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Access to Defibrillators.

Recently there was an incident requiring deployment of the defibrillator at Beckford Community Village Hall. There was confusion about access so here is a reminder.

- 1. Call ambulance who will give the code.**
- 2. Start CPR.**
- 3. Use defibrillator following instructions.**

Pictorial instructions are clear on all the boxes. Defibrillators do not work unless you do CPR. Defibrillators do not always work. I hope to be able to deliver a course in the near future.

Councillor Mantle.

A46 Beckford Bypass

Progress report for residents of Beckford Parish, January 2021

Recap

The Local Transport Plan states that Worcestershire County Council ("WCC") intends (with neighbouring authorities) to lobby for the upgrade of the A46 to dual carriageway all the way from the M5 through to the M40.

Prior to adoption of the transport plan, Beckford Parish Council ("BPC") gathered residents' views at a public meeting and then submitted a consultation response. We then lobbied various parties including the Minister for Transport, Midlands Connect ("MC"), Highways England ("HE"), local MPs and WCC.



Worcestershire County Council confirmed its support for Beckford Parish saying:

- Whilst WCC has some influence, it is for HE to decide on investment proposals for the A46.
- WCC is "... very aware of the negative impact that the A46 has on Beckford and Little Beckford and ... **will be lobbying for any future investment proposals to move the alignment of the strategic highway away from residential areas**, as well as protecting and enhancing the attractive setting of [Beckford/Little Beckford] ... This approach is clearly set out and required by current Government guidance, so **any future alignment of the A46 would have to provide a proper bypass of Beckford/Little Beckford** together with ... comprehensive ... landscaping and environmental improvements to limit the impacts of any new route."
- WCC is committed to ensuring that our community gets "... **the best possible deal out of any future investment proposals for the A46, and will continue to lobby to that effect.**"

Latest news: Midlands Connect Stage 2 Corridor Study published (see link below ¹)

Headlines regarding our local area are:

- Ashchurch Bypass by 2035
 - MC supports Gloucestershire County Council ("GCC") and the option of a new J9A, M5 linking to a dual carriageway running up to the Teddington Hands roundabout, with related improvements there.
 - HE's options include J9 improvements and a single carriageway bypass of J9, south of Ashchurch and rejoining at Teddington Hands.
 - GCC is lobbying HE separately for funding to investigate the Ashchurch bypass route options with a view to making recommendations in late 2021. You can read more on the GCC website, link below ².
- Beckford Bypass between 2040 and 2045?
 - HE has concluded that there is no case for improvements in the Beckford area at this time.
 - MC comments "In the long term consider the case for dualling this section to provide a consistent standard across the whole of the A46 in the area. Programme could be brought forward depending on delivery of other improvements elsewhere in the corridor." It refers in its "timeline of need" to a Beckford Bypass between 2040 to 2045.

What's next?

The volunteers at BPC continue to keep a watching brief and suggest you do likewise. The next opportunity for input is likely to be GCC's consultation on route options later this year. WCC will be a consultee as a neighbouring authority, but I'm not sure whether BPC will be. So, it may be a case of reminding WCC of its commitment to a bypass and lobbying for other measures depending on the assessment of likely increases in traffic and related noise and air pollution in our area.

Author: David Nicholds, Beckford Parish Council. Email: david.beckfordpc@gmail.com

¹ Full MC report at <https://www.midlandsconnect.uk/media/1727/mc-a46-corridor-study-phase-2-final-report-november-2020-with-appendix.pdf>

² GCC Ashchurch scheme website <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/highways/major-projects-list/m5-junction-9-and-a46-ashchurch-transport-scheme/>

Some changes to get excited about

Whilst life under lockdown has ground on, and the dark days of winter have dampened our enthusiasm, there are some who have been busy making improvements to our village.

There is a sense riding on the winds of spring that better days are coming, not least fuelled by relief that maybe we are getting Covid under control.

Whilst we shouldn't rush forth with our enthusiasm too soon, there are some great changes afoot that we are going to benefit from.

The first is the Village Hall.

We've all seen the outside, but since Christmas much has been done to upgrade the interior.

Reporting back to the PC about the refurbishment programme, Yo Yates told us "*Once the scaffolding went we could at last see the amazing results so far!*"

Well, we're all looking forward to not only seeing those results but also to benefitting from the whole re-vamp.

The Parish Council is delighted that essential funds could be raised with our help and congratulate everyone involved for the work they've done.

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A new shop café antique vintage emporium food store chatty fun place?

After a long long period of uncertainty about what was going to happen at Beckford Stores, we can now welcome Jo Gordon and her team who have moved from Kemerton with their cool mix of excellent coffee and creative vintage finds.

We wish them the best of luck and hope everyone will not only support them, but revitalise the slightly forgotten habit of popping out to socialise with others (obviously subject to viruses).

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And last but not at all least... the Station Road footpath.

After a long and constant raising of this matter with just about everybody who would listen (and those who wouldn't) the Parish Council is... no, not delighted, not pleased, not even over-joyed... we are literally doing hand springs!

Only a few weeks ago, this was still on the "don't even think about it, not in our lifetime" list.

Then out of the blue County orders the work and what a gleaming result we have; so a huge thank you to them.

Please, please just walk up and down Station Road for the sheer thrill of it and enjoy the feel of fresh tarmac under your feet.

So, there are a few more good reasons to be happy living in Beckford. We look forward to the summer.

Please see latest update from Gloucestershire County Council below.

In January 2020, Gloucestershire County Council applied to the Department for Transport's Large Local Majors fund to finance the proposed M5 Junction 9 and A46 (Ashchurch) Transport Scheme. Since then, we have been moving forward with our business case development work: a key element of this process is the non-statutory route options consultation that was scheduled for January 2021.

Both the M5 and the A46 through Ashchurch are on the national Strategic Road Network and are managed by Highways England so we need to work closely with Highways England with any plans that we have for these roads. However, Highways England have indicated that they need more time to consider the route option proposals in detail before we go out to public consultation.

Unfortunately, the earliest that Highways England will be able to give us their views is in the new year and with the local elections in May and the corresponding pre-election period which begins in March, it will not now be possible to hold the consultation, planned for January, before summer next year.

The county council recognises the importance of the M5 Junction 9 and A46 (Ashchurch) Transport Scheme to the county's future development and prosperity and we will continue to provide updates on the progression of this scheme. Please visit www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/J9 for the latest information.

Should any members of the public contact you about this scheme it would be appreciated if you could refer them to the scheme webpage in the first instance. They can also email the project team at M5Junction9@atkinsglobal.com with any further queries.

We will continue to keep you informed as the scheme progresses.

Smartwater

Smartwater, funded by the Parish Council, has got off to a good start. A good number of residents from Beckford, Little Beckford and Grafton signed up and now have their FREE SmartWater pack. This is not loved by burglars as they cannot tell where items are marked and neither can they remove the marking. Police like it as it is a great help in reuniting stolen goods with rightful owners. To get the amount of cover preferred by the police, so that we get our free SMARTWATER notices for the community, we will need to get some more households signed up. If you are interested contact a councillor; we are not, currently, able to knock on the door, however you may call David Nicholds and he will register you at distance.

Lengthsman News.

The Parish Council has had no luck appointing a lengthsman, however, following discussions, we have employed someone who is able to undertake small tasks around the parish. We welcome this development and some of you may have seen him carrying out his first task of sanding and varnishing noticeboards. Should you discover parish work that requires attention please contact the clerk.

Your councillors are: Martin Spice (Chairman), Lynette Mantle (Vice chair), Diane Colvin, Anne Worrall, Chris Revell and David Nicholds.

The clerk is Dave Roscoe (email: beckfordpc2019@gmail.com) preferred method of contact.

Any contact should, initially, go to the clerk: beckfordpc2019@gmail.com