

Members' Newsletter



Labour Party —
Droitwich and Evesham Constituency

December 2024

View from the Chair: David Tasker

Following the AGM, I unexpectedly find myself in the role of Evesham Branch Chair. I would firstly like to extend my thanks to Matthew for all the work that he has done for us over the last two years; the branch is hardly recognisable from where it was a couple of years ago and our efforts at local events has given us a much higher profile in the community than perhaps, we are used to.

This higher profile is however a double-edged sword when coupled with the fact that we are now the party of Government. When out and about in Town, Mary and I find ourselves constantly being questioned and justifying the actions of the Labour Government.

It has been a robust first 100 days in power, with the Government making good on many of its pre-election promises including the introduction of the Employment Rights Bill which gives many more rights and benefits to working people. It was

however a difficult first Budget with the Chancellor having to try to plug the black hole left by the previous Conservative administration.

It is with depressing inevitability that the American public has re-elected Donald Trump as President; the world holds its breath while we wait to see what the next four years hold. If nothing else, the Harris campaign should serve as a four-year warning to our current Government; if the electorate don't have the perception that their lives are better than they were before you came into power, then your overwhelming majority can easily turn into an embarrassing defeat at the next election.

I would like to finish by welcoming the new officers to our Branch Executive (see below) and I look forward to working with you all to build our branch over the next year.



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Affordable Housing Summit

I have been invited to an affordable housing summit in December. The housing team will help councillors understand affordable housing needs more broadly. Housing associations will join the meeting to discuss the challenges ahead and what opportunities are available.

Street cleaning update

Client services have listened to feedback about street cleaning across the district.

Wychavon have been receiving feedback from councillors and residents who are concerned about the lack of street cleaning happening across the district due to resourcing issues with the current contractor FCC. Client services have acted swiftly on the feedback received and employed the services of a third party to support the street cleaning operation. Citizens Advice South Worcestershire Briefing

On December the 11th the Citizens Advice South Worcestershire's Chief Executive Annie Robson and Chair of the Trustee Board Linda Ranford will be providing an overview of the work they do in Wychavon, their performance and plans for the future. I will feedback to the branch in the next meeting.

Communities and Funding Advisory panel

The UK shared prosperity fund has recommended to give funds to Wallace House Community Centre for building improvement works.

The panel also considered a section 106 proposal for Badsey and Aldington Parish Council to install changing facilities at Sands Lane recreation ground.

Local democracy day

I have been invited to the local democracy day. Five schools will be involved, and the aim is to raise awareness of local democracy, how the Council operates and how people can get involved in the process. The students will give a five-minute presentation to a panel of members of the executive

team. They will be judged on their debating skills and several other factors, and the winners will receive a trophy.

Proxy Voting Consultation

On the 24 October, the Deputy Prime Minister, the Rt Hon. Angel Rayner MP, announced in her speech to the Local Government Association annual conference that the government is launching a consultation on enabling remote attendance and proxy voting at Council meetings. The consultation will end on 19 December 2024.

Evesham Community Hospital

There have been concerns raised of the fitness for purpose of the Endoscopy unit at Evesham community hospital. The quality and safety of endoscopy services is assessed nationally by JAG — the Joint Advisory Group on Gastrointestinal Endoscopy.

Last month, following an informal visit by a JAG assessor, concerns were raised whether the unit was fit for purpose. Immediate action was taken and temporarily withdrew the service from Evesham, in the interests of patient safety. Patients with endoscopy appointments will be offered services in Alexandra Hospital, Kidderminster or Worcestershire Royal Hospital instead.

Riverside shopping centre

Talks are underway for a possible deal to regenerate the Riverside Shopping Centre in Evesham. If successful, the building will go into public ownership and demolished before being redeveloped.

No timeline has been agreed, there are no quick fixes. It's a complex building in a conservation area. It proposes creating a mixed residential, retail and leisure development while linking the town centre, Abbey park, The Bell Tower, Almonry Museum and Public Hall.

One diary date: **11 December 2024**, Labour party branch Christmas Social & Quiz
Evesham Rowing Club, 7.30 p.m. Raffle: £5 a strip. Hope to see you there!

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