

# Wyredin Extra

> Important Council Tax information

> How to pay

> Regeneration in Wyre Forest



**Wyre Forest**  
District Council

*Creating a safe, vibrant and clean  
place to live, work and visit*

# Welcome

**Welcome to Wyredin extra** – our cover picture is the recently completed transformation of the former magistrates' court. Now called The Old Court, you can read more about it on page 5, along with progress on our other regeneration projects. The focus of this edition is to highlight Council Tax. It includes what we receive and how it is spent delivering services.

Wyredin is our monthly email newsletter for residents. Sign up to get our latest news direct to your inbox on the first Monday of the month. It is easy to sign up, just visit **[www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk/subscribe](http://www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk/subscribe)**. There are lots of other topics you can subscribe to, including our jobs and planning news bulletins.

## Elections, devolution and reorganisation

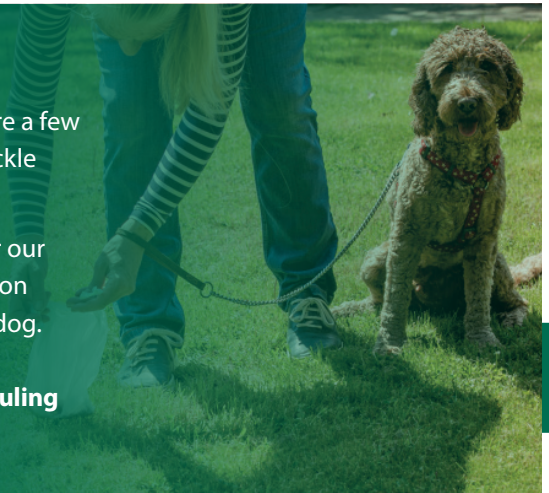
Worcestershire County Council elections on Thursday 1 May will go ahead as planned. If you are not registered to vote and would like to have your say, please register by midnight on Friday 11 April. Visit **[www.gov.uk/register-to-vote](http://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote)**. We will also be holding local advisory polls in some areas to find out views on potential changes to parish boundaries.

The Government has asked Worcestershire councils to submit an interim plan for a new unitary authority or authorities by 21 March 2025, with full proposals by 28 November 2025. Reorganisation is expected in April 2028, with elections in May 2027. Worcestershire councils are working with other areas on the footprint and timetable for a mayoral combined authority.

## Doggy business

Most dog owners are responsible but there are a few who don't clear up after their dog. Help us tackle dog fouling by letting us know who it is.

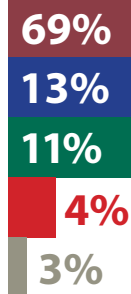
You can report it using My Wyre Forest app or our My Wyre Forest webpage. We need information such as date, location and description of the dog. All the details of how you can help are on our website at **[www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk/dogfouling](http://www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk/dogfouling)**



# Your services and Council Tax

Wyre Forest District Council is responsible for collecting your Council Tax but it only keeps **11p in every pound you pay**. The rest goes to Worcestershire County Council, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for West Mercia, Hereford and Worcester Fire Authority and, depending on where you live, your local parish or town council.

**Worcestershire  
County Council**  
**The Police and Crime  
Commissioner for West Mercia**  
**Wyre Forest  
District Council**  
**Hereford and Worcester  
Fire Authority**  
**Town and Parish  
Councils**



This year the district's part of the bill is increasing by just under 3%. This means a Band D property will pay **£250.58 a year or less than £5 a week** for the district council's services. Most homes in the district are Band A-C so will pay less than this. For 2025-26 our net budget requirement is £15.6 million. Income from Council Tax makes up around 57% of this. The rest comes from business rates (32%) and grants (11%). We use it to deliver services including:

-  cleaning streets
-  collecting your rubbish and recycling
-  providing benefits and housing advice
-  supporting economic development and regeneration
-  supporting businesses
-  maintaining car parks
-  managing parks and nature reserves
-  combatting environmental crime such as fly tipping, litter and dog fouling
-  supporting communities to develop
-  running elections
-  offering energy efficiency advice and grants
-  managing Bewdley Museum

For more information about how your money is spent visit  
[www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk/counciltaxinformation](http://www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk/counciltaxinformation)





# What we're focussing on



*We're working to make Wyre Forest, 'a safe, vibrant and clean place to live, work and visit.'*



We are prioritising economic growth and regeneration, securing financial sustainability for services our local communities value and making the district a clean, safe and green place to live, work and visit.

## Here are a few of things we are doing...

We have opened **Millpond house in Kidderminster**, providing **short-term temporary accommodation** in the district. We will be helping the people there to secure longer term housing.



We are investing more than **£50,000 extra** on tackling environment crimes like **fly tipping and dog fouling and illegal parking** in 2025-2026.



We have **installed inclusive play equipment** in Stourport and Bewdley and we are spending another £50,000 introducing more to play areas across the district.

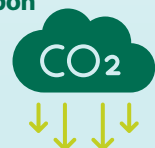


We are helping to **provide more cultural events**. We brought music back to our parks with a series of outdoor summer concerts in Brinton Park and Stourport Riverside.



We have awarded the contract to start work on the **redevelopment of Brinton Park** funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund and the Council's own budget.

We have produced a **carbon reduction plan** for the district and the council and we are working on installing **electric charging points in car parks in all three towns**.



# Regenerating the district

**The Old Court – a new home for creative and digital industries – has opened in the centre of Kidderminster. We have transformed the former magistrates' court, retained the heritage features and created high-quality office and event space to rent.**

Funding was from Future High Streets Fund (FHSF) – the previous government's funding initiative to transform struggling high streets – and the Council's own budget. Read more about the project at [www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk/edr](http://www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk/edr)



**In Stourport we have been working with the Town Council to help develop a vision for the future of the town.**

A survey was carried out to gather the views of locals and visitors to help shape the Stourport Future Vision document. Once this is published it will help enable the councils to submit applications for grant funding.

**We are also working to remodel the Piano Building in Kidderminster town centre.**

The former higher education academy is being made into food, drinks and entertainment spaces on the ground floor and mixed-use offices above. The outside space is also being updated to provide a performance space. This part of the project is due to be completed in the summer.



**Also due for completion in late summer 2025 is the urban park at the top end of Worcester Street.**

The project to improve connectivity in the town is funded by Future High Streets Fund, Brownfield Land Release, UKSPF, LEP and the Council's own budget.



# Worcestershire County Council Budget 2025/26



## 2025/26 expenditure

- Adult Social Care, Public Health and Communities (**£183m**)
- Children's Services (**£107m**)
- Economy, Infrastructure and Environment (**£89m**)
- Home to School Transport (**£44m**)
- Support Services including Finance, Legal and loan repayments (**£73m**)

Total net budget: **£496m**

We also have a capital programme of £370m over the next three years, in addition to the investment of £120m in 2024/25. Through this programme, we will continue to invest in what you have said is important which includes:

**£64m** on highways to improve our roads and pavements including flood alleviation.



**£173m** on schools and school places, including **£30.1m** additional funding for special education needs.



An additional **£71m** on transport and connectivity.



**£3.6m** on broadband and digital connectivity to support residents and businesses.



The last year has been an exceptionally challenging year for the council. We, along with most other county councils, are facing the pressure of more people needing the essential services we have to provide and the cost of those services are rising significantly.

The key areas which this affects are adult and children's social care, home to school travel and Special Education Needs and Disability (SEND) provision which collectively account for over 70 per cent of our spend.

These pressures are made even worse by the rise in national insurance contributions which are being faced by all suppliers and charities we work with coupled with a low level of increase in Government grants.

We have made, and continue to make, significant savings where we are able to do so. We will also continue to lobby Government for additional support for the services we have to provide as I don't believe that you, our residents, should be asked to cover these costs through local council tax.

Whilst we are having to increase council tax this year to pay for these vital services, our rates remain one of the lowest of all comparable county councils in the country.

Kind regards,

**Councillor Simon Geraghty, Leader of Worcestershire County Council**

**With a gross budget from Council Tax, Government Grants and other income we will be spending a record amount to help protect the most vulnerable people in our communities:**






**£321m** for those who need Adult Social Care.



**£199m** to improve the lives of children and young people including Home to School Transport.



**£98m** to support people to live independently for longer through Public Health and Communities.

-  [www.worcestershire.gov.uk](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk)
-  [/YourWorcestershire](https://www.facebook.com/YourWorcestershire)
-  [@worcsccl](https://twitter.com/worcsccl) and [@worcstravel](https://twitter.com/worcstravel)
-  [@YourWorcestershire](https://www.instagram.com/YourWorcestershire)
-  Search Worcestershire County Council



**worcestershire**  
county council

● GET ACTIVE ● QUIT SMOKING ● MEET PEOPLE ● STAY SAFE ONLINE ●



FREE WEEKLY SESSIONS

GET ACTIVE

BE HEALTHY

HAVE FUN



### WYRE FOREST VENUES:

- St Peter's Church, Meredith Green
- The Walshes Community Centre
- Wolverley Memorial Hall
- Wribbenhall Parish Rooms

Scan here!



More venues coming soon:

[worcestershire.gov.uk/HealthyWorcestershire](http://worcestershire.gov.uk/HealthyWorcestershire)



John Campion  
Police and Crime Commissioner  
West Mercia



worcestershire  
county council

● QUIT SMOKING ● LOOK AFTER YOUR MENTAL HEALTH ● HAVE FUN ● MANAGE YOUR WEIGHT ● GET ACTIVE ● EAT AND DRINK WELL ●

● LOOK AFTER YOUR MENTAL HEALTH ● HAVE FUN ● MANAGE YOUR WEIGHT ● GET ACTIVE ● QUIT SMOKING ● MEET PEOPLE ●

● MANAGE YOUR WEIGHT ● GET ACTIVE ● HAVE FUN ● QUIT SMOKING ●



# READY TO QUIT SMOKING?

## WE'RE HERE TO HELP



**WITH THE RIGHT SUPPORT, QUITTING CAN  
BE EASIER THAN YOU THINK.**

Get free support from Worcestershire's stop smoking service.



**CALL 0800 772 0307  
or 01905 928185**

Need help signing up?  
Any Worcestershire library can help.



**SCAN HERE**

**WORCESTERSHIRE.GOV.UK/STOPSMOKING**



**worcestershire  
county council**



Worcestershire  
**FOSTERING**

## LOCAL CHILDREN URGENTLY IN NEED OF LOVING FOSTER FAMILIES

The shortage of fostering families is a national crisis, and we are seeing more and more children coming in to care who need a stable and loving home.

There are lots of different types of foster care that you can do: long term, short term, buddy and specialist. Not all are full time, our buddy scheme asks that you care for a child one weekend a month and one week in the summer holidays. You can still work alongside caring for a child too.

“

We couldn't have birth children, but we knew we wanted to give love and stability to less fortunate children.

We had a lot of love to give and no one to give it to. We adopted the baby we initially fostered and continue to foster more children.

”

“

I know it sounds really cheesy, but it was to make a difference. I have two birth children and fostering allows me to be available for all the children in my family. I'm here when he comes home from school. It's my life.

”

What you do with your life could forever change someone else's.

**Find out more about fostering on our website:**

**[worcestershire.gov.uk/fostering](http://worcestershire.gov.uk/fostering)  
or give us a call: 0800 028 2158**



Scan here for  
more information  
about fostering



**Herefordshire  
and Worcestershire**  
Integrated Care System



**Herefordshire and  
Worcestershire**

# Use the right service



## **NHS App**

Repeat prescriptions.  
GP test results. View  
health records. Find  
information & advice.



## **GP advice**

Persistent symptoms.  
Chronic pain. Long-  
term conditions.



## **NHS 111**

Feeling unwell?  
Need medical advice?  
No GP to call?



## **Minor Injuries**

Breaks and sprains.  
Minor burns and  
wound infections.  
Cuts and grazes.



## **Pharmacy**

Minor ailments.  
Bites and stings.  
Upset stomach.  
Medication advice.



## **A&E or 999**

Choking. Severe  
chest pain. Breathing  
difficulties. Blood  
loss. Stroke. Sepsis.

Want to learn more about services in your area?  
Visit [www.hwics.org.uk/our-services](http://www.hwics.org.uk/our-services)



# How to pay your Council Tax bill



The simplest and most convenient way to pay is by monthly direct debit. To set up a direct debit go to [www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk/directdebit](http://www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk/directdebit)



[www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk/pay](http://www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk/pay)



03301 798 198

For enquiries call the hub **01562 732928** (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 9am-5pm, Wednesday 10am – 5pm).

## Cost of living support

Are you concerned about the rise in the cost of living? Find help available in the Wyre Forest by visiting [www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk/costofliving](http://www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk/costofliving). There are details of our Council Tax Reduction Scheme, help with energy costs, how to contact our financial inclusion team and more.



## What's on

Looking for things to do in the district? Our what's on page features events in our parks and open spaces as well as supporting local partners and community groups.

[www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk/whatson](http://www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk/whatson)

