



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 26 May 2014.

[Audrey Steel](#) – Strategic Partnership Chair
[Tracy Perkins](#) – Wychavon District Council

Strategic Partnership (SP)

The Partnership last met on 26 March 2014. Click [here](#) to view the agenda and minutes. We heard from Michael Hunter, Chairman of [Worcestershire Voices](#). They have been established to work with the voluntary and community sector to identify and focus on the key issues affecting the sector and ensure that their voice is heard.

The new "[Early Help](#)" contract in Wychavon commenced on 11 March 2014 and is being run by the National Charity [4Children](#).

The **Strategic Review of Wychavon LSPs** has started with a number of interviews already taken place.

[South Worcestershire Development Plan](#)

Following a public hearing on 14 March, the Government's appointed planning inspector, Roger Clews, published his conclusions on 3 April on the full objectively assessed need for housing for the period 2006 to 2030. Planning Officers are now assessing additional land to meet the higher figure, which will all need to be approved by the three Councils before a six week consultation period in June/July this year.

Local partnerships

[Droitwich Area Partnership](#) (DSAP)

The new Droitwich Charter Market started on 4 April and has been well received. It takes place every Friday for a trial period of 3 months.

DSAP awarded a grant of £500, which will be used to enhance publicity.

Plans are progressing well for St Richard's Boat and Car Festival, which takes place May Bank Holiday weekend, and will feature canal boats, classic and vintage cars, medieval entertainment, markets, live music, real ale, stalls and activities. Further details click [here](#)

Droitwich Spa Festival runs from 20 June to 6 July and features local food and drink, music and arts. The town's Food and Drink Festival on 21 June is part of the fortnight festivities and is already proving more popular than the 2013 inaugural event. DSAP has given a grant for a new website and PR campaign.

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

With Abbey Bridge now fully open EMTP is looking forward to a full programme of events and festivals in and around Evesham. You may have already seen the Blossom Trail signs around the Vale and the Plum, Hawthorn and Damson blossoms are in full bloom. The trail attracts visitors from far afield who travel independently or in coach parties to visit this attractive spectacle. 23 April (St George's Day) sees the launch of the British Asparagus Festival which this year will involve a 50ft St George's flag, but can you guess where it will be?

The focus is on Evesham Town Centre for the May Day Bank Holiday weekend with Evesham Regatta and the VE Vintage Festival taking place. Keep up to date with what's on all year round in and around Evesham by clicking on the [website](#)

[Persore Market Town Partnership](#) (PMTP)

The PMTP Action plan has been approved with multiple new applicants receiving a grant. With the help of PMTP, Persore's first Food Bank will be launched in the town which will see a real community effort to tackle the pockets of serious deprivation.

A strong push is currently being made to progress the potential of extending the Pershore Station car park. Proposals are being drawn up to find the most efficient and effective method of constructing and operating a car park to give Pershore an additional asset.

April sees the second birthday of Pride – Pershore's pioneering loyalty card. With over 4000 cards completed; well over 40,000 transactions taken place; and 129 businesses signed up; the scheme shows no sign of slowing down and is firmly established as the key tool to supporting the independent traders.

Worcestershire Partnership (WP)

The Worcestershire Partnership Executive Group (PEG) met on 9 April to discuss progress with the Stronger Families programme and proposals to reinvest the payments by result income to extend the current arrangements for intensive family support into 2015/16 and bridge the gap until phase 2 of the programme is launched. The group had a presentation on Worcestershire County Council's Future Operating Model which outlines the changes to the way the council operates to ensure it is fit for the future. Find out more in the 10 April [Cabinet report](#).

PEG considered the future model for the Worcestershire Viewpoint survey in preparation for the end of the current funding arrangements. It was agreed to transition to a single joint survey in May/June with the option for partner organisations to continue an autumn survey if they wish. Consideration to options for funding from summer 2015 will be considered later in the year. Click [here](#) to view the PEG agenda, papers and minutes.

Other news

New Homes Bonus (NHB)

Wychavon District Council confirmed that it is continuing with its commitment to allocate up to 40% of years two and three NHB to parish and town councils and that it will allocate up to 40% of years four and five NHB to areas that have experienced growth. For more information click [here](#) and also take a look at the new [web facility](#) where you can check NHB allocations and available funds for parishes in your areas.

Intelligently Green Awards

The purpose of these awards is to celebrate and promote intelligently green projects and activities in the district. There are four categories: energy; construction; transport; and food, tourism and green space. The deadline for nominations is 30 May. Information, including a short film and nomination forms are on the website – www.intelligently-green.com. Please help promote the awards by sharing the details in person, by email or on social media with residents, businesses, schools and community groups who might be interested in applying.

Wychavon switch

Wychavon residents are being encouraged to sign up to an energy switching scheme that has the potential to save them money on their bills. The scheme, which is offered by the company ichoosr, is a collective energy switching initiative and is open to people regardless of where they live. Anyone can register their interest and provide their details – the deadline is 9 June 2014. After this date, energy suppliers are invited to take part in an auction to bid against each other to offer the best deal. This takes place on 10 June 2014. The winning supplier will be the one making the lowest offer. Click [here](#) for more information.

Out now

- [First Voice](#) – FSB Magazine.
- [Live Life](#) the health e-news letter from Wychavon and NHS Worcestershire.
- [Greening the Vale film](#) - introduced by actor and comedian Alistair McGowan, the film, is packed with inspiring stories about local green initiatives.

Diary dates

Wychavon Strategic Partnership: 28 May

Droitwich Area Partnership: 4 June

Pershore Market Town Partnership: 10 June

Evesham Market Town Partnership: 12 June

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