WIGMORE GROUP PARISH COUNCIL WARD COUNCILLOR REPORT NOV 2026

Unfortunately I am unable to attend the meeting as I shall be on holiday.

I note from the Clerk that there is still work to be done to transfer the playground and I have discussed this with Dan Hurcomb the cabinet member responsible for this project.

With regard to caravan park some PCNs have been returned and Mark Tansley is sifting through them but there are some still outstanding. I will check with him when I return from holiday.

Barry and I attended both Elton and Pipe Aston Harvest Festivals. I was unable to attend the Leinthall Starkes

There is also a planning application which was recently approved with conditions where some of the conditions are not being met and so Planning Enforcement are involved.

A **Digital switchover**
Landline telephone services in the UK are switching to a fully-digital network. This means phone calls will be carried out over the internet (instead of analogue landlines). This is what's known as the digital switchover and this is what is being carried out across the county at present.

We are also investigating how to improve mobile phone connectivity across the county and will be looking for villages with poor mobile phone connectivity to be used as a pilot for the installation of a small phone node which requires power and a broadband connection. We are also looking at adopting multi SIMs which support data only on any network.

The homeless night shelter in Hereford is opening on Nov 2nd and I intend to visit it that evening. It is a critical service we provided through to April in order to get as many rough sleepers off the streets during the winter. Food, showering, clothes changing takes place at The Living Room Commercial Street and Lees Place opposite Shire Hall.

We held a Crisis & Resiliance Workshop at the Shell Store Rotherwas recently. This funding has replaced the Home Support Grant and is intended to help those in need financially in a crisis, ie washing machine breaks down, loss of job and require a couple of rent payments but on the resilience side it is to help people into work, to reduce the reliance on food banks and to give advice and support on debt management. There were about 40 voluntary sector organisations present and it was a really helpful event. In the rural areas we have converted the Library Bus into a Talk Community Bus with a private room for people to discuss debt issues etc and laptops to help residents apply for jobs, benefits they may not realise they are entitled to and to give some training on how to make cheap meals for the family rather than buying take aways or ready made food.

These voluntary organisations rely on volunteers and if you have a few hours a week to spare and wish to volunteer do not hesitate to contact me as there are many in Leominster. I in fact visited Leominster Advice Centre and Food Bank last Friday. They are beginning to struggle now and the people who used to donate to them are finding it more difficult to do so due to rising fuel, utility and food increases. If you are able to make a donation please could that be in money terms as the team at the Food Bank are more aware of the items that most of their clients are in need of