Report for Tenbury Division Parish Councils September 2026

Worcestershire County Council Matters

Local Government Reorganisation

We are awaiting the outcome of a boundary review for the new North Worcestershire and South Worcestershire authorities. These will then determine how many councillors each council will have, as well as the representation for each division.

Farming and Food Procurement Policy

Our farmers are facing unprecedented challenges from increasingly higher costs and tight margins, and as such I believe there is a responsibility on Worcestershire County Council to do what it can to help.

I have therefore submitted a motion for full County Council on September 10th for every Worcestershire County Council school to source food it serves from local farmers and local producers. The same would apply to any catering services commissioned by the Council.

Clearly to achieve this will require solutions and changes throughout the supply chain, so the motion also instructs officers to report back within 3 months on progress and any barriers to implementing the policy.

Speeding Policy

Following work I began last year, and liaising with Councillors from all parties, progress is being made on changing County Council policy on speed limits. Although there is still work to be done, I remain hopeful that we will reach a point where decisions on speed limits will include local people and councillors, whether that be parish, town or county councillors.

Tenbury Division Matters

Rochford Landslip

Highways have confirmed that previously I was given incorrect information on how the project was progressing, and that assurances on work having been completed weren't accurate. The landslip is now being managed by Worcestershire County Council's Major Projects Team, which has promised much tighter control over the project and significantly improved communication.

I have now been assured that the landslip now has a renewed focus, with topographical surveys and geotechnical surveys being completed, which will be followed shortly by Design Teams working on solutions to have the landslip repaired.

I have also been informed that on 24th September, a paper will be presented to Cabinet requesting funding.

I will be attending that meeting and asking questions on progress across the board.

Tenbury Property Flood Resilience Scheme

I contacted the Environment Agency about concerns raised by residents and businesses regarding the Property Flood Gates that would be installed. The industry standard height is 600mm, which for some properties would not be sufficient to offer flood protection. I have been assured that wherever possible and where needed, 900mm gates would be installed. The only exceptions will be on some older properties where 900mm gates are not suitable. In those circumstances, alternative solutions will be explored.

Collaborative Working

After liaising with Burford Parish Council, Shropshire to secure joint funding, I have had agreement from Highways that Teme Bridge in Tenbury Wells will be cleaned in September. This is an excellent example of how collaborative working can get things done, even when it crosses county boundaries.

Similarly, cooperation with our parish councils, including Pensax, Abberley, Great Witley and others has resulted in a number of improvements going ahead, including new Vehicle Activated Signs, road repairs and drainage issues being resolved.

Additionally, by working closely with Malvern Hills District Councillor Duane Hubbard, progress has been made and outcomes improved on a number of issues over recent months, including flood management and on roadworks.

I look forward to other councils and councillors adopting a similar approach of working together to achieve results for our community.

Justin Bowen **1st September 2026**

Worcestershire County Councillor for Tenbury Division