



Hello,

Yes, it is that time of year again when I send out my annual 'In Touch'. My way of keeping in contact with you all as promised between elections whilst sharing some local news and information items you may find of interest. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome any new residents who have moved into our ward.

In 2015 you kindly re-elected me as your District Councillor. Wychavon councillors subsequently elected me as the Leader of the Council for the four year term. I feel it is an honour to hold these positions and a privilege to represent you, which I do not take lightly. I am glad to say over a year on, that I am really enjoying both roles and what each brings to the other. I now have a far more complete overview of local government and national policy which I can then apply to my ward work and most importantly to helping you.

The General Election saw Nigel Huddleston installed as our new MP, who has settled in well and is working hard on our behalf. We have frequent meetings here and in Westminster. Nigel enjoys talking while we walk and I relish seeing more of the historic Houses of Parliament! Please let me know if you would like me to lobby him on any subject on your behalf.

His contact details are :-

Westminster Office

Tel :0207 219 5814

Address:- House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA



### **EU Referendum & Brexit**

This was held on June 23<sup>rd</sup>, I attended the count at Pershore Leisure Centre with our MP Nigel Huddleston.

We soon sensed that the result was going to be very close and as our count was announced that perhaps there would be a different outcome than many had expected. The result, across Wychavon, gave a clear majority of 12,013 in favour of leaving the EU. Our turn out, as is so often the case, was one of the highest at 80.8% . I am proud that so many of you exercised your democratic right to vote . There is no breakdown by ward, only for Wychavon as a whole and those results were then fed into the West Midlands figures. (to see these in detail type this link from my blog <http://lindarobinson.yourellr.com/files/2016/05/Stats1.pdf>)

A sense of shock and surprise followed globally, I cannot remember a time when politics have moved so quickly as a result in favour of Brexit was declared. Within weeks we have a new, very capable and experienced Prime Minister in place who is clear that Brexit means Brexit. Theresa May has named her new cabinet with significant roles for some of our Worcestershire MP's. Notably Sajid Javid MP for Bromsgrove becomes Secretary of State for Communities & local Government. Through Nigel Huddleston I have already invited him to visit Wychavon. Robin Walker MP for Worcester ,is the parliamentary Secretary of State for the department for exiting the European Union. Mark Garnier MP for Wyre Forest, was appointed as parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the department for International Trade. Finally Harriet Baldwin MP for West Worcestershire including Pershore & Malvern is a Parliamentary Under Secretary of State & Minister for Defence procurement. So I am pleased to see that Worcestershire definitely has a significant place at the top table and is well represented to safeguard our best interests. This is crucial both for us and our neighbouring partners. As soon as Brexit was announced, the Local Government Association requested on behalf of local authorities, that £5 billion of expected local regeneration investment from EU funds to local areas, be guaranteed receipt by the end of this decade.

We are in uncharted waters and are still awaiting clarification as to the intricacies of the Brexit process and any effects on Wychavon services as the local governments' legal base under EU law is disentangled. I feel we now need to move forward with a renewed spirit of optimism. Certainly Wychavon & Worcestershire as a whole is looking to continue to encourage and support business growth and expansion.

## An Overview from Wychavon DC

We are working well with the County and its new leader Simon Geraghty, plus the other five districts in Worcestershire. Also, with all our Conservative MPs. & MEPs. Similarly, with the Local Enterprise partnership (LEP) on whose board I sit as the South Worcestershire representative. Their main role is to encourage inward investment and support major infrastructure projects. Together, we have a strong voice for our area and its promotion nationally.

Eventually we adopted the South Worcestershire Development Plan this February, jointly with Malvern Hills & Worcester City (9 yrs. Work at a cost of £1.3m) We have in place a new 4 yr. Efficiency Plan as required by Government. This is our response to Government grant reductions to avoid service cuts, known as our "Grow, Save, Charge" strategy. Which includes: Reducing our 2019/20 budget by £4 million.

We still need to find a further £1m per year by 20/21 mainly through:

1. Efficiency savings of £125,000,
2. Increased income from Business Rates & Council Tax base of £250,000 from growth.
3. New improved joint waste procurement £200,000
4. Joint working with Malvern Hills saving £240,000, we already have a shared chief exec & joint Senior Management Team + other shared services.

### Strong Economy.

Direct investment in employment sites & Infrastructure - e.g. Vale Park, Evesham and Worcester Six & Pinvin. There is currently £190 million of commercial construction taking place across Wychavon. New Waitrose store in Evesham opening in March 2018, we will own the land & building & lease to Waitrose as per our Droitwich model.

Housing -Last year 886 new houses occupied (one of highest in country)  
Built 778 affordable homes and brought 280 long-term properties back into use  
For our Communities from New Homes Bonus. Over £1m has gone direct to parishes & towns.  
£150k. to Droitwich High Street + same amount to Pershore and Evesham for transport related improvements.

Satisfaction with the council is higher than ever even before the recession and no services have been cut in the last 4 yrs.

Finally, according to a recent Halifax survey Wychavon is the best rural place to live in the West Midlands and 24th nationally. I hope you would not disagree!

## Royal Birthday Celebrations 2016:

June 12th was the most popular date in our ward for many of the parishes to celebrate our Queen's 90th birthday, making her our longest reigning monarch.

At 3pm I was in Main Street, Peopleton ready to judge the Fancy Dress (never an easy job as so much hard work and expectation has been put in by entrants and then I had the added dilemma of who to choose!). Hundreds of residents had gathered for an afternoon of fun and entertainment. By 4pm all the children sat down for a traditional street party picnic (see photo). Ominous black clouds skirted around us and before tea was over, a torrential rain storm tried to dampen our spirits. Half an hour later the sun re appeared and the festivities carried on well into the evening

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the very hard working volunteers who made these events possible for our communities to come together and enjoy. It is very easy to take them for granted but I am well aware of the enormous planning and preparation required for a successful occasion.



My councillor blog [lindarobinson.yourcllr.com](http://lindarobinson.yourcllr.com) is up & working with quite a few followers although I would always like more. This is my way of keeping 'InTouch' with you between these newsletters. Feel free to leave any feedback. It also has a live Conservative Party RSS feed and shortly a link to Nigel's Facebook page.

This is me dipping my toes into social media so please encourage me by visiting it!

If you are interested in joining the Conservative party go to [midworcestershireconservatives.org.uk](http://midworcestershireconservatives.org.uk)

**My thanks to all those who make this newsletter possible by assisting with distribution. If you are able to help with future deliveries please let me know.**

**For County Council issues particularly highways please contact Rob Adams on 01905 345223 or email [radams@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:radams@worcestershire.gov.uk)**

**Feel free to contact me on 01905 841536 or e-mail me at [linda.robinson@wychavon.net](mailto:linda.robinson@wychavon.net) should you wish to**