

WYCHAVON

News, stories and services for residents

Winter 2025

Welcome to

**Wychavon
Town**

**Leisure
centre update**

*Meet our
community
stars*

Christmas **collections**

▶▶ Turn to back page



www.wychavon.gov.uk

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Right Service, Right Time

Figuring out which council does what can feel a bit confusing sometimes. That's why we've launched Right Service, Right Time – a new campaign to help you get the support you need, when you need it.

We deliver a whole range of different services, from bin collections and deciding planning applications to tackling homelessness and voter registration. But some other essential services, such as fixing potholes, issuing blue badges, or managing libraries, are provided by our colleagues at Worcestershire County Council. And if you're admiring the Christmas lights or looking for an allotment, your local town or parish council is your first port of call.



We've created a simple downloadable cheat sheet to help you quickly work out who to contact for what. Think of it like a local services satnav – clear, quick, and designed to save you time.

You can download the cheat sheet from the [Contact Us page of our website](#). You can also look out for the campaign across social media, community spaces, and local publications.

Stay in the
know **with**



- ✓ Weekly planning lists
- ✓ Waste and recycling information
- ✓ Events and activity updates and much more

[Sign up to email alerts](#)



Let's make sure you get the *right* help,
from the *right* place, at the *right* time.



REORGANISATION PROPOSAL

SHAPE WORCESTERSHIRE:

*Reorganising **your councils** together*

A plan to create a new South Worcestershire Council, as one of two new councils to run services in Worcestershire in future, has been submitted to the Government.

Under government plans for Local Government Reorganisation, Wychavon, the five other district, borough, and city councils and Worcestershire County Council will be abolished. They will be replaced by either one single council for Worcestershire running all services, or two councils – one for North Worcestershire and one for South Worcestershire – with each council responsible for all services for its part of the county.

Creating two councils was unanimously backed by Wychavon councillors along with 57% of Wychavon residents who took part in the Shape Worcestershire public engagement this summer. Just 22% supported one council for all of Worcestershire. This was similar to the overall result from the engagement with 48% of all county residents, including Wychavon, backing the two new councils option and 29% choosing the single council option.

Bromsgrove District, Malvern Hills District, Redditch Borough and Worcester City Councils also backed the two-council option. All five councils have been working with consultants, partly funded by the Government, to develop a full proposal which was submitted to the Government before the 28 November 2025 deadline. The document includes a recommendation to create shared service arrangements to provide countywide services, like parts of adult social care, to avoid having to break them up.

Cllr Richard Morris, Leader of Wychavon, said:

“If we must have reorganisation, then the two-council option delivers on the very clear message given to us by the public – being local does matter and our residents want a council in future that continues to understand and meet their needs. Wychavon has always focused on that local delivery, and this must not be lost in any reorganisation.”

A separate proposal for one unitary council for Worcestershire has also been submitted to the Government by Worcestershire County Council and Wyre Forest District Council. The Government will now analyse both proposals and a formal consultation will be held early next year. A decision on the final option is expected to be made by summer 2026 with elections to the new ‘shadow council(s)’ taking place on 6 May 2027. The new council(s) will take on running services from 1 April 2028 with Wychavon ceasing to exist at that point.

SCAN ME

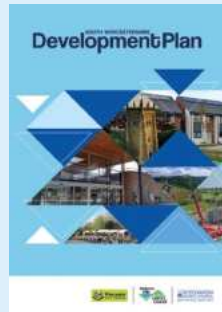


Visit the LGR page of our website to read the proposal.



Last chance

It's your chance to have a final say on the South Worcestershire Development Plan Review (SWDPR) before it is officially adopted.



The Plan was scrutinised by government-appointed inspectors during several hearings earlier this year to test if the document met legal requirements and national planning policy – known as being found sound.

Following the hearings, inspectors make a series of recommendations called main modifications, which are adjustments to the Plan to fix issues that would otherwise prevent it from meeting that test.

The exact recommendations were not available as we went to print, but they were expected to cover issues including land supply for housing, increased flexibility around affordable housing provision and the Green Belt.

Our planning team has drafted responses to the proposed main modifications which are set to go out for public consultation in January 2026.

The consultation will give residents and organisations the opportunity to highlight any new issues the changes raise or question the evidence for a proposed alteration. People can only comment on the modifications and not the whole Plan.

All comments will be sent to the inspectors who can either call a new hearing – if the consultation raises a significant new issue that needs investigation – or issue a final report. Once the final report is received Malvern Hills District, Worcester City and Wychavon District Councils can officially adopt the plan – strengthening planners' ability to resist housing development in inappropriate locations.

It is expected the Plan will go before the three councils next spring.

Get involved

[View the main modifications and take part in the consultation on the SWDPR website.](#)

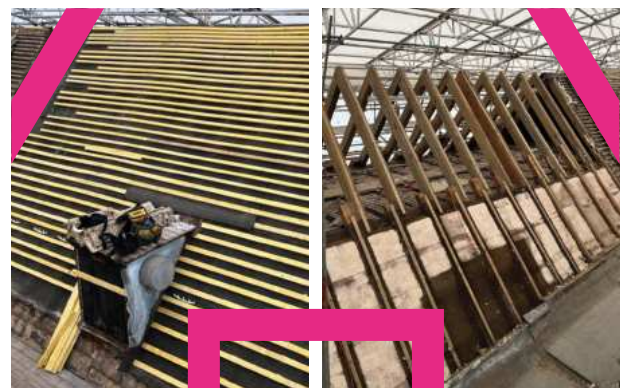
Restoration work



NatWest is carrying out an extensive programme of repairs to Evesham's iconic, Grade 1 listed Roundhouse. Work started in June to repair the timber frame, basement, and replace the pitched roof, amongst other things. The project is progressing well as the pictures below show.

The Evesham branch of NatWest will remain open until the restoration work is completed, expected to be in early 2026. A date will then be announced for the closure of the branch due to a drop in customer demand for face-to-face banking.

We have met with representatives from NatWest to discuss the future of the building. The bank is committed to transferring the property to a charity or community focused organisation that can look after it long-term. An announcement is expected early next year.





Upgrade *underway*

These pictures show how the multi-million pound transformation of Droitwich Spa Leisure Centre is taking shape.

Contractors started work at the end of July.

The £15 million upgrade will see the creation of a new learner pool, café and reception area. There will be three new treatment rooms, a full refurbishment of the swimming pool and gym changing rooms, retiling of the pool surrounds, upgrades to mechanical and electrical systems and repairs to the existing roof and guttering. Energy-efficiency measures, including heat pumps and solar panels, will be installed to cut the centre's carbon emissions and reduce gas and electricity costs.

Work on the revamp and extension to the centre is expected to be

completed in July next year. The centre will remain open during the work.

Additional car parking has already been created, with a second phase due to be completed by November 2026. When finished, there will be 292 car parking spaces and 24 spaces for bicycles. New energy-efficient lighting will also be installed on the sand-dressed all-weather pitch.

The project is being delivered by a team of leisure specialists, headed by Alliance Leisure and including Speller Metcalf Ltd, architect and design specialist, Watson Batty and award-winning pool and construction company, Buckingham Pools.

Plans for a new skatepark near the leisure centre are also being finalised. A contractor for the £300,000 scheme is expected to be appointed early next year, with work starting by May 2026. A pump track is also planned for the site, with work starting once the skate park is built.

The projects are part of our multi-million-pound investment in leisure, health and wellbeing in Droitwich Spa.

[Visit our Droitwich Leisure investments page for latest updates.](#)



Health corridor open

A new health corridor has been officially opened along the canal from Vines Park to Ladywood Lock in Droitwich Spa. The towpath has been completely rebuilt and finished with a natural limestone, new edging and new signage, along with wheelchair-accessible benches. It's turned a once uneven and muddy trail into a smooth, more accessible route to help connect people with nature to support mental wellbeing.

The project was a joint venture between us, Droitwich Spa Place Board and the Canal & River Trust.





Welcome to Wychavon Town

Naturally designed, perfectly placed

As part of our response to meeting housing demand, the South Worcestershire Development Plan Review (SWDPR) includes land for a new town around Worcestershire Parkway station.

We're delighted to share more details with you, as well as its new name – Wychavon Town.

Featuring 10,000 high-quality, energy-efficient homes, the town's design will be inspired by the area's historic landscape, with at least 40% covered by green space.

Neighbourhoods will be attractive, tree-lined, low-traffic places. Each will have a local centre to meet people's day-to-day needs, as well as provide easy access to the town centre, Worcestershire Parkway Railway Station and the M5.

The town centre will feature new shops, services, community buildings and healthcare facilities to create a place people can connect together.

And by calling it Wychavon Town we're officially putting Wychavon on the map for the first time!

We're working proactively with landowners and developers to make our ambitious vision for Wychavon Town a reality. Development will take place as part of the SWDPR with the first 5,000 homes built up to 2041, and the rest coming afterwards.





Here's a brief overview of what will be inside Wychavon Town:



10,000 low carbon **homes** Including affordable



Four parks and plenty of green spaces



Flexible **community space**



50 hectares of **employment land**



Solar farm



Primary schools in each neighbourhood



Two **secondary schools**



Sports hub and sports pitches



GP and healthcare centre

Infrastructure first

The success of Wychavon Town will rest on the ability to build the roads, schools, shops, community buildings and other infrastructure needed to support the residents who live there and limit the impact on existing communities. We're currently preparing an Infrastructure Planning Application to be submitted during summer next year. Once approved, it will allow us to seek the funding to get on and put the key infrastructure in first before major development starts.

Get involved

In early January, we will be holding a consultation on the Wychavon Town Supplementary Planning Document (SPD). This is special guidance developers must pay careful attention to when submitting planning applications for Wychavon Town. Our planners will assess applications against the SPD, and other policies, to ensure our vision for the place is being delivered.

Learn more on the Wychavon Town website and find out how you can take part in the consultation. You can also sign up to our e-newsletter on the site or check for announcements in the local media.





Thanking your *stars*

The first set of inspiring individuals have been recognised for their service as part of our Wychavon Community Stars scheme.



Since September, our Chairman Cllr Mark Goodge has handed out special Community Stars badges and certificates to 15 worthy residents and organisations. They're all people you nominated as being among those who go the extra mile to make a significant, lasting and positive difference to the people, place and environment of Wychavon.

Among them is Rous Lench resident Tina Whitfield, who founded the Marie Curie Evesham Fundraising Group five years ago. Tina had witnessed first-

hand the great work the Marie Curie charity does after they supported her sister, who died aged 44.

In that time the group, led by Tina, has raised more than £42,000 for the charity.

Her other volunteering activities include being a trustee of Rous Lench and Radford Community Garden and Allotments and a member of the local village hall committee.



John Cocker

Droitwich Spa's John Cocker was recognised for his hard work looking after Showell Pond over the last 25 years. He can regularly be found mowing the grass, collecting litter, clearing weeds, cutting down reeds and pruning shrubs and trees. He even recovered pebbles from the pond to create a beach area. His work is much appreciated by local residents who get to enjoy a beautiful and well-maintained green space.

Les Bailey

Les Bailey helped found the Friends of St Nicholas Church in Peopleton in 2009. Since then, he has helped raise almost £250,000 in donations and grants to help repair and upkeep the nearly 1,000-year-old church. The 88-year-old actively contributes to the village in many other ways including as a parish councillor, an organiser of the Peopleton Pony and Dog Spring Show and Autumn Show and trustee of Peopleton Village Recreation Trust to name just a few.



Pershore Wellbeing Hub

The volunteers of Pershore Wellbeing Hub were the first group to be awarded a Community Star for the charity's work listening, signposting and supporting residents with a range of issues. The 35 trained volunteers help people with anything from dealing with debt and accessing help from the local food bank, to where to find social groups and help filling in complex forms.

Community
Stars
2026

**Do you know a star in
your community?
Then nominate them now.**

[Find out how to nominate your Community Star.](#)



Ticket to Ride



We know getting around Wychavon can be tough, especially if you don't drive.

One of the promises in our We Are Wychavon Plan is to identify the need for community-led rural transport projects and use our Ticket to Ride transport Fund to support them.

Over the past 18 months, we've spoken to residents across rural Wychavon about how they travel to essential services and activities. What we discovered was eye-opening.

Many people simply don't know about the public and community transport options that already exist – even though there are more than you might think! That's why we've created a dedicated page on our website, making it easier to find the services available to help you get around.

Our research also revealed:

- ▶ Getting around is easy unless you don't have a car or can't drive
- ▶ Our ageing population means this will increasingly become an issue as more people are affected
- ▶ Even where public transport did exist, people still face barriers with simple things like just getting to a bus stop
- ▶ Those who don't drive, had limited mobility or another limiting health issue, had no car and young people relying on working parents for transport were most affected

The impact of not being able to get around easily can be significant. It not only affects your physical and mental health, it can also create a loss of independence, social isolation and act as a barrier to accessing services, employment and opportunities. That's why we're continuing to work with partners and communities to find ways to make it easier for you to get around.

Learn more

[Find out about community-led transport options already available in your area on our website.](#)

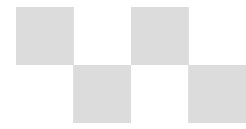


On demand bus

This summer, Worcestershire County Council launched Worcestershire on Demand, a flexible on-demand bus service across much of Wychavon. Unlike traditional buses, it has no fixed routes or timetables – simply book via the app and the bus adapts its journey to pick you up. Operating Monday to Saturday, 7am to 7pm, fares are £2.50 per trip (£1.25 for extra passengers), with concessions accepted and free travel for veterans. The Wychavon Zone covers Evesham, Pershore, Broadway and nearby villages, and has now been expanded to take in areas like Hartlebury, Ombersley and surrounding communities. You can travel anywhere within the zone, or to designated out of zone points of interest up to a maximum 'crow flies' distance of 15km.



For details or support downloading the app visit the WOD page on the [Worcestershire County Council website](#)



Police station plans

We're converting the former Pershore Police Station into modern, flexible office space with meetings rooms that could potentially be available for public hire.

The building, on the site of the Civic Centre, has been unused for about ten years and costs Council Taxpayers £27,000 a year to maintain. Attempts to let the building have failed as the layout of the property doesn't meet current business needs. The refurbishment will include decarbonisation measures. Money from the Government's Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme, the enhanced building capital project and UK Shared Prosperity Fund will pay for £555,000 of the total cost, with the rest coming from us.

Designs are being finalised. Work should be completed by spring/summer 2027.



Affordable housing boost

A landmark partnership to deliver new affordable homes has been given the green light.

Our planning committee has granted permission to build 23 new homes, including affordable housing, on land we own off Laurels Avenue in Offenham.

The project is a tie-up between us and Rooftop Housing to support the promise in our We Are Wychavon Plan to directly invest in housing to meet local need.

Six of the homes will be for social rent with another three offered as shared ownership properties. The rest will be for private rental. Homes will be a mix of one, two and three-bedroom properties as well as two bungalows.

Under the partnership, we are funding the development and worked with Rooftop on the

design and planning application process. Rooftop will project manage construction of the scheme while we will continue to own the site and will appoint the developer. Once completed, ownership of the affordable homes will be transferred to Rooftop via a section 106 agreement on a freehold basis. The homes for private rent will be leased to, and managed by Rooftop under a management fee arrangement, ensuring a return for the Council Taxpayer.

Zebra Architects has designed the development with a focus on high quality, energy-efficient homes inspired by the character of Offenham and the surrounding landscape. It is hoped construction will start by spring 2026.

Excavating a
bone comb.



Broadway's *past uncovered*

An archaeological dig in Broadway has continued to throw up fascinating insights into more than
8,000 years of human life.

We funded Worcestershire Archaeology to carry out the excavation on land we own at Milestone Ground, before it is sold for a mixed housing and sports development.

Excavation work took 14 months to complete as the site continued to yield its secrets from almost every era of human activity.



Impressed ware decorated using bird bone.



Polished stone axe.



Ceramic loomweights.

Amongst the intriguing artefacts unearthed are several beautiful pieces of Impressed ware pottery discovered in a series of Neolithic (4,000BCE – 2,300BCE) pits.

One standout piece, shown above, features decoration created with a small bird bone – a delicate detail that offers insight into ancient craftsmanship. The pits also yielded a broken polished stone axe, which must have taken hours to create. Such objects often appear to have been ceremonial or status symbols rather than functional.

Several Saxon buildings, including postholes defining three or four rectangular timber structures and four sunken-featured buildings (SFBs), were also identified. SFBs were typically small, simple structures with a distinctive sunken floor and a single large posthole at each end.

Other Saxon era finds include several loomweights – ceramic, doughnut shaped objects that were crucial in textile production. These loomweights suggest that the SFBs may have been textile workshops housing warp-weighted looms. This common type of loom consisted of two upright poles supporting a horizontal bar, with threads hanging down. The weights were tied at the bottom of the threads to keep them taut, allowing the maker to weave horizontal threads in and out of the vertical ones, creating cloth. These simple but effective looms were essential for daily life, and the presence of loomweights provides evidence of the area's role in textile production.

It is rare to find evidence of Saxon or Early Medieval era (from AD 410 the end of Roman Britain to 1066 the Norman Conquest) activity in Worcestershire, making the discoveries in Broadway significant.

A number of delicate bone combs have also been found, which required careful excavation to lift. This style of comb is believed to have been used for keeping hair neat and tidy as well as removing nits.

What happens next

All artefacts will be carefully cleaned, catalogued and analysed by specialists. Conservation work will also be undertaken where necessary to preserve fragile finds.

Pollen, seeds, charcoal and insects can provide clues about the ancient landscape and climate, so soil samples taken during excavation will be studied by environmental archaeologists. Meanwhile, a human bone specialist will help unlock further details about numerous burials from the site, which are predominately thought to be late Roman in date. Key samples for radiocarbon dating, including some of the human remains and prehistoric artefacts, will provide a better understanding of the timeline for activity at Milestone Ground.

Because of this detailed work, it is expected to take several years before the full results are available, but these discoveries promise to significantly deepen our understanding of Broadway's history and potentially the wider region.

Learn more

Visit Wychavon's YouTube Channel to watch our short video to find out more about the Milestone Ground finds and their significance or scan the QR code to go there right now.



Changing *Lives*



Our Social Mobility Grant Scheme is helping change the lives of children and families across Wychavon

The money supports schemes which contribute to closing the learning and achievement gap between some of our most disadvantaged children and young people and their peers.



Grants of between £250 and £1,500 are available to nurseries, pre-schools, children's centres, schools, voluntary and community sector organisations.



At Crophorne with Charlton CE First School (pictured above), we're funding draw, talk and sand play therapy sessions where children can explore their feelings through creative expression. This has had a positive impact on attendance and behaviour/self-regulation.

Wychbold First and Nursery School has used its grant, combined with Sports Premium funding, to sign up to the national OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) scheme. This reimagines how children play during the school day and is particularly for



those experiencing social, emotional or behavioural challenges. The first phase has involved changes to the playground including an activity wall for large-scale writing and creative expression, offering an alternative to traditional games like football and tag.

Internationally acclaimed performance storyteller Richard O'Neill MBE visited Pinvin Church of England Academy (bottom centre) to inspire pupils with his tale of self-belief and resilience. Funded by our grant, the event supported the school's commitment to promoting writing and reading. It also encouraged children to dream big, work hard and understand success is possible for everyone.

Droitwich Spa High School (main picture) used our grant to part fund the creation of a sensory garden as an extension to The Link – a nurturing space supporting young people to re-engage with learning. Pupils helped design the space which features swinging chairs, a water feature, and sensory herbs, offering a peaceful retreat from the busy school day.

The Social Mobility Grant Scheme is part of our We Are Wychavon plan promise to support our district's most disadvantaged young people.

[Visit our Social Mobility page to find out more.](#)

Projects we've supported include the after-school provision for children at Vale of Evesham School. The clubs, which run twice a week, provide opportunities for SEN children to participate in sports, music and sensory activities helping them to expand their confidence, motor-skills, socialisation and communication skills. A parents' survey revealed 100% felt the club positively impacted their child's behaviour and learning.

Rural support

We're investing another £245,000 into supporting businesses to grow and communities to thrive through our Wychavon Rural Fund.

Plenty of applications have been submitted in the first two rounds of bidding and we're busy assessing and finalising grant offers.

The fund was created from our share of the Government's UK Shared Prosperity Fund and Rural England Prosperity Fund.

Here are some of the ways we have already used the Wychavon Rural Fund to make a difference across the district.

Littleton FC, The Littletons

The club hit the target with a £9,350 grant to buy new signage, portable goalposts, portable lighting and a pitch line marker.

Chairman Mark Wilcox said:

"The grant has helped us become more self-sufficient with overall ground and facility improvements, providing a more professional match-day experience."



Aztec Adventure, Upton Warren

A grant of £11,250 has allowed this award-winning attraction to add three new Bahia sailing boats to its fleet.

The boats' versatility makes them ideal for both beginners and experienced sailors, offering a stable and accessible platform for learning and enjoyment.

Mark Spence, Director at Aztec Adventure, said:

"These were not just an upgrade, they represent our ongoing commitment to providing a safe, fun and top-tier outdoor experience for adventurers of all ages."

Redditch Canine Hydrotherapy, Astwood Bank (the part in Wychavon)

Injured or older dogs suffering from arthritis and joint conditions can now access specialist hydrotherapy services thanks to a £19,644 grant from the fund.

The money was used to part-fund the cost of the business' hydrotherapy pool and premises. The centre also offers confidence-building sessions for dogs of all breeds and ages, promoting physical and emotional wellbeing.

Find out more about the Wychavon Rural Fund.



WORCESTERSHIRE'S
VALE & SPA

EVENTS & SHOPPING THIS FESTIVE SEASON

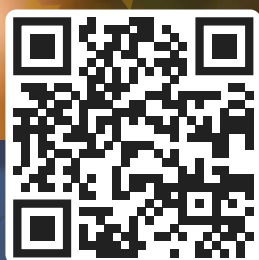
Broadway | Droitwich Spa | Evesham | Pershore

OUT
NOW!

The Christmas Events guide is now available, providing inspiration if you are looking for a magical grotto, seasonal arts and crafts, mystical Christmas adventures or festive concerts throughout the district. Pick up a copy at your local TIC, the Civic Centre, or download a copy online.

Take the opportunity to remind yourself of the wonderful businesses on your doorstep when searching for that perfect gift by viewing our shopping directory.

Scan the QR code below and consider supporting local businesses this festive season.



SHOPPING

Visit the Vale and Spa Christmas events page.

  @ValeandSpa

Grab a GRANT

If your home is feeling cold, then we've got funding that might help to warm things up.

The Warm Homes Local Grant is open for applications and it could mean a free energy efficiency upgrade for your home.

We've secured £1.38 million from the Government to help make at least 69 homes warmer, greener and more affordable to run.

That's an average of £20,000 per household.

Depending on your home's needs, you could receive help with the cost of:

- ▶ Insulation (loft, cavity wall, or room-in-roof)
- ▶ Energy-efficient doors and glazing
- ▶ Air source or hybrid heat pumps
- ▶ Smart heating controls
- ▶ Solar panels
- ▶ Ventilation improvements to reduce damp and mould

Act on Energy and Worcestershire County Council are delivering the scheme on our behalf.

Grants are available to those who own or privately rent, with an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rating of D to G. You'll also need to have an annual household income under £36,000 or live in an eligible postcode.

Whether you heat your home with gas, electricity, oil, or LPG, this scheme is designed to help. And if you don't have an EPC yet, don't worry – an assessment can be arranged if you meet the other criteria.

Check your home's eligibility for a Warm Homes Local Grant by following the link on our web page.



Help with your energy bills

If you need help paying your energy bills then you can:

- ✓ **Talk to your energy supplier** as you may be able to access their own assistance fund.
- ✓ **Call Act on Energy** who can offer advice on dealing with energy bill debt as well as advice on accessing grants and support for energy efficiency schemes. Call the free advice line on 0800 988 2881 or visit www.actonenergy.org.uk
- ✓ **Visit www.charisgrants.com** to see if they partner with your energy provider to offer support to households struggling with their energy bills.

For more help and advice on the cost of living support

Ted says...
**Please don't put any
nappies in your recycling.**



Ted says...

We're urging you to keep disposable nappies out of your green recycling bins.

Analysis shows used nappies are often found among the contents of residents' green bins, even though they are not recyclable. This costs thousands of pounds to deal with and risks contaminating other recyclables, so they are rejected instead of being turned into new products.

In response, we launched our Ted Says campaign featuring a loveable bear called Ted, delivering a simple message to make sure you put disposable nappies in the black bin.

Ted was featured on posters at railway stations, supermarkets and other places across the district during the summer as well as on social media. You will see Ted and his simple message on our bin lorries over the next year and we're also working with local groups to promote reusable nappies as a more sustainable alternative to disposables.

Keep Britain Tidy created Ted Says following research into why people felt it was acceptable to dump disposable nappies in their recycling.

The findings revealed packaging information was causing genuine confusion about whether disposable nappies were recyclable. Some people also mistakenly believe they can be recycled because they are made from paper and plastic.



So, don't be confused. Just do as Ted says and make sure you put disposable nappies in your black, general waste bin.

Find out more about waste and recycling on our website.

Bin updates

We've launched our new Wychavon Bin Hub service so you can now find all your waste and recycling needs in one place.

You can check your collection day, get email reminders about collections and download and print your bin calendar. You can also use our Waste Wizard which you can search for information on how to properly dispose of thousands of items. And while you're there, test your skills with our fun, recycling sorting game.

The Wychavon Bin Hub is available through our website or download the app from Google Play or the Apple app store.



Duck food



Have you tried out the new duck feed vending machine in Vines Park in Droitwich Spa yet? It was installed during the summer as part of a link-up between us and The Feed the Ducks Initiative.

The dispenser was provided and fitted at no cost to us. It is made from 20,000 recycled plastic bottles and is powered by solar energy. For just £1, it allows visitors to carry on feeding ducks and wild birds in the park, while knowing they are using a healthy source of food. This is better than bread which has no nutritional value, can fill up ducks preventing them foraging for their natural diet leading to malnutrition, and can cause water pollution if left uneaten.

Give it a try when you next visit. If successful, we will look to install the dispensers in some of our other parks.

Covered celebrations



We've got events in Pershore covered after funding, in partnership with Pershore Place Board, new gazebos to support the town's social calendar.

The marquees, gifted to the Pershore Events and Festivals Association (PEFA), were on show this summer at the ever-popular Plum Festival. They are part of the infrastructure supporting the regular Broad Street markets. Their next outing will be at the Pershore Georgian Christmas Fayre on Friday and Saturday 28 and 29 November.

PEFA is a Place Board scheme supported by us and Pershore Town Council. It's made up of volunteers who work together to run high quality, professional events, to encourage visitors to the town.

Wellbeing

in **WYCHAVON**

Championing mental health

If you noticed a friend or neighbour limping, you'd ask how they were, right? You might even share some advice or support. So why do we hesitate to do the same when we think someone is struggling with their mental health?

We want to change that with our Wellbeing in Wychavon scheme. Our aim is to give more people the confidence and skills to have important conversations about mental health, so no one feels alone.

The scheme finds people who naturally chat as part of daily life – whether through their jobs or in the community – and supports them to become champions of good mental health where they live. We provide training on spotting the signs of poor mental health, starting positive conversations, active listening, and knowing where to direct people for support.

That's it. There's no extra work involved. Just carry on having conversations. But if you notice someone who might need support, you'll now have the tools to offer help that could be life changing.

We're focusing especially on groups more at risk of poor mental health because of loneliness or isolation. This includes men in lone-working rural roles, pregnant women and new mums, informal carers, and people living with long-term conditions.

Trials in the south of the district have already been a success. We now have pub landlords, mobile hairdressers, baby and toddler

group leaders, school staff, parish councillors, full-time mums and a car industry worker to champion mental wellbeing.

One of them is Sue Henson, landlady of the Gate Inn in Honeybourne. Sue has completed the Wellbeing in Wychavon scheme, which included Orange Button suicide prevention training. Sue and husband Matt helped us to keep community at the centre of the scheme, by hosting the part of the training which focused on men in farming and rural industries, at their pub.



"As a community we support one another," Sue says.

"It's no different when it comes to helping someone with their mental health. That's especially important in a rural area."



BEwell | **THINK**well | **HEAR**well | **SEE**well | **CONNECT**well

If you'd like to get involved or find out more, email Hayley Corbett, Health and Wellbeing Officer, at hayley.corbett@wychavon.gov.uk, or contact our communities team at Communities@wychavon.gov.uk



Food waste *delay*

The introduction of food waste collections for households across Wychavon will be delayed for two years to allow for a smoother and more cost-effective rollout of the service.

All councils in England should offer a separate weekly food waste collection from 1 April 2026, as part of national efforts to drive up recycling rates.

But we have informed the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) we will not meet the deadline due to a combination of existing contractual constraints, uncertainty over government funding to run the service and Local Government Reorganisation (LGR). Food waste collections will now start for Wychavon residents from April 2028, under new arrangements. Defra has not objected to the delay.

With a customer satisfaction score of 91%, our highly regarded waste collection contract with FCC Environment ends on 31 March 2028. The option to add in a separate food waste collection from 1 April 2026 was explored but would not have represented good value for money for the taxpayer and could also potentially have breached contract procurement rules.

Bringing in a separate contractor to provide food waste collections for two years was also considered but would be unlikely to result in a good financial deal for residents.

We are currently looking at options for delivering the waste collection service beyond April 2028. The situation is complicated by the Government's plans to abolish Wychavon District Council on 1 April 2028 as part of LGR.

Find tips and support to cut your food waste on our website.



You can also take part in food waste reduction activities on our WychRewards platform, where you earn points and the chance to win prizes.

Sign up and find out more about WYCHRewards.

Free cycle parking

Organisations across the district can apply for free cycle parking and secure storage.

Funding for a range of bike racks and lockable, weatherproof cycle storage is on offer. Any organisation – from businesses and schools to churches and community groups – that welcomes staff, visitors or customers who arrive by bike is encouraged to apply.

We're working with social enterprise ParkThatBike to deliver the scheme. It is part of our commitment to support people to be more active and to reduce their carbon emissions.

Find out more on the [ParkThatBike website](#) to find out more or call 07872 579 549 to request an application form.



Change = WYCH Rewards



Small actions can make a big difference as our WYCHRewards members are proving.

Since its launch this year, more than 400 people have signed up to the scheme which rewards people for carrying out simple, sustainable actions to support our environment.

As of June our WYCHRewards community had, amongst other things:

- ▶ **Saved 26,000 kWh of energy**
- ▶ **Saved 56,000 baths of water**
- ▶ **Avoided 23,000 kg of carbon emissions**
- ▶ **Taken 10,538 actions**

The amount of carbon emissions our WYCHReward users have saved is the same as driving an average petrol car almost three times around the world, powering three UK homes for a full year, taking 35 one-way flights from London to New York or planting 1,100 trees and letting them grow for ten years. And all for just doing simple every day things!

How does WYCHRewards work?

After registering, you can log any number of actions including completing a quiz, submitting a photo or pledging to do a regular action such as taking shorter showers or recycling correctly.

Green Points are awarded each time an action is completed and logged. Those points make prizes with the top six points earners each month receiving a £50 voucher. You can choose from a National Garden Gift Voucher, Aldi, Waitrose, Morrisons, Argos and Ecoswap. The winners are based on points earned that month, so you'll have a chance to win no matter when you join.

There's also a fun team competition whereby the ward with the highest average points per person can vote for their favourite local charity to receive a donation.

Our first round saw Drakes Broughton and Norton and Whittington Wards come out on top earning £300 for St Richard's Hospice, £200 for Vale Wildlife Hospital and Rehabilitation Centre and £100 for Droitwich Lifesaving Club.

Sign up now!

If you want to make a difference with just a few simple everyday actions then **join our growing WychRewards community.**



Free period *products*

Free period products are available in all of our female toilets across the district as part of efforts to tackle period poverty.

We've partnered with social enterprise company Hey Girls to trial the scheme, as part of our We Are Wychavon Plan commitment to improving health and wellbeing.

The trial was launched in July and is being funded using money from our share of the Government's Household Support Fund. If it is successful, then free sanitary products will become a permanent feature.

Our aim is to challenge the stigma around menstruation and highlight that access to sanitary products is a fundamental necessity.

Research by Action Aid estimates more than one in five women and people who menstruate, about 2.8 million people, struggle to afford period products. This results in people wearing their products for longer and re-using disposable pads, which can be hazardous to health. Use of unsuitable alternatives is also common including using cotton wool, socks, clothing and even paper or newspaper.

The products are made from sustainably sourced bamboo and 100% certified organic cotton, reducing their impact on the environment.

Cllr Beverley Hardman, Executive Board Member for Environment, said:

"While Wychavon is generally considered an affluent area, it does have pockets of deprivation, and we know the demand for period products is there.

"But this isn't just about access. This is about promoting a positive message, promoting a supportive environment, and empowering women while tackling the stigma associated with periods."



Dementia **friendly loos**

Way Out →

We've installed new signs in our public toilets in Droitwich Spa to support the town's efforts to become dementia friendly.

The simple signs clearly mark where the exit to the toilet block is which can help people living with dementia avoid confusion, anxiety and help them remain independent. If the signs are successful we will roll them out to all our toilets across the district.

Other ways we are supporting Droitwich Spa's dementia friendly bid is by promoting the Herbert Protocol – a life-saving scheme that helps police quickly find missing people with dementia by using key information shared in advance – and extending our Defy Dementia campaign to the town.

[Find out more on our website about our dementia friendly work.](#)

Christmas

collection dates 2025/26

Revised collection dates for:

- 🎄 Household waste
- 🎄 Recycling
- 🎄 Garden waste

The following changes will be made to bin collections over the Christmas and New Year period:



<i>Usual</i> collection day	<i>Festive</i> collection day
Monday 22 December	Saturday 20 December
Tuesday 23 December	Monday 22 December
Wednesday 24 December	Tuesday 23 December
Thursday 25 December	Wednesday 24 December
Friday 26 December	Monday 29 December
Monday 29 December	Tuesday 30 December
Tuesday 30 December	Wednesday 31 December
Wednesday 31 December	Friday 2 January
Thursday 1 January	Saturday 3 January
Friday 2 January	Monday 5 January
Monday 5 January	Tuesday 6 January
Tuesday 6 January	Wednesday 7 January
Wednesday 7 January	Thursday 8 January
Thursday 8 January	Friday 9 January
Friday 9 January	Saturday 10 January

Extra waste and recycling

From **Saturday 20 December 2025 to Monday 12 January 2026 only**, you can put out up to two extra sacks of general waste next to your black bin. Extra recycling can be put out next to your green bin in clear sacks. You can get these from libraries in Broadway, Droitwich Spa, Evesham and from the Civic Centre in Pershore.

Please make sure bins are out by 7am as collection times may be different to normal.



Garden waste

If you have a real Christmas tree, you can put it in your garden waste bin. You can also cut it into manageable sections, no more than 4 ft in height, and leave it beside your garden waste bin.



Sign up for a garden waste bin for £54 a year (when paying by Direct Debit) on our website.

Collections as normal from **Monday 12 January 2026**