

**Worcestershire County Council Report**  
**Meeting of Clifton Parish Council 7<sup>th</sup> October 2021**

1. Latest Covid Figures as at 3<sup>rd</sup> October are:
  - a. Worcestershire is showing an infection rate of 387 cases per 100,000.
  - b. The infection rate in the Malvern Hills District is 254 cases per 100,000.
  - c. The direction of travel is up in all districts in Worcestershire.
  - d. Worcester City has the lowest infection rate in Worcestershire, with Redditch District the highest at 629 per 100,000.
  - e. The rate of infection in England as a whole is 342 cases per 100,000.
  
2. Road “Surface Dressing” continues to take place across the County. Structural repairs are completed first followed by an application of hot bituminous binder to the surface, followed by one or two layers of chippings. After about a week the road is then swept and road markings re-painted.
  
3. As schools have now returned following the summer holidays and the post Covid lock-downs, I intend to raise the question of “school nurses” with the Children & Families Overview & Scrutiny Panel of which I am a member. I understand that not all schools have the services of a school nurse and with the consequences of Covid, involving mental health and other issues, which young people may wish to receive advice in a safe and secure environment, I will be asking if this service can once again be available in all schools.
  
4. More children, often as young as seven, are carers to family members. It is the responsibility of schools to support these young carers whilst at school and I understand this is not always the case. As in 5 above, I shall be raising this issue at the Children & Families Overview & Scrutiny Panel.
  
5. I spent a very pleasant morning at Clifton Primary School on 29<sup>th</sup> September, meeting with the Head Teacher and other members of staff. I then spent an hour with year 5 and 6 pupils discussing “Democracy”. What a bright group of young people they are. It was so pleasing to find that they already had a clear understanding of matters outside the “Three Rs”, for example government, the suffragette movement
  
6. The current Afghan resettlement schemes are being co-ordinated by Worcestershire County Council. The County Council will work closely with the West Midlands Strategic Migration Partnership who are delivering this programme for the West Midlands, on behalf of the Government. The County Council will consider wider support arrangements for Afghan arrivals, co-ordinate financial support from the Government and donations from communities.

There are two schemes:

- a. The Afghan Relocation and Assistance Policy (ARAP), for Locally Employed Staff (LES) in Afghanistan. This scheme is designed to support those Afghan nationals who have worked with our forces, eg. Interpreters. This scheme was launched in April 2021.
- b. The Afghan Citizen Resettlement Scheme (ACRS). This was the scheme that was announced in late August and which is designed to welcome 5,000 vulnerable Afghans into the UK in the first year of the scheme and 20,000 over the longer term.

David Chambers  
County Councillor, Tenbury Division