

Upton Snodsbury Annual Parish & Parish Council Meeting May 2024

County & District Cllr. Linda Robinson's report.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank your Parish Cllrs who work tirelessly and with great enthusiasm on your behalf, as does your clerk Nicola who helps keep me updated between meetings.

Much of my time across our Upton Snodsbury Division is spent on Highways' issues and Stoulton is no exception.

The abnormally high rainfall experienced this winter totalled 720mm over the last six months alone which would normally have equated to an average years' worth. This is off the scale compared to decade averages since 1980 and exceeds anything going back to 1960 in reference to data from our local weather station at Wychavon Civic Centre. Surface water levels have been abnormally high and the gulleys and ditches at the side of the roads are struggling to cope but efforts are made to keep them clear where possible.

Please report any Highways issues you spot direct to Highways on <https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/council-services/travel-and-highways/tell-us-about-road-highway-or-travel-route-issue/report>. with a precise location. Alternatively, e mail me on lrobinson2@worcestershire.gov.uk and I will report it to my Highways liaison officer. This also applies to any fly tipping you spot at the side of the road. The increase in littering along our country lanes is a big concern and much of it is just thrown from car windows when passing. WCC has a duty to litter pick the 'A' roads regularly and it is sad to see the amount their operatives find to put in their blue sacks ready for collection

As many of you may be aware County Hall remains partially closed in its upper storeys due to the presence of defective concrete known as RAAC was discovered in the upper floors. Surveys and quotes are being undertaken to assess repair costs. Currently half of the building sits empty. Obviously, we cannot afford the risk of re opening with any danger of collapse.

Council & Planning meetings are being held at District Council offices since September with many having been at Wychavon which is convenient.

Some difficult decisions had to be made in the 2024/2025 budget

The recent rise in the County Council tax precept by 4.99% included a 2% Adult social care precept in order to contribute to existing cost pressures due to Worcestershire's ageing population.

Voluntary redundancies have also been offered to Management & Staff with quite a good uptake and it is anticipated that these Budget proposals will significantly reduce our current overspend.

In last year's report I mentioned a proposal to build a new Secondary School between the hospital and Newtown Road. At last week's Council meeting it was agreed to go ahead with the plans as secondary school provision was much needed despite rising construction costs. The original estimate of £50 million has increased to £59.9 m. and will provide 600 places. It is on track to open in 2026 and reach full capacity by 2030.

COMMUNITY volunteers have banded together over winter to plant a new woodland in Upton Snodsbury.

A total of 23,000 trees have been planted at the 11-hectare site off the A422. Recent efforts saw local school children from Upton Snodsbury First School join Wychavon District Council chairman, Robert Raphael to get planting.

The new woodland is part of Worcestershire County Council's aim to plant 150,000 trees across the county by 2027, including another new woodland in Wychavon in Dodderhill parish near Droitwich Spa.

Over the winter, community efforts have seen the total number of trees increase by 6,000 to a whopping 23,000. The council say the woodland is developing into a 'thriving biodiversity habitat.'

Coun Raphael said: “It was fantastic to see the enthusiasm of the pupils taking part in the tree planting in Upton Snodsbury and to know they will be able to go back in years to come and see how the trees they planted have grown.”



Wychavon is celebrating its 50th Anniversary so please find below some interesting facts on its formation and history.

History of Wychavon

Wychavon was formed out of the Local Government Act 1972.

The council, and the district, was created out of five existing councils:

- Evesham Borough Council
- Evesham Rural District Council
- Droitwich Borough Council
- Droitwich Rural District Council
- Pershore Rural District Council

Originally called District No.9, the name Wychavon was chosen to reflect all parts of the district with Wych being the Anglo-Saxon name for Droitwich Spa and the Avon being the main river that runs through the district. A shadow council was elected and met in Pershore for the first time in summer 1973, with Wychavon's first constitution being approved at The Raven Hotel in Droitwich Spa. On 31 March 1974, Wychavon's founding councillors and officers visited Pershore Abbey where they pledged themselves to service. At midnight on 1 April, 1974 Wychavon - both the council and the place - came into being.

Download the [pdf Wychavon 50 years of making a difference booklet \(5.36 MB\) \(opens in a new window\)](#) to learn more about our story.' This is I feel well worth a read. ‘