# Report for Tenbury Division Town & Parish Councils July 2026

## Worcestershire County Council Matters

### Local Government Reorganisation

The government is expected to make a decision on Worcestershire's Local Government Reorganisation on 16th July. However, this may be affected by a legal challenge from Norfolk County Council and Essex County Council, which are seeking Judicial Reviews of the government's decisions on their reorganisations. The Judicial Reviews centre on an assertion that the government's LGR decisions for were based not on the criteria set out originally, but on political calculations. If the legal challenge succeeds it may impact government decisions on LGR for Worcestershire.

### Worcestershire County Council Library Strategy

On 2nd July, the Council Cabinet considered its Library Strategy for 2026-2028. The strategy builds on the previous administration's plan to protect libraries, and outlines an intention to develop the use of libraries after Local Government Reorganisation in 2028. At the meeting, I made a case that Tenbury Wells Library could be developed before then as a pilot scheme for the county. I made the case that providing a range of County Council services at the library would expand its role as a community hub, and could include being able to report potholes, overhanging trees etc, seeking well-being advice and support or accessing other Council services. The Leader of the Council welcomed the suggestion and has asked that I meet with the Cabinet Member for Environment & Communities to explore taking it forward.

## Tenbury Division Matters

### Flood Defences & PFR

I have spoken to the new Cabinet Member for Environment & Communities who has assured me he will be attending the next Regional Flood & Coastal Committee meeting, where he will be able to make Tenbury's case. I have asked for a meeting with him to set out in full the situation regarding Tenbury's flood protection.

### Teme Bridge Cleaning

I have been in conversation with Burford Parish Council and Worcestershire County Council regarding having Teme Bridge cleaned before the summer holidays. The issue is being progressed on all sides and we are hoping to reach agreement for it to be done in the week commencing 13th July. Cleaning will take place overnight as it will require a road closure.

**Parking in Tenbury Wells**

Worcestershire County Council has now opened the extension to waiting times on Teme Street and Market Street to public consultation. Tenbury Traders group is in agreement with the proposal and I continue to work to achieving this ahead of the summer holidays.

I have still had no response from the Malvern Hills District Council leadership regarding free parking in Teme Street car park. The situation is likely to be exacerbated by the forthcoming loss of some free parking capacity on the swimming pool car park once work begins there. It would be helpful if Tenbury Town Council would support my proposal, which is also requested by the Tenbury Traders group. Tenbury District Councillor Duane Hubbard is also fully supportive of the measure and is exploring options with MHDC officers.

**Divisional Community Funding**

So far this financial year, funding has been allocated for a Vehicle Activated Sign in Abberley, a new wheelchair for Tenbury Transport Trust, the Regal Theatre, Great Witley Parish Church, Severn Rivers Trust and The Shelsleys Village Hall. If there are community projects or organisations that would benefit from funding please email me at jbowen4@worcestershire.gov.uk.

**Justin Bowen** **3rd July 2026**

Worcestershire County Councillor for Tenbury Division