

District Councillor Report for Wythall East

Over the last year I have served as a member of the Licensing Committee and during the year I also substituted four times on the Planning Committee, having kept up to date with the latest planning training. Also I have sat on a Task Group looking into the safe use of social media for Councillors.

Licensing

I have been involved with the work of the Committee on updating Bromsgrove's policies for a Revised Street Trading Policy, a new Taxi Penalty Points Scheme and an update of the Wheelchair Accessible Taxi Vehicles policy.

Social Media Task Group

The Group's aim was to encourage the use of social media as a means of better communication, to provide help to users, to give guidance on acceptable use and to highlight common pitfalls. It covered several aspects such as the unwise mixing of council business with personal media accounts. Discouraging involvement in any organisation or pressure group which may seek to influence the Authority's policies, and the need to maintain confidentiality and to keep within data protection rules.

Local Ward Matters

Drawbridge Road – Despite my assistance with residents concern about an application to demolish one semi-detached dwelling in order to provide an access road off a busy narrow road close to a drawbridge, and to erect 7 new dwellings on a back-land site, the applicants have been successful on appeal after Bromsgrove Planning had turned the application down. I remain fearful of the likely highways problems along Drawbridge Road.

Houndsfield Lane (lower)

Ongoing problems had occupied much of my time at the land known as 'The Paddock' where there were regular reports of skips delivering building rubble and scrap metal, fires discharging thick black smoke and soot causing residents to stay indoors. Fortunately visits from Environmental Health Officers have resulted in much lessened activity of this sort over the last month or so.

Despite the surface improvements recently undertaken, severe flooding is still being experienced at Houndsfield Lane ford, caused by heavy rainfall / melting snow and ice during last wintertime. A number of vehicles had to be pulled out of the water after slipping on ice down the sloping road surface into the ford.

Several abandoned vehicles illegally parked down the lane have been removed by the District Council.

Tilehouse Lane – Following a number of resident requests Council has given permission for 2 new footpath lights to be provided in the very near future.

Bromsgrove had agreed with BT to remove the phone kiosk at the junction of Lea Green Lane / Station Road but the adjacent Select & Save store requested use of the kiosk. To date the kiosk remains unused.

Shakespeare Line Promotion Group

London Midland lost the franchise for the West Midlands lines which has been awarded to West Midlands Trains.

The Group are keen to support a future car park facility at Wythall Station being proposed within a Council Neighbourhood Plan application, to provide for the additional needs from any future house building from within the village and from neighbouring Solihull and Tidbury Green areas.

Cllr Les Turner