



Welcome

Welcome to the latest issue of **Communicate**. Please use it to share news from [Wychavon Strategic Partnership](#), the three area-based [LSPs](#) and the [Worcestershire Partnership](#) with your colleagues and networks. Get in touch with Tracy with your comments or content for the next issue by 22 November 2012.
[Audrey Steel](#) – Strategic Partnership Chair
[Tracy Perkins](#) – Wychavon Council

Strategic Partnership (SP)

The Partnership last met on 19 September 2012. Click [here](#) to view the agenda and minutes.

Vic Allison, Wychavon's Deputy Managing Director, told us about the **Council Tax changes consultation**. The national Council Tax Benefit scheme provides financial help to people with low or no incomes to pay their Council Tax bills. The Government is abolishing the national scheme and asking all councils to replace it with a scheme of their own, to be called Council Tax Support.

The Government is also making some changes to the Council Tax Regulations, giving local councils the chance to make changes to the rules about which properties are exempt from Council Tax and which qualify for a discount. Wychavon is also proposing some changes to these rules. Wychavon is consulting on its proposals and changes. To take part in the consultation and read the proposals click [here](#). The consultation closes on **Friday 26 October 2012**. The scheme will be introduced from 1 April 2013.

Vic also updated us on **car parking issues** that were discussed at our last meeting. Wychavon will be reviewing long stay car parking and will consider reducing the all

day maximum charge and the cost of season tickets.

We were given an update **on Localism**. [The Localism Act 2011](#) received Royal Assent on 15 November 2011. The Act contains a series of measures aimed at shifting power away from central government back into the hands of individuals, communities and councils. Wychavon District Council has set up a [Localism and Communities Advisory Panel](#) to advise on implementing various elements of the Act, including the new community rights to bid, build and challenge. The panel, which is chaired by Cllr Audrey Steel, comprises eight district councillors and three community representatives. Its responsibilities also include:

- Assessing [Wychavon Community Grant](#) applications.
- Considering [New Homes Bonus](#) proposals.
- Overseeing the [Connecting with communities programme](#)
- Reviewing [Local Strategic Partnerships'](#) action plans.
- Developing stronger relationships across all tiers of local government.

A **Local Communities event** for parish and town councils and community groups is being held on **24 October** from **6.00-8.30pm** at the Civic Centre, Pershore. It will include talks on: setting up a community car share club, improving Broadband speeds, bulk energy switching schemes, community land trusts and Neighbourhood Planning. Email [Tracy Perkins](#) or ring 01386 565517 if you would like to attend.



Two door knocks have recently taken place in Harvington, Norton and Badsey with over 150 referrals coming from it. A six week healthy cooking course is underway. The boiler project and handyperson project has started. The OVoE Skills Officer has

completed financial management training and will be working directly with families in the area. We have just received a visit from our Areas of Highest Need Champions to catch up on progress and discuss future legacy. We look forward to receiving their report in due course.

Local partnerships

[Droitwich Area Partnership \(DSAP\)](#)

A new project is being developed by the Health and Wellbeing sub-group focusing on tackling health inequalities in Westlands. Funding to support the development of a Rural Academy has been agreed. The project will deliver both accredited and non-accredited courses based purely on practical experience to students unsuitable for college based courses.

[Evesham Market Town Partnership \(EMTP\)](#)

Evesham's loyalty card [YES \(Your Evesham Shops\)](#) was launched on 1 October and will operate during the bridge works. Customers collect a YES stamp each time they shop in a participating store and once they have collected ten stamps they are entered into a draw with the chance of winning gift vouchers worth £1,000.

[Pershore Market Town Partnership \(PMTP\)](#)

PMTP celebrated its ten year anniversary with a very successful event at Number 8 in Pershore. Michael Amies, PMTP chairman, hosted the event and the speakers were Paul Middlebrough, Leader of the Council, Kate Walton, Appraisal Panel chair, Cllr Charles Tucker and Harriett Baldwin MP. There was a video presentation fronted by Steve Knight, PMTP Manager which highlighted the big success stories over the last few years.

[Worcestershire Partnership \(WP\)](#)

The WP Board next meets on 16 October. Click [here](#) to view the agenda and papers. Last week the Minister for Natural Environment and Fisheries, Richard Benyon MP formally confirmed Government's recognition of the Worcestershire Partnership Environment Group as a Local Nature Partnership (LNP). The role of the LNP will be to champion a vision for the future of our natural environment and to work with

partners in other sectors, such as business and enterprise, landowners, health and tourism, to ensure the future prosperity and health of the county's environment.

Other news

Worcestershire Drug and Alcohol Action

Team – weekly blog – find out what is going on locally and nationally about drugs and alcohol, recovery and research. Click [here](#) and scroll down on the right to enter your e-mail address. Then click "submit" and you will automatically receive updates or for further information contact Sue Davidson on 01905 728649 or by [email](#)

Funding - Worcestershire Partnership's Funding and Resources Manager, Peter MacKenzie-Shaw, has asked us to remind you that he can help or assist on a one-to-one basis to attract further funding to our LSP areas. You can contact him on 01905 728738 or by [email](#). To find a grant yourself click [here](#).

We have submitted a response to the **Early Help Strategy** and an update is now [available to view online](#). This month it includes information on:

- Cabinet Approves Changes to County's Children's Centres
- Early Help Briefing Dates
- Parents and Carers Have Their Say
- Wyre Forest 0 to 19 Early Help Tender
- Redditch 0 to 19 Early Help Service Progress
- Online Children's Centre Goes Live

Diary dates

Worcestershire Partnership Board:

16 October 2012

Redesigning services in rural areas:

17 October 2012

Wychavon Strategic Partnership:

21 November 2012

Droitwich Area Partnership:

5 December 2012

Pershore Market Town Partnership:

12 December 2012

Evesham Market Town Partnership:

12 December 2012

Communicate is produced by Tracy Perkins at Wychavon District Council. Contact Tracy with feedback, suggestions and contributions on 01386 565517 or e-mail tracy.perkins@wychavon.gov.uk