Malvern Hills District Council Report (November 2026)

Cllr Lesley Bruton (Tenbury Ward)

Local Government Reorganisation

Update on Local Government Reorganisation in Worcestershire

In a joint statement, the seven leaders of Worcestershire's councils said:

"The meeting with the Minister today, following Government's review of Local Government Reorganisation, has given us some clarity around the decision taken in July, for a two unitary authority for Worcestershire, which is effectively unchanged.

"Government is minded to implement a North and a South Worcestershire by April 2029 however we won't get confirmation of this until before Christmas.

"While this does not provide full certainty immediately, the Government reaffirming their original decision in July, along with our preparatory work, puts us in a strong position to respond to the Government's decision.

"We now look forward to moving forward and remain committed to continuing to provide services to our residents while focusing on delivering the best possible outcomes for our communities across Worcestershire."

Cllr Karen May, Leader of Bromsgrove District Council
Cllr John Gallagher, Leader of Malvern Hills District Council
Cllr Matt Dormer, Leader of Redditch Borough Council
Cllr Lynn Denham, Leader of Worcester City Council
Cllr Matt Jenkins, Leader of Worcestershire County Council
Cllr Richard Morris, Leader of Wychavon District Council
Cllr Marcus Hart, Leader of Wyre Forest District Council

District Council elections will be held in May 2027 followed by elections for the shadow Unitary Council in May 2028, with the implementation of the new authorities from 1 April 2029.

Farming and Arthritis Research

Malvern Hills District Council is supporting this face-to-face research into farming and arthritis in Herefordshire and Worcestershire being conducted at the University of Worcester. Linda Price, Rural Communities Officer is part of the Advisory Group. The farming community experience a high rate of arthritis compared to the general population and the interview below with a farmer in the Malvern Hills District explains what this is like day to day for our farming community.

The team would appreciate help in spreading the word and encouraging more farmers to come forward to assist with the study. It is all very relaxed and will inform

the practice of health professionals going forwards. The team is keen to hear from all ages.

If you could spread the word to the farming community, it would be much appreciated. Please feel free to contact Victoria or Linda for an initial chat:

The interview below with a farmer from nr. Hanley Swan explains more about the research. The team will go out and speak to the community and this will inform the work of health professionals going forwards.

https://ahdb-food-farming.captivate.fm/episode/a-hot-coal-burning-inside-my-hip-arthritis-and-farming

Victoria Jones: arthritisandfarmers@worc.ac.uk (uni Worcester)

Or Linda Price: Linda.price@malvernhills.gov.uk (MHDC)

Ward Budget

I have allocated funding from my Ward Budget for the following:

- Tenbury Flood Warden Group - £500.00
- St. Peter's Church (Noticeboard), Stoke Bliss - £200.00
- Tenbury Community Pool (inflatables) - £590.00
- 2nd Tenbury Guides (projector) - £500.00
- Tenbury Chamber of Trade (Christmas Lights) - £500.00
- Tenbury Town Band (Drum shield) - £466.00
- Tenbury Transport Trust (Winter Warmer Initiative) - £750.00
- Tenbury CofE Primary Academy (Refurbishment of school library/extra-curricular enrichment activities such as chess sets, jigsaws/games etc/iPads to support SEND pupils) - £4,747.00
- Tenbury Rugby Football Club (rhino scrummage machine) - £1,747.00

Empty Homes

Empty homes across the Malvern Hills district could be given a new lease of life thanks to practical support available from Malvern Hills District Council.

Between January and September this year, Council officers brought 408 empty properties back into use across the district, 71 of which were because of intervention.

The Council is currently working on a further 429 active empty-home cases, helping owners overcome the challenges that can leave properties standing vacant for long periods.

Rather than sitting behind boarded windows gathering dust and cobwebs, these homes could provide much-needed housing while helping to improve neighbourhoods and local communities.

Owners do not have to tackle an empty property alone. They may be eligible for a 0% interest loan of up to £7,500 per property to help cover the cost of agreed renovation works, provided the property is brought up to a habitable standard and returned to occupation.

Properties that have been empty for two years or more may also qualify for a reduced VAT rate of 5% on eligible renovation work, including labour, materials and goods.

Residents can report an empty property to the Council, while owners can access confidential advice on renovation, letting or selling empty homes.

To get in touch, please email privatesectorhousing@wychavon.gov.uk or call 01386 565007 (option 4).

Visit www.malvernhills.gov.uk/housing/empty-homes-hub for more information.

£350,000 investment to strengthen homelessness prevention

Malvern Hills District Council is investing £350,000 in Maggs Day Centre over the next three-and-a-half years to strengthen homelessness prevention, outreach and welfare support across the district.

At a time when homelessness is high on the national agenda and more people are facing pressure from insecure housing, rising costs and complex needs, the partnership aims to make sure people in Malvern Hills can access support earlier and more easily, before problems escalate.

The strengthened service will combine a visible and welcoming support Hub in Malvern with proactive outreach across the wider district and stronger partnership working with local organisations.

Maggs is keen to work with community groups, organisations, and volunteers who want to play a part in strengthening the district's response to homelessness.

To find out more about Maggs, access support, support the charity's work or explore opportunities to get involved, visit www.maggsdaycentre.co.uk.

Annual Residents' Survey

Please encourage residents to complete the District Council's annual survey and have their say in shaping the future of their local area.

The feedback received will help the Council understand what matters most to residents and inform the services the Council provides. The survey needs to be completed by 15 November 2026, and there is a chance to win a £75 voucher for a local, independent restaurant or shop. It takes around 15 minutes, and people can save their progress and return at a convenient time. Take part in the Annual Residents' Survey please see link below.

https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/t/MHRSCouncillor2026/

Half-Term Halloween Trail

The District Council supported a free Halloween Trail in Tenbury during half-term week.

Children could follow the stars displayed in the shop windows, beautifully decorated by local school children, to guide them along the trail

Thank you to the Mayor, Cllr Perrin for providing prizes for the winning decorated stars. In addition, the children who completed the trail received a free cinema ticket to The Regal.

Rochford Landslip

Worcestershire County Council have a webpage providing information on the landslip affecting the B4204 at Rochford.

https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/council-services/planning-and-developments/works-highways-structures/b4204-rochford-near-tenbury-wells?fbclid=IwY2xjawUFBIpwZG9mAWV4dG4DYWVtAjEwAGJyaWQRMGV1NTQ5MEpzUDJTVmxJOHhzcnRjBmFwcF9pZ