

WIGMORE GROUP PARISH COUNCIL WARD COUNCILLOR REPORT MARCH 2026

In the coming year's road maintenance programme the A4110 from North of Wigmore towards Adforton is to be resurfaced/surface dressed. At this time I do not know how far this will towards Adforton. There will also be worked carried out on the WQ11 bridge and in Elton HB1.

Unfortunately the road markings and signage for the TRO in Leinthall Starkes, although it is No 2 on the list will not now be carried out until the new contractor is in place in late May.

There are lots of road closures across the County and this is mainly due to trying to get the money spent before the end of the financial year, some roads requiring emergency work and the inability of road resurfacing to take place when scheduled due to cold wet weather. I realise that this has caused some chaos,

The situation was not helped by particularly poor sign posting which included a sign at Mortimer X stating ROAD CLOSED when in fact you could access Aymestry, Wigmore, Adforton and west and east of the A4110. I asked that better signage be put up.

I have asked that we get all of the Yeomans buses checked as on occasions the bus on the Leintwardine to Hereford route is certainly not fit for purpose.

Over the last month we have been busy finalising our Capital Budget and Revenue Budget for presentation to Full Council on the 13th February. As a minority administration we have to rely on councillors from any party to support this in order to set the budget. Due to the fact that I believe we put so much work into both budgets, consulting with other parties, making adjustments where we could it was pleasing to see that the Revenue Budget was accepted with only a couple of abstentions and one vote against and the Capital Budget went through with a greater number of abstentions but nobody voted against it.

Our Full Council meeting held on 6th March formally set the Council Tax increase which will be 4.99% and then the hard work begins for each Directorate to make the savings they have promised. My Directorate Adults, Health & Wellbeing has got to find savings of nearly £8 million but I am proud to say that the impact of our plans will have little impact on the most vulnerable and frail. This of course may not be the case next year when we will be in the second year of the Unfair Fairer Funding year.

One of the areas where we need to make significant savings is in housing residents in temporary accommodation as a result of homelessness. During this financial year that has cost us approximately £2.8 million. Not only does that impact greatly on our revenue budget but it is far from ideal for those in such accommodation. We are meeting with all of our registered social landlords regularly to try to get more social housing provided and to help them get their empty properties up to the standard of the government's new requirements. We are also considering how we can encourage RSLs to work with us in building the housing we need in the right place.