Birlingham Parish Council

Minutes of meeting held on Wednesday 16 July 2025

In Birlingham Village Hall

Councillors:

Councillors Paula Aston (PA), Steven Byrne (SB), Rupert Day (RD), David Glover (DG) and Ian Yates (IY).

In attendance:

Clerk June Hiden (JH) and 1 resident

Welcome – The Chairman thanked everyone for attending.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were tendered by Councillor Michael Porter due to personal circumstances. The apologies were accepted. Apologies were received from County Councillor Adrian Hardman as he was attending his first meeting at Sedgeberrow Parish Council. Apologies from Footpath Warden Bruce Hayward and Lengthsman Carl Brassington.

2. Declaration of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Minutes of the previous meeting

The Minutes of the meeting held on 21 May 2025, a copy of which has been circulated to all Councillors was agreed, as a true record and duly signed by the Chairman.

Democratic Opening

The meeting was adjourned for public question time. There were no discussions at this state of the meeting.

4. Progress Reports

a) Footpath Warden:

The Warden, Bruce Hayward sent the following report-

i. Footpath 506 (west from village green) – finger-post cleared
ii. Footpath 509 (near Hall Farm) – finger-post replaced
iii. Footpath 511 (Withy Walk) hedges cut back (by landowner and warden)
iv. Footpath 520 (from Nafford Lock up to Nafford Road) – strimmed

b) Tree Warden, Rupert Day: none.

c) Lengthsman, Carl Brassington: none.

d) District Councillor. A report has been received by Paul Middlebrough.

Key issues for Birlingham Residents:-

Armed Forces Day

Cllr Mark Goodge, Chairman of Wychavon District Council, raised the Armed Forces Day flag high above the Civic Centre in Pershore as a visible show of support of Armed Forces Day.
Armed Forces Day is an opportunity to thank the Armed Forces community, which encompasses service personnel, service families, veterans, reservists, cadets, and volunteers, for all that they do.
Across the world, the country's armed forces are busy promoting peace, delivering aid, tackling drug smugglers, providing security, and fighting terrorism.
The ceremony provided an opportunity to reflect on their contributions and remember those who have made the ultimate sacrifice.

Reorganisation of Local Government

On 23rd June a well-attended presentation was given on the implication of the 2028 local government reorganisation on town and parish council councils. From experiences of parish councils where unitary authorities are well established the role and workload of parishes and our unpaid parish councillors is going to increase. This will present a real challenge for individuals and communities.
The council continues to engage with the public and staff and other organisations using Mutual Ventures to independently assess views.

Initial analysis of the public survey results reveals:

- *48% backed creating two unitary councils*
- *29% supported one unitary council for the county*
- *19% didn't support any reorganisation of local councils in Worcestershire*

Wychavon Council will meet on September 3rd to submit its views to the government.

Neighbourhood Plans

The Government had pulled some of the money with regard to neighbourhood plans but Wychavon had included within its promises to put money forward to continue to support neighbourhood plans as the Council felt that they played a significant role in the Local Government Review to support local areas and this will continue.

Recent Council Meetings

Civic Centre in Pershore

The former police station is being revamped by refurbishing into offices suitable for future use. Further solar photovoltaic are being put on the roof which will achieve payback in under six years.

Financial Performance 2024/25

The council's finances remain in a sound and health condition. Balances at the end of 2024/25 increased from £15.119m to £17.930 million.

UK Shared Prosperity Fund and Rural England Prosperity Fund Update

The total UKSPF budget for Wychavon District for April 2022 to March 2025 was £4m, with £2.8m of the total in 2024/25. All allocated funding was reported as spent. The total REPF budget for Wychavon District for the period of April 2023 to March 2025 was £819k, with £753k of the total in 20245/25.

Section 106 contributions

The following schemes were approved
Honeybourne Parish Council up to £65,085.00 to fund the improvement of drainage to the sports fields at the Sports and Recreation Ground, Honeybourne.
Bredon Parish Council up to £4,556.48 to fund the installation of an outdoor table tennis table at Bredon playing Fields.
Sporting Club Inkberrow Ltd up to £31,021.00 to fund the installation of two permanent two lane fully enclosed cricket net structures on land at Sands Road, Inkberrow.
Pershore Riverside Centre up to £81,222.66 to enable the Riverside Centre to install new windows and flooring together with associated decorative works at the Pershore Riverside Centre.
Pinvin Parish Council up to £165,385.02 to enable Pinvin Parish Council to fund the construction of extensions to the changing rooms and kitchen together with general refurbishment of Pinvin Memorial Hall.
Saleway Parish Council up to £3,415.87 be allocated to fund the purchase and installation of two pieces of play equipment at the recreation ground located adjacent to the Cricket Club.

This serves as a reminder to parishes to make sure any section 106 money is allocated as soon as practical in the light of reorganisation.

Councillor Middlebrough can be contacted on paul.middlebrough@wychavon.net

e) County Councillor:

Councillor Adrian Hardman's report has been circulated, as follows:-

"Just a very short report. Reform continued to amuse and horrify in about equal proportions. This month they cancelled a special school for autism on the edge of Malvern, which was entirely funded by the DfE, and the county's only contribution was the land which we owned, surprisingly they've had to perform a U-turn since no one turns down £31 million of taxpayers' money from the centre. They continue to be extremely unclear as to the future of county hall and also the new secondary school that Worcester will need post expansion of houses. They are also proposing to close the personal replacement care centre in Pershore which I know one resident of Birlingham has very close links to.

I am going to put down a question which hopefully you would support; to ask if the cabinet member for highways would clarify what the position is on 20 mph limits. I am going to table this question on the behalf of Ashton Under hill, Eckington Parish Councils and hopefully yourselves?

I know what a pain the road works have been and I'm in the minority of one when I say that the disruption could have been worse but it's done now and hopefully it will only be the utility's that disturb your lives.

Demand responsive transport is going to be rolled out in Wychavon by the end of August following our notice of motion at the last council meeting. I am somewhat nervous about this until I have seen the detail but I should be able to update you in September because the officers are talking about something called the nine-mile rule and I am slightly unclear as to exactly what this means."

f) Clerk - See ***Appendix 1***

5. Planning

a) Planning applications:

i. W/25/01069/LB - 1 Lower End WR10 3AD

Additional 10x courses of colour-matched brick to existing chimney to raise the height to >1.8m above the thatch for replacement of existing stove and flue.

Parish Council comment: No comments

ii. W/25/01379/CLPU (Certificate of Lawfulness Proposed Use)

Woodfield House Woodfield Farm Broadway Road WR10 3AG

Application for Lawful Development Certificate for proposed extensions

The Parish Council are not consulted on a CLPU application

b) Applications determined: - none

c) Enforcement: - none

Correspondence

A letter received from Peacock Barn is a proposal for the erection of an outbuilding to replace an existing shed and asking for the Parish Council comments. Whilst the Parish Council acknowledge the information and informally see no objection, they will wait for the formal application to be received for consultation and the outcome of the planner's decision.

6. Financial Matters

a) The Accounts for 2025/2026

i) Bank balances - current is £4,648.61 as at end of June 2025 and Business saving balance is £18,570.63 as at end of June 2025. The CIL balance is noted on the spread sheet and currently there are no further updates. Discussion at Item 8.

ii) Receipts

i. £180.00 – Worcestershire County Council Lengthsman April 2025
ii. £180.00 – Worcestershire County Councillor Lengthsman May 2025

v) Payments agreed: –

i. £274.08 – Worcestershire CALC (Service charge per elector £208.45 and NALC affiliation fee £23.94 Net)
ii. £241.00 – Zurich Insurance (original quote £313.90) (contact reference 64276027 receipt dated 3 June 2025)
iii. £22.00 – Birlingham Village Hall May 2025
iv. £60.00 – Internal audit
v. £4.25 – Service charge

b) Future payments for consideration

i. £22.00 - Birlingham Village Hall July 2025
ii. £180.00 – Lengthsman April 2025
iii. £180.00 – Lengthsman May 2025
iv. £180.00 – Lengthsman June 2025
v. £690.10 – Clerk's pay April, May, June
vii. £172.40 – PAYE April, May, June
viii. £112.50 - Clerk's expenses April, May, June
ix. £690.10 – Clerk's pay July, August, September

x. £172.40 – PAYE July, August, September
xi. £112.50 – Clerk's expenses July, August, September

Note: £4.75 service charges

c) Lengthsman's Scheme – 2025 – 2026

Carl Brassington holds a LANTRA card which is an Identification card valid for 10 years which expires in 2030. However, a further certificate which Carl has that enables him to do the Lengthsman work is only valid for 5 years and expires in 2025.

Worcestershire Highways and Transport Centre will arrange some training for later in the year and will notify the Clerk when the date is.

7. Discuss actions from previous meeting

Community Project Funding (CIL) and Consultation on Community Infrastructure Projects

Templates of the proforma which Katie Parsons was to action, along with a covering explanation to groups for project proposals was to be sourced.

Clerk will action.
JH

Councillor David Glover will lead on the projects and write an article for the Birlingham News.
DG

Speeding/signage/other

Addressing concerns over speeding, residential disruption and pedestrian safety.

As previously reported, under "20 is Plenty", there have been a number of ongoing actions to address. It is over a year since the start of Birligham's "20 is Plenty" campaign. Firstly, the Upper End residents were approached and then residents in the middle of the village. Pierre and Denise Nayna headed the campaign and received overwhelming support for the campaigns proposals from many of the residents asked. There have been several ongoing actions, headed by Councillor Rupert Day, to address residents' concerns over speeding traffic, disruption by HGV's and tractors and the safety of children and walkers.

Three members of the Parish Council met with RedStar Growers on the 2 June 2025 as a follow up to previous meetings and to highlight recent issues. It was agreed that RedStar would write to hauliers reminding them of the Traffic Policy first published in 2018. The Policy makes it clear for the correct route to enter and exit the village, the need for drivers to be careful and considerate, to avoid damage to verges and roadside posts, that no vehicles should park on access roads to the village and that HGV's must not arrive in the early hours of the morning as the farm does not open before 6:00am. In addition, RedStar will ensure through its regular training that tractor drivers limit their speed to 20mph to reduce noise and vibration. RedStar are happy to receive from residents any photographic evidence where the policy has not been followed so they can take it up with the specific haulier or driver. A discussion took place on how recordings and data can be achieved. It was agreed that such data information should be forwarded to the Clerk who can then forward on.

A follow up meeting will be held with Redstar Growers in October to monitor progress. The farm is supportive of further discussions.

In addition to the above it was also agreed that 20mph advisory signs will be erected at key points on access roads. An advisory sign shows 20mph in a green circle. This is now common practice in many local villages and this had the full support of RedStar with their direction signs being updated to include the advisory limit. The budget for the 20moh advisory signs was

approved at the meeting at the amount of £500.00. The Parish Council is conscious of maintaining a balance between extra signage and the village not becoming urbanised. Details of the signs and their proposed location will be covered in an article by Councillor Rupert Day to be published in the Birlingham News to give advice and explanations to residents of decisions.

A meeting will be held with members to discuss signage further.

In conjunction with Worcestershire County Council Highways, signs have been erected before Court Barns and at the junction of Shorthill showing the new 'road narrows and pedestrians in road'.

The Parish Council has approved a letter that will be sent to Karl Perks the new Cabinet member responsible for highways and transport at Worcestershire County Council asking him to explain why Birlingham's proposal for a 20mph limit was rejected. Also, that under the last administration it appeared that Worcestershire County Council was not, in any way, aligned with the National Guidance on the issue of assessing speed limits and the Parish Council wondered whether this is something that the cabinet member might review. The Parish Council has discovered that in discussion with Worcester County Council, other villages have had similar rejections and this will now also be raised by Councillor Adrian Hardman (included in the Councillor's report). County Councillor Hardman to be kept updated.

Councillor Michael Porter has trimmed the hedges and removed some foliage to enable the highway signs to be visible.

Councillor Rupert Day and Denise Nayna have attended the presentation for 20 is Plenty Worcestershire on 11 July 2025.
RD

Flooding at Lower End near Manor Paddock

Severn Trent Water visited last week. They brought the large-scale lorry-based camera survey equipment. The aim, as indicated to Councillor Byrne on their previous visit, was to insert the camera into the man hole just inside the Manor field by the bins and have it travel up the pipe to the area on the boundary of the Manor stables and the Moors, where they hoped to establish the nature and location of the collapsed pipe.

Having arrived, with the lorry and the health and safety compliant "two men", only then did they discover the pipe they were inserting the camera into was c 10" and the camera needs a 15" pipe or greater. Councillor Byrne asked why the previous crew didn't mention the size of the pipe on their previous notes, to receive a reply, that the system "may not always work" (sometimes by human error and sometimes by design).

They agreed to report back to head office.
SB

Parish Priorties - Community Initiatives

As a follow up to previous Community Project Funding discussions, Councillor David Glover outlined a range of community cohesion initiatives that could be promoted, supported and funded by the Parish Council. Examples were a garden club, Pilates, improve the entrances into the village, Jubilee Wood improvements, walking group, U3A social group. Councillor Glover will give more details at the next meeting.
DG

8. Highways and Public Rights of Way

Notice at Swans Neck

The Clerk has contacted Porter Farming regarding the notice for permissive access. Is it in the wrong place and if so to review it? Clerk has been asked to make contact again for an explanation of where the private land is and why it appears to be located on common land. **JH**

Visibility Mirror and post at Whitehall Lane

The post and concrete have been removed and the mirror has been taken by the owners. It was erected on private property and the Parish Council will not be responsible for reinstating it.

9. Councillors' reports and items for next agenda

Nothing to report.

10. Closure and date of next ordinary meeting - with nothing further to discuss the meeting closed at 8.50pm and the Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance.

The next Parish Council Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 17 September 2025 at 7.00pm.

The meeting will be held in Birlingham Village Hall. Clerk has booked the hall.

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

Date: ……..……..……

Appendix 1 – Clerk's Report

i. Public Rights of Way / Highways

Highways Signage – to reduce speed

22 May 2025 email from Barry Barnes at Worcestershire County Council.
"*The Traffic Management Team will map out the location and place the appropriate signage according to the relevant statutes and legislation.*"

Boardwalk Footpath 508

Following contact from Defford resident asking 1. When will the partially effected work on the causeway located on footpath no 508(B) from the Bow brook in the Parish of Birlingham be fully restored to its original length? 2. Would the Birlingham Parish Council care to make a statement on the above for the Press / TV media?
Clerk - An acknowledgement was sent to the resident saying that the authority responsible for the boardwalk (Public Rights of Way) was the body to contact which is what the resident had been doing.

20 May 2025 from Philip Coulson, Public Rights of Way Operations Manager, Worcestershire County Council to Defford and Birlingham Parish Council's –

> *"Thanks for keeping me in the loop. If you think it's necessary, I'm happy for you to refer to Complaints at Worcestershire County Council."*

May 2025 - Defford Clerk went to see the resident to give him an update.

14 July 2025 – Clerk asks Philip Coulson for an update giving more information on whether the boardwalk is safe or is there still work to be carried out. Reply-

> *"No, I'm perfectly happy with how it's performing."*

Clerk has copied the Footpath Warden for information.

ii. Drainage

Coach House

7 June 2025 - Resident reported that masses of water filled the road; loads of debris on the lawn and the lid has not resealed on the drain. It is clear that the drainpipe downhill is either blocked with roots or not big enough - or both. Cleaning the chambers below did not and does not work.

Clerk reports - Drainage Report - Reference 80590 – 7 June 2025
27 June 2025 reply-

> *"Thank you for your enquiry. We have attended the mapped location for inspection and can advise at the time of inspection; no safety issues were identified. We will continue to monitor through our routine inspection regime. We apologise for the delay in formally responding."*

iii. 20's Plenty Presentation

Communication from Administrator at Worcestershire County Association of Local Councils (CALC)

Here is an opportunity for you and/or your councillors to attend this new event.
Adrian Berendt, Director, 20's Plenty for Us CIC invites you to join his team, Hannah Greenberg and Adrian Berendt who will give a short presentation about the benefits of 20mph, what is happening elsewhere in the UK and will answer your questions about 20's Plenty for Worcestershire. It should be an interesting and lively event.
We have pleasure in inviting you to a Zoom meeting to hear about the benefits of 20mph for Worcestershire. There will be two opportunities: please register in advance for either of the dates 11 July or 16 July 2025.
Videos of previous "Delivering 20" webinars are available.

Councillor Rupert Day is attending the 11 July 2025 meeting and permission has been given for Denise Nayna, representing residents for 20 is Plenty, to attend.

iv. Correspondence

Dame Harriett Baldwin MP

June 2025 - Letter circulated to all members with attached overview.

Update from Dame Harriett Baldwin MP

> *"Thank you to all who work so hard in the parish. If you ever need my support on any issue please contact me on harriett.baldwin.mp@parliament.uk, phone 01684 585165 or write to me at the House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA and I will do everything I can to resolve things or make sure your voice is heard. Here is a selection of the main issues that I have been helping with across the West.*

Road Safety

Rural speeding is a continued concern for communities everywhere and road safety is something I regularly raise with the Worcestershire County Council and the Safer Roads Partnership. After lobbying National Highways, the A46 now has extra speed restrictions and signage. I have also pressed for formal investigations into speeding including villages such as Leigh Sinton, Suckley and Broadwas and across Malvern and applied pressure on the County Council to take action on HGVs using residential roads. Worcestershire County Council is usually quite responsive to requests to fix potholes and to improve road surfacing and I hope that will continue now the County is under new leadership.

Public Transport

The last Government awarded £3.4 million to improve local bus services and in recent months we have seen the return of the 43-service connecting north Malvern to Great Malvern and Worcester and two extra services each hour on the X50 service between Pershore and the immensely popular Worcestershire Parkway station. Theres an on-demand daytime bus service which local people can access in some areas to make journeys and I continue to work with local communities to improve coverage and bus connectivity where I can. The County Council had advanced plans to expand Worcestershire Parkway car parking and I will press them to continue these plans.
I continue to ask for better train services – whether it is the dualling of the North Cotswold Line to allow more frequent services or the additional CrossCountry service stopping at Worcestershire Parkway. There will be a new service from Edinburgh to Exeter stopping at Parkway. West Midlands Railways continue to underperform and I will keep the heat on them.

Housing

You will be aware that the interminable South Worcestershire Development Plan process seems to be drawing to a close. While I am not a fan of top-down imposition of housing numbers I will continue to make the case for the brilliant bottom-up neighbourhood development plans, which I think deserve the highest weight once agreed in a referendum.

Environment

We are blessed to live in a beautiful part of the world and our magnificent countryside is one of the main attractions for visitors to the area, contributing to our local economy. I continue to campaign for progress in delivering flood defence schemes in Severn Stoke and improved flood resilience in Tenbury Wells. I've been out litter picking with groups across the constituency and encourage local volunteers to work with the district council to adopt specific roads to help keep our countryside clean and tidy.

Farming

Over 5,000 people in Worcestershire work in farming and the agricultural sector is worth £1.5 billion to our county economy. Farming could not be more important to us and to our nation, but I fear this message is getting lost a month the cohort of new metropolitan elite MPs. Important funding schemes like the Sustainable Farming Initiative are being withdrawn and the future of the family farm is on a precarious knife edge with the changes in Inheritance Tax. Our countryside and the food system need to be supported and I will continue to be a strong voice for our local farming community.

Pensioners

Many will have shared my concerns when, last Autumn, the Government announced the decision to remove the Winter Fuel Payment from many of our most vulnerable people. Under the previous Government, 27,000 people in West Worcestershire received the annual allowance and the decision to means-test at an income as low as £11,000 was widely reviled. I spoke on many occasions opposing this decision and calling for its reversal. It now looks like Chancellor Rachel Reeves is planning a U-turn in her Budget and this will bring welcome relief

to thousands of local people, although it is not clear if it will have been done before winter sets in again."

The MP's details will be displayed on the village noticeboard.

Resident at Peacock Barn letter – noted in Planning section.

v. Bus service

Communication circulated to all members.

Restore daily bus service from local villages to Worcester!

Julian Palfrey, Chair, Vale Bus and Rail to Adrian Hardman copied to District Councillors and Parish Councils. Copied to all members.

25 June 2025

"Dear councillors and parish clerks
More than 50 residents of Drakes Broughton and neighbouring villages of Peopleton, Warborough, Pirton and Stoulton joined a public meeting called by Vale Bus and Rail last Friday June 20th to discuss residents' concerns re the lack of bus service provision.
Rapid housing growth in Drakes Broughton has resulted in the population reaching almost 3,000 at a time when the bus service has declined to the extent that there is only one weekly community bus service from the village centre to Worcester and one to Pershore.
The upgrade in the X50 Worcester-Pershore-Evesham service to half hourly was recognised but the nearest bus stop on the main road is up to a mile uphill walk away from Drakes Broughton village centre - inconvenient for those reliant on public transport and extremely difficult for the elderly, the less mobile or those with heavy shopping.
The meeting was attended by local county councillor Linda Robinson and district councillors Rob Adams and Liz Turier who were supportive of villagers needs.
My reason for writing to you is that a number of those attending were calling for the restoration of a daily timetabled bus service to and from Worcester which was provided by the formerly popular 53 First Midland Red service but which was lost at Covid in 2020 and never restored.
The service started from Eckington at 0905, also serving Defford, Birlingham, Pershore Town Centre, Pinvin Crossroads, and Wadborough returning from Worcester at 1350 with its loss also depriving all these villages of their only daily direct bus service to Worcester.
In view of the growth of your villages, including Drakes Broughton restoration of this once daily service, would restore the availability of a daily Worcester bus to up to 6,000 local villagers and Vale Bus and Rail believe this should be a priority for funding as part of the £9.3 million available for bus service improvements as part of the County Council's ongoing Bus Service Improvement Plan.
We would welcome your support in representations to Worcestershire County Council."
Various communications and latest from Councillor Dr Dan Boatright-Greene, County Councillor for Pershore division (which includes the parishes of Bishampton and Throckmorton, Hill and Moor, Pinvin and Wyre Piddle)
"As you mentioned, there is money here and it would be great to be calling for more than just this time on the service if possible. One bus on a route rarely leads to a sustainable approach (the 'what if I miss it?' anxiety kicks in) and it would be great to have more services that cover younger people in these villages as parents really struggle.
So, I'm not saying I don't support the service being reinstated- I want it to be a bigger ask!!

vi. Notice at Swans Neck

Clerk to Porter Farming

"*The matter of the post and sign was brought up at the last Parish Council meeting and why this had been put at Swans Neck. The area became a topic of conversation following planting and wire fencing and it now says "Permissive access" when it is arguably Common Land. Could it be removed please if you erected it?*"

Reply - *"The permissive access sign simply refers to the small area of private land that was originally fenced off but the rest is "arguably common land". The post marks the boundary. Thanks."*

Clerk – on agenda for further discussion.

Circulations to Councillors

Neighbourhood Planning Update

16 June 2025 from Adam Sadler, Planning Policy Officer, Wychavon District Council –

> *"I am writing to make you aware that the Government has announced, as part of the June 2025 Spending Review, that the community grant funding for neighbourhood planning is to be withdrawn (Home - Locality Neighbourhood Planning)."*
> 27 June 2025 – press release by Wychavon District Council Marketing
> *New Funding Initiative for Neighbourhood Planning in Wychavon*
> *Wychavon has announced a new funding initiative to support local and town parishes in continuing their Neighbourhood Planning efforts. Following the Government's June 2025 Spending Review, the previously available government grant funding of £10,000 for all parishes and town councils for neighbourhood planning has been withdrawn.*
> *In response to this funding shortfall, Wychavon has committed to providing £10,000 in funding for Neighbourhood Planning to all its parish and town councils.*
> *Emma Kearsey, Executive Board Member for Planning, Infrastructure and Urban Design, said, "I have long been an advocate of neighbourhood plans, which is why the Wychavon Promises include promotion and support of them. I want it to be that every community in Wychavon has a neighbourhood plan in place.*
> *"Neighbourhood development plans are true democracy in action and are the vehicle for residents to decide what and where development happens in their villages/towns. It allows for the protection of any form of development in allocated areas of local green space, and it enables policies to be made that meet the unique priorities of each village or town.*
> *"The removal of the funding for neighbourhood planning would mean that individual parishes would need to raise over £10,000. That is why, at Wychavon, when we became aware of the Government's withdrawal of this essential funding, we acted fast and immediately decided to fund this for new and revised neighbourhood development plans. With the increasing number of housing units allocated to Wychavon by the Government, I strongly urge parish and town councils to embark on producing a neighbourhood development plan now, if they aren't already."*
> *This funding opportunity demonstrates Wychavon's commitment to empowering residents and promoting community-backed development. By continuing to fund Neighbourhood Planning in Wychavon, we are placing parish and town councils at the heart of the South Worcestershire Development Plan (SWDP).*
> *With this funding, Wychavon is ensuring that residents, businesses, and stakeholders can effectively collaborate to shape local land use, making sure that community needs and aspirations are prioritised."*

Cotswold Lion Issue 53 plus a special announcement

Cotswolds National Landscape –
https://www.cotswolds-nl.org.uk/cotswold-lion/

Birlingham News - Extracts of interest

All News can be found online at birlingham.org

Birlingham News 356 – 11 June 2025

The online edition contained:

Update from Revd Claire Lording

Local Government Reorganisation

Safer Neighbourhood Team Drop-in Sessions, Saturday 14th June

Birlingham News 358 – 9 July 2025

The online edition contained:

Road Closures & Traffic Information

The recent chaos on Three Springs Road caused by the intermittent roadworks and the lack of detailed advance notice from the County Council prompted quite a discussion on the Village WhatsApp Group. This resulted in information being provided on how to use Google Maps to check whether or not a road is open, courtesy of Paul Darby.

Click on the diamond-shaped symbol in the top-right corner of Google Maps to display an options screen.

Click on Default and Traffic to select these options. Then click on the X icon to close the display.

The data comes from phones in vehicles actually using the road at that time, so is very accurate. It shows green for free flowing, yellow for moving but slow, red for very slow or stationary, and dotted red for road closed.

This would also be a useful technique for checking whether Eckington Bridge is open at times of flooding.