

yourview

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Excellent value for money

MAY I respond to the letter from Richard Hill regarding the abolition of quangos.

I am sure most people would agree with him that those who make decisions should be known and accountable. However, the two organisations he cites as 'jobs for the boys' (or girls) are both local and accountable.

The South Worcestershire Joint Core Strategy is a group made up of elected members from Wychavon, Malvern Hills and Worcester City councils,

with the support of their respective professional advisers. The reason for setting up this group was to present a united front to protect South Worcestershire from the excessive housing targets being imposed by the former government via the region. All accountable to their respective councils and thus their electorate. The Droitwich Spa Area Partnership is made up of representatives of local organisations in the Worcestershire Wildlife Trust, the Droitwich &

Rural Council for Voluntary Services, the Spa Housing Association, British Waterways, Age Concern, Droitwich Spa High School, Droitwich Civic Society, Droitwich Canals Trust, the PCT, County Association of Local Councils (CALC) representing the rural parishes of North Wychavon (who also represent the Droitwich History and Archaeology Society) for Droitwich Spa, together with Droitwich town, district and county councillors.

None of these receive any financial benefit, it is entirely voluntary. Far from wasting money we are often able to help each others' projects and actually do more for less. Our action plan and annual report is available to any interested resident. We have the help of a partnership manager, Janet Yates, who is employed by Wychavon to whom she is directly accountable. We have a small budget to support local activities and groups, again provided by and monitored by

Wychavon. There will be an opportunity on 'Salt Day', September 11, for anyone interested to visit our stall in the town and find out more about our activities. I believe we do a valuable job, particularly in respect of St Richards Day and the Salt Day, but I urge you to come along and judge for yourself.

Pam Davey, chairman of the Droitwich Area Partnership, county and district councillor for Droitwich Spa East

Carrying a flame

IT was July 1955 when I first heard the word Bromsgrove.

I was on holiday with three mates at Butlins, Pwllheli, North Wales. We had travelled there by motorcycle from Marlow in Buckinghamshire and for me it was a kind of stag event as I was to be married in September.

On our first night in the ballroom we danced and chatted to a group of girls from Bromsgrove and two in particular called Pamela and Lorna.

During the course of the week we went swimming, rode out on our motorbikes, danced and generally took part in the camp's activities and just enjoyed each others company.

Lorna was a pretty petite brunette with a lovely sense of humour and personality - a real sweetie.

Pamela was fair and looked just like Ester Williams in her swimsuit.

On our last day I was sitting on my bike waiting for my pal John to say his goodbyes to Pam when Lorna ran across.

She gave me a little kiss and said: "I hope you and your lady have a happy life together."

She ran off and I never saw her again. So Lorna, a belated thank you for your good wishes. My lady and I did have a wonderful life together, more than 50 years until she passed away in 2008.

I hope you had a happy life, I know you would have made some lucky young

man a wonderful wife.

I shall always have such happy memories of our week at Butlins and if the circumstances had been different you can be sure Bromsgrove would definitely have been on my list of places to visit.

I seem to recall the girls telling us that they worked at Boots the chemist.

Geoff Smith, Valley View, Spinfield Lane Marlow, Bucks

Many thanks

I WOULD like to take this opportunity of thanking the staff at Morrisons, Rubery, who permitted the British Retinitis Pigmentosa Society (RP - Fighting Blindness) to hold collections at their store on July 24 and 25.

I would also like to express most grateful thanks to their customers who very generously contributed to a total collection amounting to £1,245.51. This magnificent sum has been placed in the society's research fund, established to find a cure and treatments for Retinitis Pigmentosa (RP).

Roger Green, BRPS - Heart of England branch

Post box attack

I WOULD recommend to the idiots that removed the Post Office collection box from its mounting, complete with mail, at the Manor Oaks Droitwich postal point, dumping it into the stream where it lay submerged in the water that they seek medical/mental advice fairly soon,

for who knows what they are capable of next. This postal box and its contents remained in the water for days despite the Post Office and other agencies being aware of what I consider to be a serious matter.

My thanks to Councillor Laurie Evans (Droitwich) and his contact Phil Merrick, at Wychavon District Council, who arranged the removal of the box from the stream within hours of being notified of this act of vandalism - no questions asked, no jobs worth, a job well done.

When will the postal authority replace this well used post box and secure it in place? Approximately 20 years ago, when this box was installed, I wrote to the Post Office suggesting that the box was not secure in its mounting.

Frank Long, Droitwich Spa

Cavalier attitude

IN reply to the letter from a concerned parent criticising the residents of The Flats who have supported the provision of the new schools in Bromsgrove, but not the positioning of Meadows/Parkside so close to residential properties.

Our concerns are with BAM who have knowingly flaunted the planning regulations to the detriment of local residents, failing to acquire planning permission for the lighting and a number of structures on the sites. Bromsgrove Council's enforcement officer is in discussions with BAM to get them to apply

for retrospective planning permission. If this fails he can issue an enforcement order to have the structures removed.

If the parent had attended the meeting of Bromsgrove Councils planning committee on July 12, he/she would have gained an insight into the way BAM conduct their business.

The lights were knowingly installed without planning permission and the lights referred to in the letter as never been used were in use for a few weeks following the opening of the school until Bromsgrove Council's environmental health officer issued Worcester County Council with an order to switch them off as they were a statutory nuisance and are due to be replaced by bollard lights.

The planning committee was unanimous in refusing retrospective planning permission for the existing lighting of the car park as it is over lit with 6m columns suitable for major roads and motorways which extend above the sky line creating an adverse visual impact on the resident by day and night.

The members of the committee were critical of the way BAM has treated them and the residents of The Flats throughout the planning process.

With regard to the hedge row to which the parent refers it was stated in the planning application that a densely planted screen of trees and shrubs would be provided to lessen the visual impact of the building, but as can be seen only a few lollipop shaped trees and laurel bushes have been provided which Bromsgrove Council's tree officer says are unsuitable for that location as they will kill off the existing hedge row.

Alan Mitchell, The Flats, Bromsgrove

Inconsiderate

READING the letter written by the concerned parent from Meadows/Parkside school I feel their concerns would be better directed towards the safety of the children entering and leaving the school.

The poorly designed car park means that the children have to cross the traffic twice and the children approaching the school from The Flats have to cross the school entrance, which the school has recognised as a hazard and are closing the gates for a short time at each end of the day.

When the gates are closed parents park in the school driveway and double park in all the local roads forcing children to cross between the parked cars.

The inconsiderate actions of some parents is creating a situation where an accident is waiting to happen.

Name and address supplied

Chemists' rota

Bromsgrove: Knights, Birmingham Road. Also open for half-an-hour extra on weekdays 6-6.30pm. Kidderminster Road, Perry Lane Pharmacy, Perry Lane.

South Bromsgrove: Morrisons Pharmacy, Buntsford Park Road. Mon-Wed 8.30am-8pm, Thu/Fri 8.30am-9pm, Sat 8am-8pm, Sun 10am-4pm.

Rubery: Safeway Pharmacy, Bristol Road South. Mon-Thu/Sat 5-9pm, Fri 5-10pm, Sun 10am-4pm. **Droitwich Spa:** Droitwich Pharmacy, Ombersley Street East. Mon-Fri 5-7pm, Sun 11.30am-1pm.

Trainee volunteer advisers

WE are a progressive charity which provides an essential community service and handles over 14,000 inquiries each year from our offices in Bromsgrove.



At the heart of our service is our highly regarded volunteer work force. We currently have an opportunity for a number of trainee advisers, to join our team. We are looking for people with a variety of experiences, of any age, from all walks of life. We ask for a commitment of one and a half days a week, for a two year period following training. You need an open mind, a willingness to learn and a commitment to equal opportunities. In return you will receive first class, nationally recognised training and support that will equip you with the skills and confidence to be an effective part of our advice service. For further information contact Tanya or Fiona on 01527 579775.

I AM constantly seeing examples of people caring for others in Bromsgrove - not because they are paid to, but because they want to.

I recently saw such kindness and social responsibility by local Macmillan Cancer volunteers in Finstall and by Blackwell Adventure and Girl Guides at Blackwell Court. Unfortunately, I also - less frequently - come across people who have little regard for their fellow citizens or, for that matter, the law. I am referring to the group of travellers that has descended on Bromsgrove this summer. After first occupying the playing fields of North Bromsgrove High School, the group moved on to the fields next to the Artrix and now, as I write, it's back at North Bromsgrove High. During this time

they have allegedly caused thousands of pounds of damage to public and private property. If people want to travel and live in this way, that is absolutely their right. But they have no right whatsoever to trespass on or damage public or private property. As well as discussing this issue with our district and county councils, I have raised it a number of times with local police, including Chief Constable Paul West. I'm of the view that travellers who are intent on trespassing and causing criminal damage must be pursued and punished with the full force of the law - what gives them the right to ignore the laws of the land? I also think that current laws on this issue need to be strengthened urgently. I've already publicly asked the

government to create a new criminal offence of intentional trespass - so that landowners can immediately ask the police to evict travellers without the need for a court order. Where there are clear signs of criminal damage, I would also like to see the police consider using the tough powers they already have under Section 61 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act. We also need to make sure that the coalition government's review of the

Human Rights Act ends up balancing rights with responsibilities. Everyone has the right to enjoy Worcestershire's wonderful green spaces, as long they behave responsibly, respect other people's property and abide by the law.



A LETTER FROM WESTMINSTER