Birlingham Parish Council

Minutes of meeting held on Wednesday 17 January 2024

In Birlingham Village Hall

Councillors:

Councillors Paula Aston, David Glover, Katie Parsons and Ian Yates.

In attendance:

County Councillor Adrian Hardman, District Councillor Paul Middlebrough and Clerk June Hiden

Welcome – The Chairman thanked everyone for attending.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were tendered by Councillor Steven Byrne, on Jury service and Councillor Michael Porter away on business. The apologies were accepted. Apologies given by Footpath Warden Bruce Hayward; abroad, Lengthsman Carl Brassington; prior engagement and Tree Warden Rupert Day away with work.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting

The Minutes of the meeting held on 15 November 2023, a copy of which has been circulated to all Councillors, was agreed as a true record and duly signed by the Chairman.

3. Declaration of Interest

a) Register of Interests: Councillors are reminded of the need to update their register of interests.
b) To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests in items on the agenda and their nature.
c) To declare any Other Disclosable Interests in items on the agenda and their nature.
d) Written requests for the Council to grant a dispensation (S33 of the Localism Act 2011) are to be with the Clerk at least four clear days prior to a meeting.

Councillors who have declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest, or Other Disclosable Interest which falls within the terms of paragraph 12(4) of the Code of Conduct, must leave the room for the relevant items. Failure to register or declare a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest may be a criminal offence.

Interests were declared by Councillor Parsons in relation to Planning.

Democratic Opening

The meeting was adjourned for public question time. It was noted that the roundels near the Court House appeared remarked.

4. Progress Reports

a) Footpath Warden: none

b) Tree Warden:

The lime tree at the corner of Upper End on the inside of the bend (near the entrance where Upper End turns right/downhill towards the church). Rupert Day has contacted the owner of Brockham and shown photographs past and present with the comparison and extent of the ivy/mistletoe. There is a chance that parts of the tree will come down given its condition and the prevalence of the south westerlies.

The owner has responded saying "*I had a walk around with a tree surgeon shortly after we moved in, precisely to ensure that none of the trees presented an imminent risk either to the public on the highway or to us within the grounds. In fairness, that was almost 2-and-a-half years ago, so we're probably due another review. We are around next weekend*."

c) Lengthsman – see *Appendix 1*

d) District Councillor. The following report has been received:-

"Key issues from Wychavon

Council Tax Base
This is the amounts that are calculated for each area that are used to calculate the yield from council tax proposals.

For 2024/25 officers are recommending a tax base of 52,914.22. This is an increase of 478.7 (0.91%) on the 2023/24 position. Now that detailed work has been carried out on the tax base it has become clear that while there has been growth in the taxbase, there has been a disproportionate rise in the cost of Local Council Tax Support (LCTS), presumably as a result of the cost of living crisis (the effect of LCTS is that it reduces the council tax base and consequently the taxable capacity of the district).

Number of properties in each band Eckington Ward 2024/2025

Band	Disabled band A	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	Total
Council Tax bands in England (based on 1 April 1991 values)	up to £40,000		£40,001 to £52,000	£52,001 to £68,000	£68,001 to £88,000	£88,001 to £120,000	£120,001 to £160,000	£160,001 to £320,000	more than £320,000	
Birlingham	0	5	4	24	13	21	61	31	10	169
Deford & Besford	0	17	8	59	24	90	120	148	2	468
Eckington	0	21	17	79	130	165	114	91	2	619
Strensham	0	5	4	9	32	27	44	25	2	148
Total	0	48	33	171	199	303	339	295	16	1404

Corporation Meadow, Evesham
Approval has been given for an allocation of £40,000 against works required to a small woodland and fencing at Corporation Meadow, Evesham.

Pershore Station Footbridge
The Executive Board has approved up to £500,000 towards the development and installation of the footbridge at Pershore station.

Planning Matters

The draft Wychavon Design Code Supplementary Planning Documents *are to go out for public consultation from 8 January 2024 to 5 February 2024.*
Details of issues relating to the Pershore Area can be found at https://mgov.wychavon.gov.uk/modern.gov/documents/s63676/The%20Draft%20Wychavon%20Design%20Code%20SPD%20for%20the%20Pershore%20and%20Surrounding%20Region.pdf

A new head of planning *has been appointed and will be taking up his position shortly*."

The Councillor said that the new Head of Planning was from Eckington.

An explanation was given regarding the Wychavon Design Code draft consultation and it was suggested that Birlingham may wish to comment and perhaps look at the combination with the Pershore area in relation to new buildings in Wychavon.
Councillor Yates commented regarding the Village Design Statement. Members said it would be an idea to put information in the Birlingham News as the consultation is open for comments from residents.

Birmingham Anglers were asking for the test for water quality. The members didn't feel this was appropriate for the Parish Council to get involved as water testing was carried out by the relevant authorities anyway.

The District Councillor can be contacted on paul.middlebrough@wychavon.net

The Chairman thanked the Councillor for his time.

e) County Councillor: –

Worcestershire County Council are currently consulting on their proposed Budget with a 4.49% increase. The Draft Budget has been published which shows a deficit of £20million. This is unusual for the Council but there aren't many options with the biggest number of children presently in care (currently 11,000) and adult social care with a £3-4million overspend. There is an issue with special educational needs, specifically knowing which school to go to and transport not included.

There will be staff redundancies. This will mean frontline services being withdrawn. One of these could be losing fire engines as part of the new plans, although leaving the retained ones. The training regime for fire fighters is onerous. The consultation ends in June.

Flooding was discussed. There may be investment to raise the road or a new bridge at Eckington but this is very much in the future.

Councillor Hardman will raise the issue with Barry Barnes regarding the flooding at Lower End but said that the current manpower is being used on gritting.

Councillor Hardman was thanked for his contribution to the I.W. group.

Councillor Hardman advised that with the ongoing installation of fibre throughout the county, Worcestershire will start removing the old copper telephone infrastructure from end of 2024.

A further discussion took place regarding Airband installation and the wayleave being refused at Upper End. Councillor Porter had met with the company regarding an alternative solution and having a trench for the cable. Councillor Hardman pledged £750 of his Divisional Fund towards the cost of fibre ducting works in the Upper End.

f) Clerk - See ***Appendix 2***
Councillors noted that the reply from Worcestershire County Council regarding the flooding at Lower End was not good enough. Clerk to escalate again because of the condition of the road.

5. Planning

a) Planning Lead

Councillor Steven Byrne is standing down as Planning Lead and was thanked for his assistance. Councillor Katie Parsons with take over this role and if she has declarations of interest on any items it will fall to Councillor Ian Yates or Councillor Paula Aston for continuity. The Members thanked Councillor Byrne for all his help and advice on the many applications that the Parish Council has been required to comment on.

Councillor Parsons will draft a policy regarding conflicts of interest. This needs to recognise that the Parish Council has a duty to comment on applications and to draw up some simple guidelines. For example:

- Pecuniary interest whether direct or indirect (for example a relative) must be declared immediately and the person should withdraw from a meeting and/or be taken off distribution of emails.
- Councillors who are neighbours of an applicant have an opportunity to make a submission to Wychavon directly if they wish as an alternative to contributing to the Parish Council's opinion.
- Personal friendships - an interest should be declared at the moment an issue or application comes to light.
- If Members are asked by a resident for planning advice it should be declined as it may create a conflict when the Parish Council has to comment on it later.

The draft will be presented at the next meeting and must be agreed by all members.

b) Planning applications pending: -

i. W/23/02032/CLE - **Rose Cottage**, Church Street, WR10 3AQ

(1 January 2024)

Certificate of Lawfulness to demonstrate that an existing extension to caravan complies with definition of a mobile home under the Caravans Act 1968

Applicant - Mrs Jennifer Stanton & Mr Anthony Hawgood

Parish Council comments, from the members who did not recuse themselves, took the unanimous view:

"*Birlingham Parish Council unanimously share grave concerns about firstly the log cabin itself, and its legal right to be there, and secondly the proposed extension to it. More specifically, in a fairly comprehensive note, which we appreciated, the planning officer, John Carlon, mentioned that a site visit was made by enforcement. However, we understand that the enforcement officer visited the wrong address and went to Damson Cottage by mistake. Can John Carlon, confirm from the case notes that an enforcement officer did actually carry out a further visit, and visit Rose Cottage? If not, as the Parish Council, we request that a visit to Rose Cottage is undertaken prior to any decisions being made. As part of that visit, we feel the following needs to be checked and then considered in the decision-making process of whether the log cabin meets the tests for permitted development, and as part of this, its full compliance with the Caravan Act 1960:*

View the facilities inside the log cabin. We understand from neighbours that it is self-contained and includes both a kitchen and bathroom fully plumbed into the mains. If accurate, this we feel calls into question whether the log cabin is dependent of the main house, or whether it is in fact an independent dwelling.

Consider and measure the other structures in the curtilage of the cottage, in order to check compliance with the 50% rule and also to check if it meets the minimum distance required from the boundary for compliance with the Caravan Act i.e. 3 metres rule.

We trust that the officer will take into consideration that the property is in a conservation area, and the implications of such.
We trust John Carlon's own proposed site visit will determine if the cabin itself is legal and whether there was incorrect advice given at the pre app stage, or if it was technically correct, the positioning of the log cabin is noncompliant.

The Parish Council would also like to request a copy of the pre app email exchange with the applicant to understand the advice given by the Local Authorities planning department.

Once the log cabin's position is established following the above, we suggest there is then the question of the extension proposed, which, we believe requires planning consent. Please note that the producer of the log cabin, Keop's own guidance states that in their opinion if a balcony or veranda is added to the base log cabin then planning consent would be required. Following this logic, we as the Parish Council would assume planning would be required for the 5.0mx1.93m extension. There is then also the question of whether the extension to the log cabin, negates the log cabins compliance with the Caravan Act 1960.

As an observation, the applicant themselves refers to 'A small extension to the existing building,' strongly implying that they themselves consider the log cabin as a building not a caravan."

ii. W/23/02477/HP - **The Russells,** Whitehall Lane WR10 3AB

(4 December 2023)

Window and door replacement, and installation of solar panels and battery

Applicant – Mr and Mrs Parsons

Parish Council comments:

"Birlingham Parish Council have no objections to this planning application."

iii. W/23/02328/PIP - **Broadgrove Nursery Farm Shop**, Eckington Road WR10 3DA

(30 November 2023)

Permission in Principle for the construction of up to 4no. dwellings

Applicant - Mr T Mence

Parish Council comments:

"Birlingham Parish Council support in principle the use of this site for 2 or 3 houses or indeed preferably bungalows, although 4 dwellings may be too many, considering the continued concerns about the site's access/egress proximity to the bend. We trust at the future detailed stage of application the allocated planning officer will ensure compliance in terms of design and materials with the Birlingham Village Plan."

iv. W/23/01919/HP - **The Grange**, Berwick Lane WR10 3AD

(7 November 2023)

Proposed single storey orangery with roof terrace and single storey link

Applicant - [redacted]

Parish Council comments:

"Birlingham Parish Council recognise that the property is not currently listed, which we have always felt, since preparing the Birlingham Village Plan in 2017, was a little perplexing given the period and merits of the property. Perhaps you might consider referring the property to the relevant commission to consider independently the merits of the building being listed?

Given the current status of the property, we rely on the officer to stipulate appropriate materials and finishes are implemented given is location in a conservation area, and proximity to two listed buildings and their curtilage, namely the Cottage and The Manor House. We feel it is important for you to protect the front elevations impact onto the street/lane scape."

v. W/23/02421/FUL – **Birlingham Nurseries**, Upper End, Birlingham, Pershore, WR10 3AA

(28 November 2023)

Construction of one secure storage unit and one covered storage unit ancillary to the use of the nursery

Applicant – Mr Smith

Parish Council comments:

"Birlingham Parish Council would not like to see a retrospective planning application becoming the normal, however, in this instance we see no objection to the new secure storage shelter. With regard to the "open fronted" building also proposed, it refers to this building replacing one that was storm damaged on the site. We would rely on the appointed planning officer to confirm this is the case and identify the previous storm damaged building and ensure this has been removed from the site as implied."

vi. W/23/02237/HP - **Brockham**, Upper End WR10 3AA

(21 November 2023)

Erection of single storey and two-storey extensions, and garage, with internal and external alterations, to include modified access

Applicant - Dr T Roe and Dr L Ansell

Parish Council comments:

"Birlingham PC have no objections to this application and will rely on the allocated planning officer to ensure appropriate materials, appropriate to the surrounding properties in the village, are conditioned in the formal decision."

c) Applications granted: -

i. W/23/01802/CU - **The Bungalow**, Upper End, WR10 3AA

(13 September)

Change of use of land to residential garden

Applicant – Mr and Mrs Haydon

Parish Council comments:

"*Birlingham Parish Council support the change of use of the site, which we understand was where the glass houses were previously prior to demolition, to that of a residential garden*."

APPROVED – 22 November 2023

ii. W/23/01943/HP - **Whitehall House**, Whitehall Lane WR10 3AB

(3 October)

Proposed front and rear single storey extensions

Applicant – Mr and Mrs Dormer

Parish Council comments:

"*The Parish Council have no specific comments to make on this application and will rely on the case officer to ensure the materials and detailing are in keeping with both the existing element of the property and surrounding residential property*."

APPROVED – 28 November 2023

iii. W/22/02657/HP - **Hills Cottage**, Upper End WR10 3AA (planning)

(13 December 2022)

First floor extension over existing carport. The enclosure of carport bay at ground floor level to create entrance hall and construction of zinc standing seam roof to link house to carport. Addition of PV solar panels.

Applicant - Mr Nicholas Aston

4 December 2023 - Clerk to Planning Officer : enquires about any consultation process

Reply:

"*It appears as though there has been a mix up with the consultation and only the Conservation Officer has been consulted. I have today asked our Process section to consult the Parish Council, other consultees and neighbours on the later amended plans*."

4 December 2023 further response from local authority: "*We are writing to tell you that additional information/ amendment(s) have been received for this planning application*."

Birlingham Parish Council comments:

"*Birlingham Parish Council feel that the applicant has taken on board the comments and observations on the original application and now support the modified application.*"

APPROVED – 4 JANUARY 2024

iv. W/22/02656/LB – **Hills Cottage**, Upper End WR10 3AA (listed consent)

(13 December 2022)
First Floor extension over existing carport. The enclosure of carport bay at ground floor level to create entrance hall and construction of zinc standing seam roof to link house to carport. Addition PV solar panels

Applicant - Mr Nicholas Aston

Birlingham Parish Council comments: As with the Planning application the Parish Council comments are the same.

APPROVED – 9 JANUARY 2024

d) Enforcement: -

Birlingham Nurseries, Upper End - reference MGX-883972
- CHASED FOR UPDATE 26 NOVEMBER

Councillors informed 3 December 2023:-

Communication from Senior Enforcement Officer – complaint reference DvC-3827628

"I am contacting you regarding the query raised:

There is an active enforcement case on this site relating to the erection of a large agricultural building. A site inspection has been carried out whereby it has been noticed 2 new buildings have been erected.

The nursery does benefit from permitted development rights, as do most pieces of agricultural land. In this instance what has been constructed falls outside the criteria stipulated under the General permitted Development Order and therefore planning permission is required for both structures.

The owner and the tenant have been made aware of this and agreed to submit a planning application for the retention of the structures. There has been a delay in receiving the retrospective application.

The application has now been received and is currently awaiting validation, once validated the original complainant and yourselves will be advised and provided the reference number to comment or ask questions on the application.

Should the application be refused or withdrawn a new enforcement case will be set up to consider further action."

6. Financial Matters

a) The Accounts for 2023/2024

i) Bank balances - current is £10,627.85 as at 28 November 2023 and Business saving balance is £8,367.89 as at 11 December 2023.

ii) Receipts

i. £105.00 – Worcestershire County Council (September)
ii. £140.00 – Worcestershire County Council (October)
iii. £165.00 – Worcestershire County Council
ii. £87.50 – Worcestershire County Council

iii) Payments agreed: –

i. £100.00 – Election charges (714)
ii. £20.00 – Birlingham Village Hall – November 2023 PC meeting (715)
iii. £105.00 – Lengthsman September 2023 (716)
iv. £140.00 - Lengthsman October 2023 (717)
v. £650.00 - Clerk's Pay – April, May, June (718)
vi. £104.28 – Clerk's Expenses – April, May, June (719)
vii. £162.40 – PAYE – July, August, September
viii. £70.00 – Royal British Legion (723)

b) Future payments for consideration

i. £650.00 – Clerk's Pay – July, August, September
ii. £104.28 - Clerk's Expenses – July, August, September
iii. £162.80 – PAYE – October, November, December (includes 20p correction from last quarter)
iv. £87.50 – Lengthsman November 2023
v. £140.00 – Lengthsman December 2023
vi. £20.00 – Birlingham Village Hall – January 2024 meeting
vii. £20.00 – Birlingham Village Hall – March 2024 meeting
viii. £90.00 - Defibrillator pads as at Item 8
ix. £650.00 - Clerk's Pay – October, November, December
x. £104.28 – Clerk's Expenses – October, November, December

Litter bin invoice (contracted 3 x bins) received at £330.73 including VAT. Why is this £100.00 more than last year? Clerk to query.

c) Budget precept / Tax base

Calculations have been received from Wychavon District Council.

The draft Budget forecast for 2024/2025 was discussed. Projects were agreed as increased since the November meeting due to the defibrillator pads, litter bin emptying and a contribution towards Airband installation of ducting in Upper End.

The resolved figure was £6,915.00 and the application was due to Wychavon District Council by 26 January 2024. This was mean a small increase of £290.00 in precept equivalent to approximately £1.94 per property.

All in final agreement after discussion at Item 7 and 8.

d) Internet banking – Clerk to action.

7. Full Fibre Broadband (Fibre to the Premise – FTTP)

Installation of the fibre infrastructure by Airband continues around the village and the first few properties have now been connected to the service. Councillor David Glover is one of the first to have the installation. Members asked if Councillor Glover would write an article for the Birlingham News about his experience.

Councillor Michael Porter has met with Airband following the wayleave for the 6 poles in Upper End (from the A4014 to Hills Cottage) being refused and wanting to discuss an alternative. Airband has been asked to bury the cable in ducting on land owned by Porters which is rented to the farm (GWR). The verge in Upper End is not wide enough for poles. This would be a much-preferred solution and without it full fibre would not be available to the Upper End properties. The farm agreed to quote for digging the trench and installing the ducting (estimated as £1,500) with the cost being met partly by Airband, with the balance coming from the Parish Council reserves fund and the grant offered from the Divisional Fund. This was under consideration by Airband but may result in a further delay.

Councillor Michael Porter was thanked for his assistance in liaising with Airband.

8. Defibrillator – replacement pads

The Village Hall committee has contacted the Parish Council regarding their agreement to support the future costs and therefore contribute towards the replacement of the defibrillator pads due every two years in line with the manufacturer's recommendations. The cost of replacement along with the Village Hall committee's 50% contribution is £90.00 each. This was agreed. Clerk to request an invoice.

9. Flooding at Lower End

Councillor's Byrne and Yates will meet with Liam Gormley, Enforcement Officer - Land Drainage, Wychavon District Council on Tuesday 22 January 2024 to try and resolve the ongoing problem of water running across the road in Lower End from the Manor Paddock and creating a hazard when it freezes.

10. Communities Together Event for Parish and Town Councils

Councillor Katie Parsons attended the Communities Together Event and gave her report on how the Executive Board can give advice on community support and funding requirements. The slides from the event and Councillor Parsons summary will be circulated to all Members.

The Members agreed that it would be good to speak with the Community Officer, Branwen Bingle, for our region to understand what funding opportunities might apply to Birlingham. Councillor Yates agreed to telephone and discuss. Councillor Yates to action an event if there are resources available to the village.

Councillor David Glover will also investigate the grants available.

The Design Codes Draft was discussed. Councillor Parsons will draft a response and circulate to all members to review before submission.

Councillor Parsons was thanked for her attendance and report.

11. Roads

The Clerk has circulated road closure orders.

12. Councillors' reports and items for next agenda

- Review and update the Village Design Statement and a potential for a Neighbourhood Plan

13. Closure and date of next ordinary meeting - with nothing further to discuss the meeting closed at 9.25pm and the Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance.

The next Parish Council Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 20 March 2024 at 7.00pm.

The meeting will be held in Birlingham Village Hall. Clerk to book hall.

Signed: ..... Councillor Ian Yates, Chairman

Date: .....

Appendix 1 – Lengthsman's Report

Reports to Worcestershire County Council

Drainage

Upper End

27 November 2023 reference 37605 - Barncroft - what3words martini.pitchers.guideline
29 November 2023 – order raised WCC "This has been referred to our engineers to upgrade the gully and its chamber, as it is offset which causes difficulty when it is being cleaned".



27 November 2023 reference 37606 - Parsons Pleck continually filling with debris– what3words loft.salmon.nuns

28 November 2023 – order raised to clean



Reference 32435 – The Court House / The road is sinking outside the Court House

Signage

Lower End - The Moors

4 December and 13 January - Just to confirm I have placed an ICE warning sign (I only have the one) last week on the downward stretch.

Upper End - Shorthill and The Avenue

4 December I have also placed FLOOD signs at the junction of Shorthill and The Avenue as there is a problem there as well.

7 December Someone has removed the FLOOD sign at the top of Shorthill. I don't have another one as my others are at Lower End flood.

Pavement

Church Lane - The Old Forge
12 December 2023 – reference 39011
The kerbs outside The Old Forge have become loose and are a trip hazard.



27 December 2023 – WCC have raised an order for repair.

Potholes

Upper End

Parsons Pleck Potholes w3w outnumber.critic.subtitle Current reported VILLAGE CENTRE Road crazing is increasing in front of the village hall with damage to the surface.

Mud

LOWER END - Field work is causing much debris to be left lying on the carriageway in Broadway Road. It has dried up but soil still present.

Tree

LOWER END - There is a damaged tree on the verge just down from Pigsty.

Appendix 2 – Clerk's Report

Highway Issues

MUD

Broadway Road

Email sent to John Sansome regarding the removal of the mud on Broadway Road.

The works were carried out in December 2023.

FLOODING

Shorthill – flooding on highway junction with The Avenue

Drainage Report - Reference 38536

Reply from WCC, *"Good morning and thank you for your Drainage Report at Shorthill/Broadway Road that you reported on 07 December 2023. Worcestershire County Council highways team cannot issue road closed signs to any contractors or lengthsman as we have to keep control of the locations closed. If they report it through to the highways control centre, we can send an inspector to the location to assess and if required close the road. Thank you for your assistance in this matter."*

29 December 2023 – further report from WCC

"Thank you for your enquiry regarding a blocked gully at Shorthill/Broadway Road Birlingham. We inspected the site and have raised a four-week order to jet the gullies. We will continue to monitor the drainage system as part of our routine inspection regime."

Lower End - Water leak

A report was sent to WCC – Reference 37534

Reply from WCC, "*Good morning and thank you for your Drainage Report at LOWER END that you reported on 26 November 2023. I can confirm that Worcestershire County council highways team are aware of an issue with a gully in the area and that is currently under investigation. We cannot confirm if this is a related issue and would recommend based on the information you have supplied that you contact the South Worcestershire Land Drainage Team based in Wychavon District Council and report this issue to them and also Severn Trent. I can confirm we will send an inspector as well to the location and I can also confirm that you are on a secondary gritting route at the location*."

3 December 2023 – Reference 37974 and 39326 - emphasis on dangerous if freezes

14 December further update from WCC

"*Thank you for your enquiry. We are aware of this issue and it has been passed to our specialist contractor for CCTV survey. Any remedial works identified by the survey will be added to the relevant works programme. Please bear with us whilst we deal with a high number of similar issues county wide*".

STW – 17 December acknowledgement to Clerks report.

Upper End

15 December 2023 – Clerk asks contractors on site at Diary Cottage about their actions. They were gully sucking and advised they had also been out the previous week. Owner of nearby property informed.

FOOTWAY

Eckington Road - footway

December 2023 - A resident asked for advice regarding the footway on Eckington Road saying "*it is in a shocking state and yet we put up with it. It has not had proper attention in years. So much so, it is being gradually reclaimed by nature. My elderly mother-in-law is in a wheelchair but I cannot actually use the footpath along Eckington Road. Basically, who do I write to for action?*"

Clerk gave information on a contact for WCC.

TREES AND SHRUBS

Rectory Road

Following Tree Wardens request regarding the trees in the verge by the church which were marked by WCC. Clerk contacted WCC again regarding the dead trees around the church which should have been removed.

Reference 37533

Reply from WCC 29 November 2023 "*Thank you for your enquiry. The trees have been inspected recently by our contractors and work is now pending on the trees.*"

Road Closures

Upper End **1512376**

Upper End from its junction with A4104 Defford Road to its junction with C2271 Broadway Road
Utility works by Airband. 5 days Commencing: 12 February 2024

Revills - Have progressed and it seems quite cooperative so far and they will let the major hauliers and delivery drivers know of the situation.
Connor at Airband "*There will be no issues with the vehicles arriving at your businesses but they will have to obey the 15-minute delay. This is vital due to the work being undertaken and we can't have vehicles passing through whilst we have engineers in the road working or. The vehicles arriving will just need to notify us that they are doing deliveries. Our project team will be making the engineers aware there will be deliveries.*"

Lower End **1514604**

Lower End from its junction with U46418 Berwick Lane to its junction with C2271 Broadway Road including Meadow Lane
Utility works by Openreach Anticipated duration: 3 days (24hrs). Commencing: 24 January 2024

Circulations to Councillors

- Parish and Town Council News December 2023 from WDC

- Design Codes consultation - The codes will play a critical role in ensuring new homes and places are created in the district to support the economic success of Wychavon and sustainable and neighbourly living. www.wychavon.gov.uk/design-code

- 2024 Wychavon Community Legacy Grants – expressions of interest are open.
  Community assets and projects that will have a significant and lasting impact on one or more of our strategic goals - particularly health and wellbeing, supporting people most in need, tackling climate change, access to local transport and links between places or improving the natural environment.

- Worcestershire - DR – Stakeholders - Local Government Boundary Commission

  Published draft recommendations for new divisions, division boundaries, and division names for Worcestershire County Council.

  Comments on those recommendations are invited. Consultation closes on 18 March 2024

- Worcestershire Local Nature Recovery Strategy Issues and Options Consultation

  Worcestershire County Council's Local Aggregate Assessment using data up to 31 December 2022 has now been published on the Council's Website at www.worcestershire.gov.uk/LAA.

Extracts of interest All News can be found online at birlingham.news.org

Birlingham **News 317 – 17 November 2023**

Swan's Neck

John Sansome writes:

Tree planting at Swan's Neck will begin over the next few weeks, establishing what will become, over the years, a new wood by the river. Approximately 350 trees will be planted in the area shown in brown on the attached map (from Magic Maps). The saplings of common alder, common oak, small-leaved lime, downy birch and bird cherry will be clearly defined (and protected) by an encircling fence.

The Farm met with Avon Navigation Trust and established that over the years Birlingham Quay (where narrowboats regularly moor) has shifted along the riverbank to where it now lies in the curve of the river. Some of this land is owned by the farm but with the agreement of the Trust the mooring will still be accessible by a two-metre strip along the bank of the river. The Trust will oversee the upkeep of the quay and the memorial bench will be moved to where the Trust notice currently stands.

The area shown yellow on the attached map is open access land and has, over the years, become overgrown and inaccessible. The Farm agreed to clear the undergrowth and open the area up so that it can be enjoyed. The public continue to be welcome to linger at the quay to enjoy the view and use the more clearly marked public footpath which runs alongside the new woodland. The old pump house has now been removed.

The map can be viewed at www.birlingham.org/pics/swans_neck_nov_23.jpg. Any additional information and photographs will be included in the regular edition of Birlingham News Online next Wednesday.

Birlingham **News 318 – 22 November**

5. Road Closure – Eckington Road

The B4080, from the junction with the A4104 Pershore-Defford road, at the top of Bakers Hill, to Monkhall Hill in Eckington will be closed for three days between 4th and 22nd December. This is to allow for carriageway patching. The precise dates of the closure have not been specified.

6. Swan's Neck

The extra edition of the Birlingham News email last Friday contained an article by John Sansome relating to the changes to the common land at Swan's Neck. This article is repeated in the online edition of Birlingham News, along with the accompanying map.

The online edition also includes a selection of 'before and after' photographs of the area, plus a letter on the subject from a resident.

7. Defibrillator Access Code

Ken Fitch writes:

Birlingham has an automatic defibrillator contained in a secure box attached to the wall of the

Village Hall to the right of the main entrance. With the defibrillator are the pads, both adult and child versions, and detailed instructions.

Initially all houses were sent a fridge magnet showing the access code. It has now become apparent that some of these fridge magnets have been lost/misplaced; therefore, the access code is contained below. **Access code: C1234**

11. Planning Applications

The following planning application has been received by the Parish Council:

- **The Grange**, Grange Road: Proposed single storey orangery with roof terrace and single storey link (Case No. W/23/01919/HP).

Birlingham **News 319 – 13 December**

1. Birlingham News Online

As well as all the information included in this email, the online edition contains:

- Photographs of the new tree planting at Swan's Neck
- Details of changes to bin collections in Birlingham over the Christmas period plus next year's collection calendar
- Photos of the recent thatch re-ridging at the Old Post Office
- Details of a free online driver awareness session taking place tomorrow (14th December)
- The Safer Neighbourhood Team Newsletter for November, with contact details
- Dates for your diary between now and the end of January.

7. Road Closure – Broadway Road

Broadway Road, from the Almshouses to South Mede House, plus Meadow Lane to the junction with Berwick Lane, will be closed for three days from 24th January. This is to allow for utility works by Openreach.

9. Planning Applications

The following planning applications have been received by the Parish Council:

- **Rose Cottage**, Church Street: Certificate of Lawfulness to demonstrate that an existing extension to caravan complies with definition of a mobile home under the Caravans Act 1968. (Case No. W/23/02032/CLE). Awaiting decision by Wychavon District Council.
- **Broadgrove Nursery Farm Shop**, Eckington Road: Permission in Principle for the construction of up to 4no. dwellings (Case No. W/23/02328/PIP). Awaiting decision by Wychavon District Council. (Consultation period ends on 20th December.)
- **Birlingham Nurseries**, Upper End: Construction of one secure storage unit and one covered storage unit ancillary to the use of the nursery (Case No. W/23/02421/FUL). Awaiting decision by Wychavon District Council. (Consultation period ends on 31st December.)
- **Brockham**, Upper End: Erection of single storey and two-storey extensions, and garage, with internal and external alterations, to include modified access (Case No. W/23/02237/HP). Awaiting decision by Wychavon District Council. (Consultation period ends on 14th December.)

Birlingham **News 320 – 27 December**

The end-of-year Birlingham News is online.

2. Parish Council Meeting, Wednesday 17th January

The next meeting of Birlingham Parish Council takes place on Wednesday 17th January at 7.00pm in Birlingham Village Hall. During the meeting there is an opportunity to express your views on local issues, so please go along.

4. Road Closure – Broadway Road, Wednesday 24th January – Friday 26th January

A reminder that Broadway Road, from the Almshouses to South Mede House, plus Meadow Lane to the junction with Berwick Lane, will be closed for three days from 24th January. This is to allow for utility works by Openreach.

8. Planning Applications

The following planning application has been received by the Parish Council:

- **The Russells**, Whitehall Lane: Window and door replacement, and installation of solar panels and battery (Case No. W/23/02477/HP). Awaiting decision by Wychavon District Council. (Consultation period ends on 1st February.)

The following planning application has been determined by Wychavon District Council:

- **Hills Cottage**, Upper End: First floor extension over existing carport. The enclosure of carport bay at ground floor level to create entrance hall and construction of zinc standing seam roof to link house to carport. Addition of PV solar panels (Planning Application Case No. W/22/02657/HP). **Approved**.