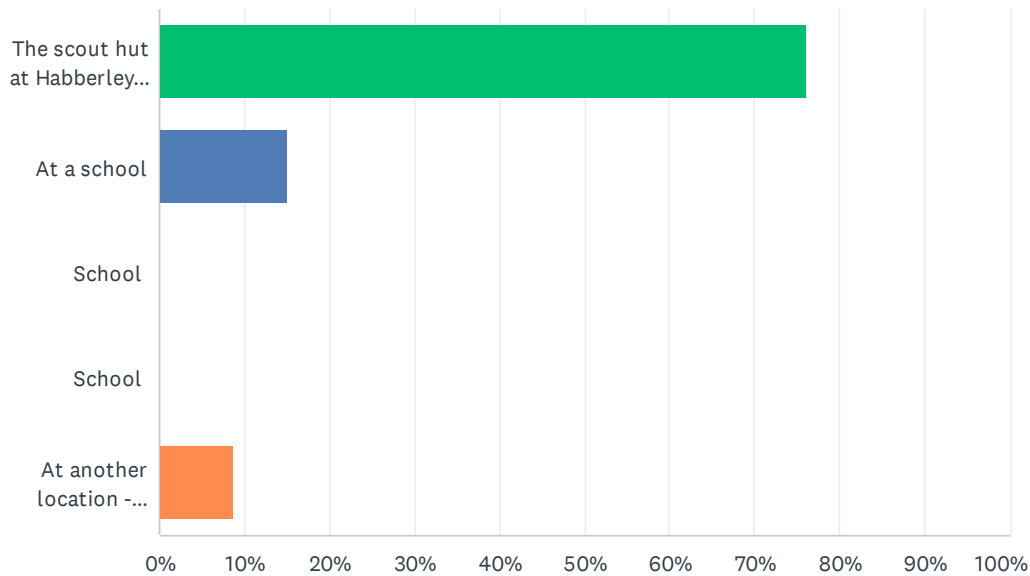
Answered: 166 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes - I support this.	72.29%	120
No - I do not support this.	27.71%	46
TOTAL		166

Q3 There are other buildings that could be used as polling places for people living in the Habberley estate area (BHS-5). This includes schools that are located in the ward. The council prefers to avoid designating schools as polling places if possible. This is to avoid any disruption to education. A governing body may choose to close a school even though a polling place might use only one room in a building. Another option might be the scout hut on Habberley playing fields. This venue is further away for the majority of electors in the polling district. Where do you think the think electors living in the Habberley estate area (BHS -5) should vote?

Answered: 46 Skipped: 120

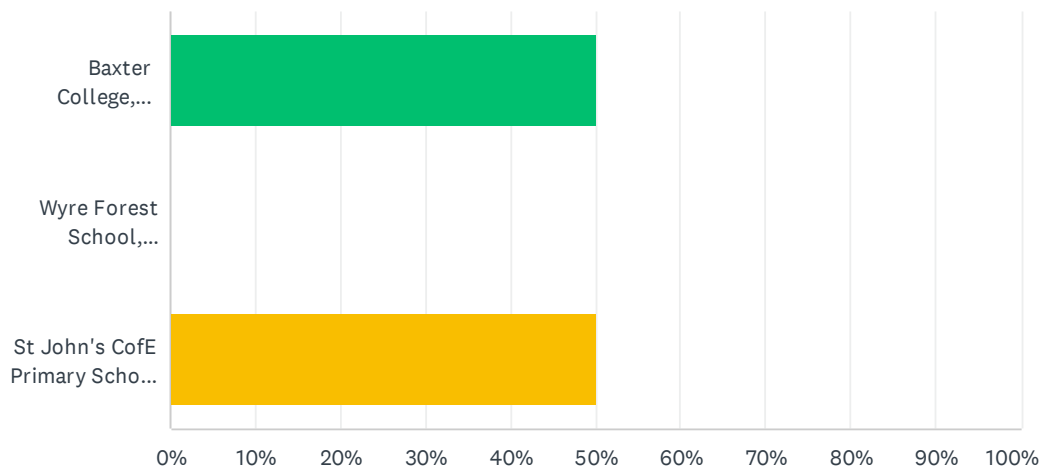


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
The scout hut at Habberley playing fields	76.09%	35
At a school	15.22%	7
School	0.00%	0
School	0.00%	0
At another location - please specify	8.70%	4
TOTAL		46

#	AT ANOTHER LOCATION - PLEASE SPECIFY	DATE
1	The church that was used last time off habberley road	11/5/2022 3:26 PM
2	Either the scout hut or at some location on the lower part of Bewdley Road, between the big roundabout and Kidderminster Hospital	10/21/2022 11:52 AM
3	remove illegals from Gainsbough house and use that	10/20/2022 10:22 PM
4	A Church or the Old registry office building	10/17/2022 3:00 PM

Q4 All the schools in the BHS-4 and BHS-5 polling districts of Blakebrook & Habberley South are listed so that you can choose which one you think is most suitable. St John's CofE Primary School used to be a polling place but the location was not ideal because of limited access to parking, particularly if the school otherwise remained open. Wyre Forest School caters for pupils with a range of special needs and it is highly unlikely that the council would be recommended to use this location when other school premises nearby could be used.

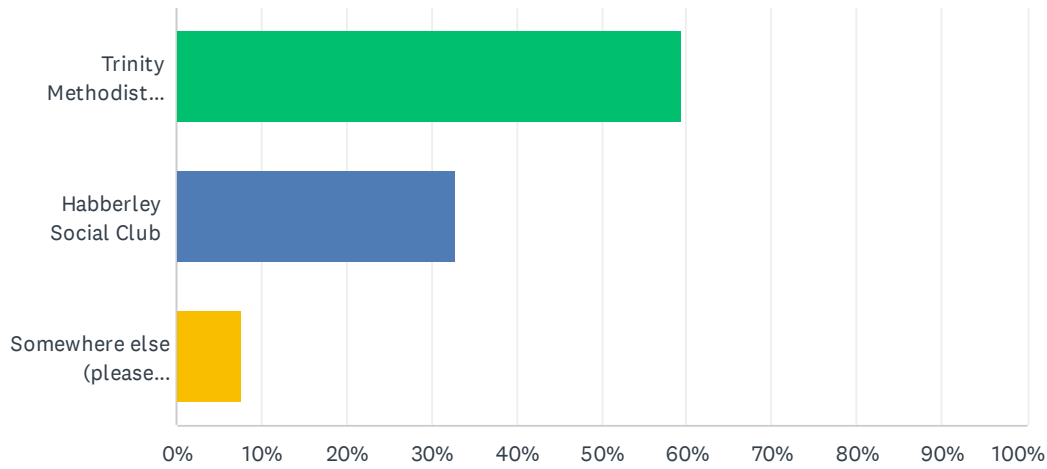
Answered: 4 Skipped: 162



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Baxter College, Habberley Road	50.00% 2
Wyre Forest School, Habberley Road	0.00% 0
St John's CofE Primary School, Blakebrook	50.00% 2
TOTAL	4

Q5 Where do you think voters who live in the town centre (BHS-4) should vote now that The Gainsborough House Hotel is not available?

Answered: 131 Skipped: 35



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Trinity Methodist Church	59.54% 78
Habberley Social Club	32.82% 43
Somewhere else (please specify)	7.63% 10
TOTAL	131

#	SOMEWHERE ELSE (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Town hall	11/7/2022 3:05 PM
2	Don't know	11/1/2022 8:16 AM
3	Scout hut	10/26/2022 8:16 AM
4	Scout Hut	10/22/2022 10:18 PM
5	Habberley road Scout hut	10/22/2022 4:02 PM
6	Scout hut at Habberley Road playing fields	10/22/2022 2:45 PM
7	Either the Methodist Church or somewhere along the lower part of Bewdley Road	10/21/2022 11:55 AM
8	Gainsborough	10/20/2022 10:23 PM
9	Rugby club in Marpool lane	10/19/2022 7:03 AM
10	Old registry office building.	10/17/2022 3:03 PM

Q6 What is your name?

Answered: 119 Skipped: 47

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	[REDACTED]	11/12/2022 9:24 AM
2	[REDACTED]	11/10/2022 9:13 PM
3	[REDACTED]	11/10/2022 9:18 AM
4	[REDACTED]	11/9/2022 11:43 PM
5	[REDACTED]	11/8/2022 8:29 AM
6	[REDACTED]	11/7/2022 3:25 PM
7	[REDACTED]	11/7/2022 3:05 PM
8	[REDACTED]	11/5/2022 3:28 PM
9	[REDACTED]	11/5/2022 7:53 AM
10	[REDACTED]	11/4/2022 2:45 PM
11	[REDACTED]	11/3/2022 5:06 AM
12	[REDACTED]	11/2/2022 5:58 PM
13	[REDACTED]	11/2/2022 5:24 AM
14	[REDACTED]	11/1/2022 8:16 AM
15	[REDACTED]	10/31/2022 3:33 PM
16	[REDACTED]	10/31/2022 12:50 PM
17	[REDACTED]	10/31/2022 12:13 PM
18	[REDACTED]	10/31/2022 9:47 AM
19	[REDACTED]	10/31/2022 9:29 AM
20	[REDACTED]	10/30/2022 8:24 PM
21	[REDACTED]	10/30/2022 6:58 PM
22	[REDACTED]	10/30/2022 6:45 PM
23	[REDACTED]	10/30/2022 3:58 PM
24	[REDACTED]	10/30/2022 3:58 PM
25	[REDACTED]	10/30/2022 3:50 PM
26	[REDACTED]	10/30/2022 3:33 PM
27	[REDACTED]	10/30/2022 3:29 PM
28	[REDACTED]	10/30/2022 3:29 PM
29	[REDACTED]	10/30/2022 12:40 PM
30	[REDACTED]	10/30/2022 12:05 PM
31	[REDACTED]	10/28/2022 10:46 AM
32	[REDACTED]	10/28/2022 9:10 AM
33	[REDACTED]	10/28/2022 8:50 AM
34	[REDACTED]	10/28/2022 8:42 AM
35	[REDACTED]	10/27/2022 11:16 PM

36	[REDACTED]	10/27/2022 7:25 PM
37	[REDACTED]	10/27/2022 3:34 PM
38	[REDACTED]	10/27/2022 2:21 PM
39	[REDACTED]	10/27/2022 8:10 AM
40	[REDACTED]	10/26/2022 4:17 PM
41	[REDACTED]	10/26/2022 2:20 PM
42	[REDACTED]	10/26/2022 8:16 AM
43	[REDACTED]	10/25/2022 8:57 PM
44	[REDACTED]	10/25/2022 7:12 PM
45	[REDACTED]	10/25/2022 6:23 PM
46	[REDACTED]	10/25/2022 6:21 PM
47	[REDACTED]	10/25/2022 3:25 PM
48	[REDACTED]	10/25/2022 10:45 AM
49	[REDACTED]	10/25/2022 10:28 AM
50	[REDACTED]	10/25/2022 9:59 AM
51	[REDACTED]	10/25/2022 9:50 AM
52	[REDACTED]	10/24/2022 8:04 PM
53	[REDACTED]	10/24/2022 6:28 PM
54	[REDACTED]	10/24/2022 5:11 PM
55	[REDACTED]	10/24/2022 1:35 PM
56	[REDACTED]	10/24/2022 12:21 PM
57	[REDACTED]	10/24/2022 12:20 PM
58	[REDACTED]	10/23/2022 6:14 PM
59	[REDACTED]	10/23/2022 5:11 PM
60	[REDACTED]	10/23/2022 4:57 PM
61	[REDACTED]	10/23/2022 4:55 PM
62	[REDACTED]	10/22/2022 10:18 PM
63	[REDACTED]	10/22/2022 8:32 PM
64	[REDACTED]	10/22/2022 6:24 PM
65	[REDACTED]	10/22/2022 4:02 PM
66	[REDACTED]	10/22/2022 2:45 PM
67	[REDACTED]	10/22/2022 12:08 PM
68	[REDACTED]	10/22/2022 11:58 AM
69	[REDACTED]	10/22/2022 11:57 AM
70	[REDACTED]	10/22/2022 11:16 AM
71	[REDACTED]	10/22/2022 10:30 AM
72	[REDACTED]	10/22/2022 10:29 AM
73	[REDACTED]	10/21/2022 11:27 PM
74	[REDACTED]	10/21/2022 11:55 AM
75	[REDACTED]	10/20/2022 10:23 PM
76	[REDACTED]	10/20/2022 9:24 PM

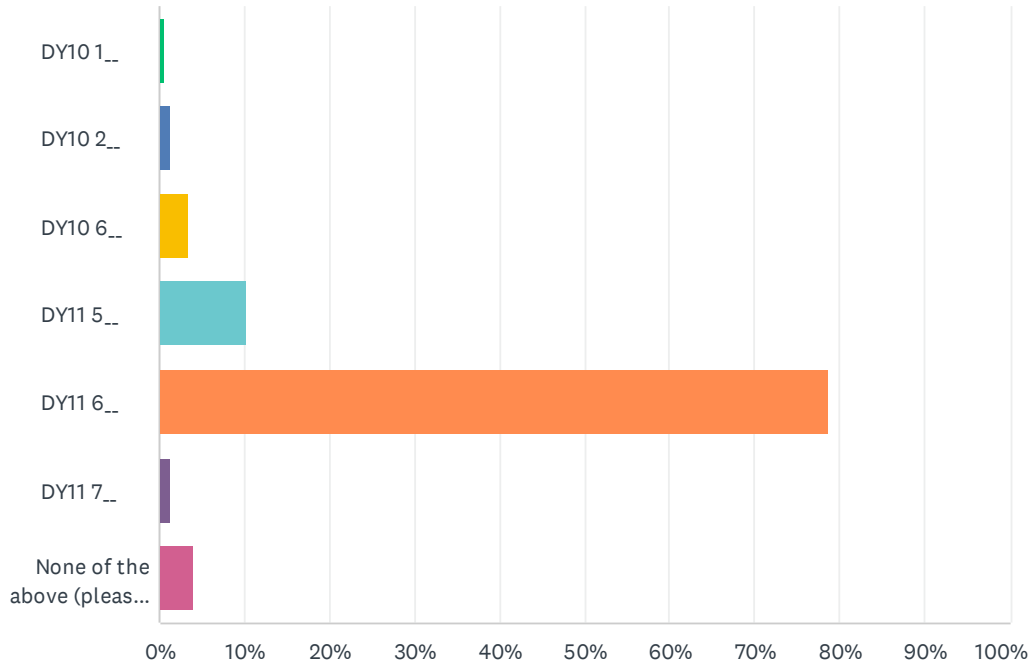
77	[REDACTED]	10/20/2022 4:20 PM
78	[REDACTED]	10/20/2022 3:36 PM
79	[REDACTED]	10/20/2022 3:33 PM
80	[REDACTED]	10/20/2022 2:30 PM
81	[REDACTED]	10/20/2022 2:15 PM
82	[REDACTED]	10/20/2022 2:12 PM
83	[REDACTED]	10/20/2022 7:34 AM
84	[REDACTED]	10/19/2022 9:15 PM
85	[REDACTED]	10/19/2022 12:06 PM
86	[REDACTED]	10/19/2022 11:54 AM
87	[REDACTED]	10/19/2022 7:03 AM
88	[REDACTED]	10/19/2022 1:50 AM
89	[REDACTED]	10/18/2022 8:59 PM
90	[REDACTED]	10/18/2022 8:40 PM
91	[REDACTED]	10/18/2022 8:28 PM
92	[REDACTED]	10/18/2022 7:39 PM
93	[REDACTED]	10/18/2022 6:58 PM
94	[REDACTED]	10/18/2022 6:50 PM
95	[REDACTED]	10/18/2022 6:43 PM
96	[REDACTED]	10/18/2022 6:24 PM
97	[REDACTED]	10/18/2022 6:05 PM
98	[REDACTED]	10/18/2022 1:24 PM
99	[REDACTED]	10/18/2022 7:19 AM
100	[REDACTED]	10/16/2022 9:33 PM
101	[REDACTED]	10/16/2022 6:48 PM
102	[REDACTED]	10/16/2022 7:43 AM
103	[REDACTED]	10/15/2022 10:21 PM
104	[REDACTED]	10/15/2022 12:04 PM
105	[REDACTED]	10/15/2022 9:15 AM
106	[REDACTED]	10/15/2022 8:27 AM
107	[REDACTED]	10/14/2022 11:55 PM
108	[REDACTED]	10/14/2022 11:14 PM
109	[REDACTED]	10/14/2022 10:35 PM
110	[REDACTED]	10/14/2022 10:28 PM
111	[REDACTED]	10/14/2022 10:21 PM
112	[REDACTED]	10/14/2022 10:20 PM
113	[REDACTED]	10/14/2022 10:10 PM
114	[REDACTED]	10/14/2022 10:03 PM
115	[REDACTED]	10/14/2022 10:02 PM
116	[REDACTED]	10/14/2022 9:59 PM
117	[REDACTED]	10/14/2022 9:48 PM

118	[REDACTED]	10/14/2022 9:44 PM
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119	[REDACTED]	10/14/2022 3:28 PM
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Q7 What is the start of your postcode?

Answered: 146 Skipped: 20



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
DY10 1__	0.68%	1
DY10 2__	1.37%	2
DY10 6__	3.42%	5
DY11 5__	10.27%	15
DY11 6__	78.77%	115
DY11 7__	1.37%	2
None of the above (please specify)	4.11%	6
TOTAL		146

#	NONE OF THE ABOVE (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	██████	10/23/2022 5:11 PM
2	███	10/20/2022 10:23 PM
3	██████	10/20/2022 3:36 PM
4	██████	10/15/2022 12:04 PM
5	██████	10/14/2022 10:10 PM
6	██████	10/14/2022 3:28 PM


Q8 Please leave us any other comments about the changes to polling places for Blakebrook and Habberley South in the box below.

Answered: 34 Skipped: 132

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Voters in the Habberley area should not be disenfranchised. They should not have to travel over a mile just to exercise their democratic right.	11/12/2022 9:24 AM
2	Please ensure that all proposed sites are accessible for all with additional needs.	11/10/2022 9:13 PM
3	Habberley Social Club is ideal because it is situated within, and is nearby to, a concentrated area of voters and therefore the benefit is significant.	11/7/2022 3:25 PM
4	The Scout Hut is best for me in Crane Street	11/4/2022 2:45 PM
5	Too much changing of polling places might stop some people from voting, as it may be too far to travel for older voters.	10/31/2022 12:50 PM
6	Having the voting done at the social club will be better for me as I'm disabled.	10/31/2022 9:47 AM
7	We think this is a good idea	10/30/2022 6:58 PM
8	Lots of pensioners live on the Habberley Estate, it makes sense that it should be somewhere easily accessible for them to make that vote.	10/30/2022 6:45 PM
9	all for the change	10/30/2022 3:58 PM
10	Why , the change , Are they trying to disenfranchise voters, they being the tories, waiting for photo I.D's!	10/30/2022 3:50 PM
11	I normally have a postal vote due to the Gainsborough being to far away, but if it was moved to the Habberley Social Club, I would reconsider and vote in person.	10/27/2022 8:10 AM
12	I would like to emphasise the importance of making it easy for voters to cast their vote. This is why I think it essential for those voters who live in the Town Centre area to be able to vote at Trinity Methodist Church - it is easy to get to by walking and for those who need to go by car there is adequate parking.	10/26/2022 4:17 PM
13	Happy to vote at the Scout Hut at Habberley Road Playing Fields	10/25/2022 7:12 PM
14	Habberley Social Club is not suitable for a polling station due to the poor vehicular access and car park.	10/25/2022 10:45 AM
15	Habberley Social club will be more convenient for voters as there is ample parking and it is in a well populated part of the ward	10/25/2022 9:50 AM
16	Habberley Road Playing Fields is closest to me and I would walk to vote. There is parking here also and along the road. Parking on Habberley Estate itself is not plentiful and the roads are narrow anyway, but feel narrower still with all the cars parked everywhere. I do understand however that you have to place polling stations at places that will encourage the maximum number of people to make the effort to vote.	10/24/2022 1:35 PM
17	Given the relatively small number of people who vote (not absentee) in the town centre, I have some doubts that Trinity Methodist Church is worthwhile. Perhaps there is another option in the town centre? There is the Town Hall but that will be closed for renovations shortly. Perhaps a shop (currently not trading or suspending trading for the day) could be used?	10/23/2022 5:11 PM
18	Habberley road Scout hut is central to most areas of the ward. Habberley Social club is out of the way and not easy to get to, whereas the Scout hut is central, metres from a bus stop with plenty of parking.	10/22/2022 4:02 PM
19	needs to be 'our side' of town.	10/22/2022 2:45 PM
20	The distance analysis speaks for itself. People without transport or disabled can make shorter journeys to vote	10/22/2022 10:29 AM
21	Support this good idea to be able to vote within walking distance again	10/21/2022 8:49 PM

22	I found this questionnaire very confusing. I don't know if I'm in BHS-4 or BHS-5. I just want somewhere within reasonable walking distance of my flat, since I don't have a car.	10/21/2022 11:55 AM
23	None	10/19/2022 11:54 AM
24	I really think the Hotel should be returned to it's previous use.....as a hotel for guests.	10/19/2022 1:50 AM
25	We agree with proposals. Happy to vote at Habberley Club on the estate.	10/18/2022 6:48 AM
26	Car parking may be inadequate in the area around the social club.	10/17/2022 9:16 PM
27	Habberley social club and scout hut in accessible, approach roads are narrow with little parking available.	10/17/2022 3:03 PM
28	The empty shops on Canterbury Road. We should have a councilor centre there too	10/15/2022 9:15 AM
29	If people want to vote then they will go anywhere to vote but some people are old and dat so they cant walk far or ent very good at driving so a closer place for them would be better ennit. Maybe if u created a mobile voting poll station things like this wouldn't occur.	10/14/2022 11:55 PM
30	I can't think of a more suitable location I know neighbours will like this in an estate that used to have one but had it removed like many other thinks over the years, it's walking distance for me and I don't drive so will be able to go and vote easier thanks	10/14/2022 11:14 PM
31	I think trinity is closest for town center people and the club on Habberley perfect for those in the Habberley area, lots of OAPs around here, they want to go out and vote, nothing better than doing it in person, but haven't been able to since the old was was taken away some years ago,	10/14/2022 10:20 PM
32	This is critical for many people voting.	10/14/2022 10:02 PM
33	Habberley misses having a polling station, I think more locals will go out to vote when they have a closer place to vote. Gainsborough was difficult due to hills.	10/14/2022 9:44 PM
34	None	10/14/2022 3:28 PM

External Email : Voting Survey

 To: Wyre Forest Electoral
 Retention Policy: 7 Year Delete (7 years) Expires on: 19/10/2029
 Follow up, Completed on 25 October 2022. You replied to this message on 25/10/2022 10:11.

This email originated from outside of the organisation
STOP : Were you expecting this email? Does it look genuine?
THINK : Before you CLICK on any links or OPEN any attachments.

I wanted to say I support the proposal for Habberley Club to be the new voting location after Gainsborough hotel is apparently no longer an option.

It was difficult for local neighbours (many elderly) living in the bungalows on the estate, to get to vote at the hotel due to the hills there and back. A few who live right by me have told me they like to go and vote instead of voting by post.

We used to have one and it's nice to know we might get one back. It's been needed for many years in my opinion.

Regards,
 [Redacted Name]
 Salisbury Drive, [Redacted Address]

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)


External Email : Polling station

 To: Wyre Forest Electoral
 Retention Policy: 7 Year Delete (7 years) Expires on: 28/10/2029

This email originated from outside of the organisation
STOP : Were you expecting this email? Does it look genuine?
THINK : Before you CLICK on any links or OPEN any attachments.

I would like to propose Habberley social club be used as Future polling station , it's central location and parking facilities are ideal.

External Email : Vote

 To: Wyre Forest Electoral
 Retention Policy: 7 Year Delete (7 years) Expires on: 07/11/2029

This email originated from outside of the organisation
STOP : Were you expecting this email? Does it look genuine?
THINK : Before you CLICK on any links or OPEN any attachments.

I wish to vote for Habberley Social Club. Thank you

REVIEW OF WHERE YOU VOTE

Following the closure of The Gainsborough Hotel, Wyre Forest District Council is holding an online review to decide the best place for a new polling station.

You can fill in the survey online at

"www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk/your-council/consultations-and-e-petitions/".

Review closes on 11th November.

Alternatively you can express your preference by filling out this card and returning it to the address overleaf.

My preference for the location of the new polling station would be:

Scout Hut at Habberley Road Playing Fields

Please Tick

Habberley Estate Social Club

Other Suggestion.....

Name.....

Road Name...Leawood Grove...Post Code.....

Please state your capacity either Voter or Councillor.....

Due to Royal Mail strike, please post by 4th November at the latest

Published & promoted by Tracey Onslow on behalf of Wyre Forest Conservatives & Printed by WFCAs all of 28 Bewdley Road North, Stourport, DY13 8PS

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Please Tick

Habberley Estate Social Club

Other Suggestion.....

Name.....

Road Name.....Post Code.....

Please state your capacity either Voter or Councillor...VOTER.....

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My preference for the location of the new polling station would be:

Scout Hut at Habberley Road Playing Fields

Please Tick

Habberley Estate Social Club

Other Suggestion.....

Name.....

Road Name...KINGS ROAD...Post Code.....

Please state your capacity either Voter or Councillor...VOTER.....

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My preference for the location of the new polling station would be:

Scout Hut at Habberley Road Playing Fields

Please Tick

Habberley Estate Social Club

Other Suggestion.....

Name.....

Road Name...BLAKEBROOK GARDEN...Post Code.....

Please state your capacity either Voter or Councillor...VOTER.....

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Alternatively you can express your preference by filling out this card and returning it to the address overleaf.

My preference for the location of the new polling station would be:

Scout Hut at Habberley Road Playing Fields

Habberley Estate Social Club

None
Please Tick

Other Suggestion... RUGBY CLUB, MARLBOROUGH LANE

Name: [Redacted] Name: [Redacted]

Road Name... BENNETT ST. Post Code [Redacted]

Please state your capacity either Voter or Councillor... VOTER

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Scout Hut at Habberley Road Playing Fields

Habberley Estate Social Club

Please Tick

Other Suggestion... [Redacted]

Name: [Redacted] Name: [Redacted]

Road Name... BRUNNICK ST. Post Code [Redacted]

Please state your capacity either Voter or Councillor... VOTER

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Review closes on 11th November.

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My preference for the location of the new polling station would be:

Scout Hut at Habberley Road Playing Fields

Habberley Estate Social Club

Please Tick

Other Suggestion... [Redacted]

Name: [Redacted] Name: [Redacted]

Road Name... BRUNDLEY HILL Post Code [Redacted]

Please state your capacity either Voter or Councillor... VOTER

Due to Royal Mail strike, please post by 4th November at the latest

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Review closes on 11th November.

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My preference for the location of the new polling station would be:

Scout Hut at Habberley Road Playing Fields

Habberley Estate Social Club

Please Tick

Other Suggestion... [Redacted]

Name: [Redacted] Name: [Redacted]

Road Name... BRUNDLEY RD Post Code [Redacted]

Please state your capacity either Voter or Councillor... VOTER

Due to Royal Mail strike, please post by 4th November at the latest

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Review closes on 11th November.

Alternatively you can express your preference by filling out this card and returning it to the address overleaf.

My preference for the location of the new polling station would be:

Scout Hut at Habberley Road Playing Fields
Habberley Estate Social Club

Form with a checked box for Scout Hut and an empty box for Habberley Estate Social Club.

Please Tick

Other Suggestion.....

Name.....

Road Name..... Post Code.....

Please state your capacity either Voter or Councillor.....

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Scout Hut at Habberley Road Playing Fields
Habberley Estate Social Club

Form with a checked box for Scout Hut and an empty box for Habberley Estate Social Club.

Please Tick

Other Suggestion.....

Name.....

Road Name..... Post Code.....

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My preference for the location of the new polling station would be:

Scout Hut at Habberley Road Playing Fields
Habberley Estate Social Club

Form with a checked box for Scout Hut and an empty box for Habberley Estate Social Club.

Please Tick

Other Suggestion.....

Name.....

Road Name..... Post Code.....

Please state your capacity either Voter or Councillor.....

Due to Royal Mail strike, please post by 4th November at the latest

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Habberley Estate Social Club

Please Tick

Other Suggestion.....

Name..... Name.....

Road Name.. BENNETT STREET .. Post Code.....

Please state your capacity either Voter or Councillor... VOTER

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Habberley Estate Social Club

Please Tick

Other Suggestion.....

Name..... Name.....

Road Name.. Burghley Drive .. Post Code.....

Please state your capacity either Voter or Councillor... voter

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Please Tick

Other Suggestion.....

Name..... Name.....

Road Name.. HABBERLEY ST .. Post Code.....

Please state your capacity either Voter or Councillor... VOTER

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Please Tick

Other Suggestion.....

Name..... Name.....

Road Name.. Penton's Court .. Post Code.....

Please state your capacity either Voter or Councillor.....

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Form with a checked box for Scout Hut at Habberley Road Playing Fields.

Please Tick

Other Suggestion.....

[Redacted area]

Road Name WHITBURN CLOSE Post Code [Redacted]

Please state your capacity either Voter or Councillor... Voter

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Please Tick

Other Suggestion.....

Name [Redacted] Name [Redacted]

Road Name OAKDEN PLACE Post Code [Redacted]

Please state your capacity either Voter or Councillor... VOTER

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Please Tick

Other Suggestion.....

Name [Redacted] Name [Redacted]

Road Name PINELIP GEDDWE Post Code [Redacted]

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Please Tick

Other Suggestion.....

Name [Redacted] Name [Redacted]

Road Name WELBY DRIVE Post [Redacted]

Please state your capacity either Voter or Councillor... VOTER

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Habberley Estate Social Club

Other Suggestion.....

Name.....Name.....

Road Name.....Post Code.....

Please state your capacity either Voter or Councillor.....

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Please Tick

Habberley Estate Social Club

Other Suggestion..... BAXTER COLLEGE.....

Name..... [redacted] Name..... [redacted]

Road Name..... BEWDELY HILL..... Post Code..... [redacted]

Please state your capacity either Voter or Councillor..... VOTER.....

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Please Tick

Habberley Estate Social Club

Other Suggestion.....

Name..... [redacted] Name.....

Road Name..... WESTMINSTER RD..... Post Code..... [redacted]

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Please Tick

Habberley Estate Social Club

Other Suggestion.....

Name..... [redacted] Name.....

Road Name..... ROWLAND HILL AVE..... Post Code..... [redacted]

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Checked box for Scout Hut at Habberley Road Playing Fields

Please Tick

Other Suggestion.....

Name [redacted] Name [redacted]

Road Name MEADOWS HILL CLOSE Post Code [redacted]

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Checked box for Scout Hut at Habberley Road Playing Fields

Please Tick

Other Suggestion.....

Name [redacted] Name [redacted]

Road Name CRESTWOOD AVE Post Code [redacted]

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Please Tick

Other Suggestion.....

Name [redacted] Name [redacted]

Road Name Church Walk Post Code [redacted]

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Checked box for Scout Hut at Habberley Road Playing Fields

Please Tick

Other Suggestion.....

Name [redacted] Name [redacted]

Road Name CANTLEYS LANE Post Code [redacted]

Please state your capacity either Voter or Councillor.....

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Please Tick

Other Suggestion.....

Name [redacted] Name [redacted]

Road Name BENDLEY HILL Post Code [redacted]

Please state your capacity either Voter or Councillor VOTER

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WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL**COUNCIL****7 DECEMBER 2022****Report back on motions agreed at September 2022 Council**

OPEN	
CABINET MEMBER:	Councillor Helen Dyke, Leader of the Council
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	Ian Miller, Chief Executive
CONTACT OFFICER:	Ian Miller x 2700
APPENDICES	Letter from Felicity Buchan MP, 24 November 2022

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide Council with reports back on two matters set out in motions agreed at its last meeting.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 **The Council is RECOMMENDED to note the reports set out below.**

3. REPORT BACK ON THE MOTIONS

- 3.1 One motion called for reinstatement of the community leadership fund at £1000 for each councillor and that the Cabinet should report back to Council. The report on “Medium Term Financial Strategy – Strategic Options Analysis” was considered by Cabinet on 7 November and contained the following reference: “Despite the funding gap, the Cabinet is minded to propose that the fund should be set at £1k for each councillor for 2023-24 only. There is a range of other sources of funding for local community groups and charities including the Wyre Forest lottery and parish and town councils, which to date have not had any cap on their decisions on council tax. It is proposed to amend criteria for the community leadership fund so that amounts cannot be allocated to parish and town councils, recognising that they have council tax setting powers and do not need to have their discretionary activity subsidised by the district council. The decision about the level of funding (if any) to be provided after 2023-24 should properly be taken by the new council elected in May 2023, having regard to affordability and need”. The draft medium term strategy will be presented to Cabinet at its meeting on 20 December.
- 3.2 Another motion dealt with the armed forces covenant. The motion was communicated to the Member of Parliament for Wyre Forest, by email on 22 September, seeking a response from the relevant Government Minister about quickly amending legislation and guidance in respect of Disabled Facilities Grants so that military compensation is not treated as income or taken into account in assessing eligibility for support. The attached response of 24 November has been sent to the MP and leaves action to individual councils. The motion asked “officers to bring back a report outlining how the Council could

Agenda Item No. 9

offer priority for Disabled Facilities Grant funding for members of the Armed Forces Community, especially those that have been injured during service”. Now that the Government has clarified it does not intend to change legislation in respect of disabled facilities grants, this will be addressed in a report to Cabinet before the start of next financial year as the operation of the scheme of grants and the housing assistance policy are executive functions.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The actions have been taken within existing resources and involved only use of staff time. No additional financial implications arise directly from this report. Any such implications will be identified within reports that seek decisions, whether from Cabinet or from Council.

5. LEGAL AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The Council has specific duties and powers relating to disabled facilities grants and the armed forces covenant, including the Housing Grants, Construction and Regeneration Act 1996 and the Armed Forces Act 2006. The statutory guidance under the latter Act came into force on 22 November. Under the Regulatory Reform (Housing Assistance) (England and Wales) Order 2002, the Council has general powers to provide assistance for housing renewal, including home adaptations.

6. EQUALITY IMPACT NEEDS ASSESSMENT

- 6.1 There are no equalities implications arising directly from this report. Any such implications will be identified within reports that seek decisions, whether from Cabinet or from Council.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 7.1 Any risks and mitigating measures will be identified within reports that seek decisions, whether from Cabinet or from Council.

8. CONCLUSION

- 8.1 The Council is invited to note the reports set out above.

9. CONSULTEES

- 9.1 Cabinet
9.2 Corporate Leadership Team

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 10.1 Council minutes of 21 September 2022
10.2 Statutory guidance under the Armed Forces Act 2006
[Armed Forces Covenant Duty Statutory Guidance.pdf \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)
Came into force on 22 November 2022 as a result of these regulations:
[The Armed Forces \(Covenant\) Regulations 2022 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](#)



Department for Levelling Up,
Housing & Communities

Felicity Buchan MP

Minister for Housing and Homelessness

**Department for Levelling Up, Housing and
Communities**

2 Marsham Street
London SW1P 4DF

Our reference: 21449802

Mark Garnier MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

24 November 2022

Dear Mark,

Thank you for your email of 10 October about the Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) and the Armed Forces Act 2021. I am replying as the DFG falls within my Ministerial remit, although I should point out that the grant forms a joint responsibility held between this department and the Department of Health and Social Care.

May I start off by saying that like Wyre Forest Council, I also welcome the Armed Forces Act, which places a new statutory duty on local authorities (LAs) to have due regard to the Armed Forces Covenant. This further strengthens Government's commitment to provide the right support to those who have given so much for their country. All local authorities have signed up to the Armed Forces Covenant and I would encourage them to take care to ensure that disabled ex-service personnel continue to have access to the adaptations they need. LAs also have a statutory duty to provide adaptations to all people who qualify for the grant, including eligible veterans.

The DFG is available to anyone with a disability who needs to adapt their home, subject to eligibility. To further strengthen the obligation on LAs, this department identified the local administration of DFGs as one of the functions that was subsequently incorporated into the Armed Forces Covenant and into law. Under the legal duty of the Armed Forces Act, LAs have a legal obligation to have due regard to the unique obligations of, and sacrifices made by, the armed forces in the administration of the DFG locally, and to have regard to the principle that special provision for veterans may be justified.

As Wyre Forest have correctly noted, councils can also choose to set-out priorities through their local Housing Assistance policy for specific groups, including for veterans. Statutory guidance on the Armed Forces Covenant Duty sets out that in putting together local policies, LAs should consider how to address the needs of Armed Forces personnel or their families living in their own accommodation, as well as veterans. For example, where it is published in the council's local policy, councils can choose to waive the DFG means test altogether for groups such as veterans, taking into consideration the specific circumstances of each applicant's background.

Additionally, in March this year, this department published guidance for LAs in England on effective and efficient DFG delivery, including for the armed forces

community. The guidance makes clear that LAs are required to have due regard to the three principles of Armed Forces Covenant in DFG delivery, and includes a chapter on how LAs can develop or review their local Housing Assistance Policy.

We consider that these recent legislative changes and updated guidance are sufficient to clarify the obligations on local authorities, and so do not intend to make further changes to the DFG legislation.

Finally, I should also point out that provision for home adaptations for ex-service personnel who have only very recently left the military is dealt with separately by the Ministry of Defence.

I trust this information is helpful and I thank you for writing on this important matter.

Yours ever,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Felicity Buchan". The ink is a reddish-brown color. The signature is centered on the page.

Felicity Buchan MP
Minister for Housing and Homelessness

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

**COUNCIL
7 DECEMBER 2022**

**POLICY AND BUDGET FRAMEWORK
MATTERS WHICH REQUIRE A DECISION BY COUNCIL**

**RECOMMENDATIONS
TREASURY MANAGEMENT REVIEW PANEL
31 OCTOBER 2022**

Purpose of Report

To consider recommendations from the Treasury Management Review Panel on matters outside the policy framework or approved budget of the Council.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Would Councillors please note that the related reports and documents have not been included in the Council book, as they have already been sent to Members via the review panel agenda pack. The Treasury Management Review Panel is not open to the press or public.

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL	CHAIRMAN OF REVIEW PANEL
<p>Annual Report on Treasury Management Service and Actual Prudential Indicators 2021-22</p> <p>The Treasury Management Review Panel recommends to Council to:</p> <p>1.1 Approve the actual 2021-22 prudential and treasury indicators in the report;</p> <p>1.2 Approve the actual 2021-22 non-treasury prudential indicators for Capital Portfolio Fund properties;</p> <p>1.3 Note the annual treasury management report for 2021-22, including information on the non-treasury prudential indicators for Capital Portfolio Fund properties.</p>	<p>Councillor S Miah</p>

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

**COUNCIL
7 DECEMBER 2022**

**POLICY AND BUDGET FRAMEWORK
MATTERS WHICH REQUIRE A DECISION BY COUNCIL**

**RECOMMENDATIONS
TREASURY MANAGEMENT REVIEW PANEL
31 OCTOBER 2022**

Purpose of Report

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SUPPORTING INFORMATION

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RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL	CHAIRMAN OF REVIEW PANEL
<p>Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy Mid-year Review Report 2022-23</p> <p>The Treasury Management Review Panel recommends the Mid-year Review and all updated Prudential Indicators & Ratios for approval by Council.</p>	<p>Councillor S Miah</p>

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

**COUNCIL
7 DECEMBER 2022**

**POLICY AND BUDGET FRAMEWORK
MATTERS WHICH REQUIRE A DECISION BY COUNCIL**

**RECOMMENDATIONS
CABINET
7 NOVEMBER 2022**

Purpose of Report

To consider recommendations from the Cabinet on matters outside the policy framework or approved budget of the Council.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

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https://forms.wyreforestdc.gov.uk/council/docs/doc58070_20221107_cabinet_agenda.pdf

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL	CABINET MEMBER
<p>Council tax reduction scheme review 2023/24</p> <p>Cabinet RECOMMEND to Council that:</p> <p>The minimum contribution for working age Council Tax Reduction Scheme claimants is reduced from 20% to 10% with effect from 1st April 2023.</p>	<p>Councillor M Rayner</p>

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

**COUNCIL
7 DECEMBER 2022**

**POLICY AND BUDGET FRAMEWORK
MATTERS WHICH REQUIRE A DECISION BY COUNCIL**

**RECOMMENDATIONS
LICENSING & ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE
5 DECEMBER 2022**

Purpose of Report

To consider recommendations from the Cabinet on matters outside the policy framework or approved budget of the Council.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

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https://forms.wyreforestdc.gov.uk/council/docs/doc58122_20221205_1_and_e_agenda.pdf

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL	CABINET MEMBER
<p>Review of Fees and Charges for the Council's Licensing and Regulatory Services Function 2023/24</p> <p>The Committee recommend to Council that the proposals for fees and charges within the Council's Licensing, Food, Health, Safety and Pollution Control functions for 2023/24, as detailed in the report, be included in the Council's 2023/24 budget strategy.</p>	<p>Councillor Nicky Martin</p>

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

**COUNCIL
7 DECEMBER 2022**

QUESTIONS TO COUNCIL

1. Question from Councillor M Hart to the Cabinet Member for Operational Services

Since the last Full Council meeting held on 21st September when the Cabinet Member told this Council that he regularly met with the depot staff and was driven around the district looking at issues on a weekly basis could he tell this Council how many times he has visited the depot and how many times he has been out looking at issues?

2. Question from Councillor D Ross to the Cabinet Member for Finance and Capital Portfolio

Could the Cabinet Member advise this Council, what is the maximum stake an individual is allowed to stake and, in the year, 2021-2022 and 2022 to date could we be advised; as to how much prize money in total has been paid, how much in grants to organisations and which organisations have benefitted?

3. Question from Councillor B Brookes to the Cabinet Member for Housing, Health, Wellbeing and Democratic Services

Could the Cabinet Member please tell this Council how many members of staff have left this Council since 1st January 2022, by whatever means, how many job vacancies we currently have unfilled and what are the posts?

4. Question from Councillor T Onslow to the Cabinet Member for Operational Services

Could the Cabinet Member please give this Council an update on the Heritage Lottery Project for Brinton Park?

5. Question from Councillor F Oborski MBE to the Cabinet Member for Operational Services

Every year since 1974 Wyre Forest D.C. has granted Free Parking on the Kidderminster New Road Car Park to Uniformed Organisations and Veterans attending the Remembrance Day Parade organised by the Royal British Legion and has cordoned off part of the Car Park for their use.

This year no such arrangements were made forcing attendees to purchase the 24 hour ticket as they were going to be there for over 3 hours.

Could the Cabinet Member explain why the normal concession did not apply this year?

6. Question from Councillor C Rogers to the Cabinet Member for Operational Services

I am sure the Cabinet Member for Operational Services is aware that in years gone by, this Council allowed Stourport Town Council to retain the takings from the Stourport car parks on carnival day. That allowed, along with the bucket collections, to make donations to charities in the area the sum of £3,000. Therefore, would the Cabinet Member please explain to this Council why, this year this Council saw fit to keep the income from the car parks, meaning that money passed onto local charities was only £1,850?

7. Question from Councillor N Desmond to the Leader of the Council

The Corporate Risk Register plays an integral role to support the delivery of the Corporate Plan and sets out a number of top risks and uncertainties facing the Council. Could the Leader of the Council confirm if she agrees with all of the top risks and if so, is she working with CLT to address and mitigate these risks and uncertainties?

8. Question from Councillor M Hart to the Leader of the Council

Could the Leader of the Council assure this Council that she takes the Code of Conduct seriously and use her best endeavours to ensure that it is respected by all members of this Council?

9. Question from Councillor F Oborski MBE to the Cabinet Member for Operational Services

Can the Cabinet Member tell me:

What types of weed killer are used on WFDC Parks and Open Spaces; what is the frequency of their use and how are decisions concerning use made?