



TEWKESBURY TOWN COUNCIL AGENDA

To: Town Councillors

You are summoned to attend an Extraordinary Meeting of the Town Council which will be held in the courtyard garden at the George Watson Memorial Hall, on **Monday 21st June 2021 commencing at 6:30 pm.**

Members of the public and press are welcome to attend but must contact the office in advance to book a space, due to social distancing requirements.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "D. Hill".

Debbie Hill
Town Clerk
16th June 2021

1. To receive apologies for absence
2. To receive declarations of interest
3. To consider requests for dispensation
4. To receive written questions from members of the public
5. To receive the year end budget report for 2020-21
6. To receive the year end earmarked reserves report for 2020-21
7. To receive the year end bank reconciliations for 2020-21
8. To consider and approve the Annual Governance Statement 2020/21 as recommended by the Finance Committee
9. To approve the Balance Sheet and Income & Expenditure Account for 2020-21
10. To consider and approve the Accounting Statements 2020-21
11. To agree to pay the £10,000 2021 grant direct to Tewkesbury Abbey PCC
12. To consider and agree the grant application from Tewkesbury Christmas Lights
13. To agree to join the Gloucestershire & Worcestershire Parish Council Association
14. To agree that the Clerk writes to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities & Local Government to urge him to visit Tewkesbury to discuss the Garden Town and associated issues.

The next Full Council meeting will be

July 19th 2021

Final date for agenda items and accompanying papers for the Meeting is **7 clear days before the meeting.**

As part of managing the Council's Risk Assessment, Councillors are reminded to ensure they keep their register of interests up to date.

If you have any questions, please contact the Town Clerk.

The Council has a duty to consider the following matters in the exercise of any of its functions: Equalities, Crime and Disorder, Health and Safety and Human Rights. Anyone wishing to attend any meetings of the Town Council who need ground floor access to do so, should inform the Clerk three days in advance of the meeting so that arrangements can be put into place.

Summary Income & Expenditure by Budget Heading 31/03/2021

Month No: 12

Year End Budget Report 2020-21

		Actual Last Year	Actual Year To Date	Current Annual Bud	Variance Annual Total	Committed Expenditure	Funds Available
Finance							
120 Finance	Income	301,839	314,189	314,337	148		
	Expenditure	61,103	44,957	68,410	23,453		23,453
	Net Income over Expenditure	<u>240,736</u>	<u>269,232</u>	<u>245,927</u>	<u>(23,305)</u>		
	plus Transfer from EMR	7,404	-6,446				
	Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	<u>248,140</u>	<u>262,786</u>				
130 Mayor's Charity	Income	4,048	1,130	0	(1,130)		
	Expenditure	5,280	4,000	0	(4,000)		(4,000)
	Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	<u>(1,232)</u>	<u>(2,870)</u>				
	Finance Income	305,888	315,319	314,337	(982)		
	Expenditure	66,383	48,957	68,410	19,453	0	19,453
	Net Income over Expenditure	<u>239,505</u>	<u>266,362</u>				
	plus Transfer from EMR	7,404	-6,446				
	Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	<u>246,909</u>	<u>259,916</u>				
Building & Moorings							
200 Moorings	Income	4,442	4,461	5,500	1,039		
	Expenditure	3,965	15,105	10,600	(4,505)	650	(5,155)
	Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	<u>477</u>	<u>(10,644)</u>				
210 Museum	Income	0	18,750	0	(18,750)		
	Expenditure	214	17,108	21,000	3,892		3,892
	Net Income over Expenditure	<u>(214)</u>	<u>1,642</u>	<u>(21,000)</u>	<u>(22,642)</u>		
	plus Transfer from EMR	0	-3,919				
	Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	<u>(214)</u>	<u>(21,027)</u>				
220 Town Hall	Income	14,772	3,743	18,100	14,357		
	Expenditure	29,183	14,044	38,100	24,056	800	23,256
	Net Income over Expenditure	<u>(14,411)</u>	<u>(10,301)</u>	<u>(20,000)</u>	<u>(9,699)</u>		
	plus Transfer from EMR	0	-5,831				
	Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	<u>(14,411)</u>	<u>(16,132)</u>				
230 War Memorial	Income	700	0	300	300		
	Expenditure	650	0	1,000	1,000		1,000
	Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	<u>50</u>	<u>0</u>				
	Building & Moorings Income	19,914	26,955	23,900	(3,055)		
	Expenditure	34,013	46,257	70,700	24,443	1,450	22,993
	Net Income over Expenditure	<u>(14,099)</u>	<u>(19,303)</u>				
	plus Transfer from EMR	0	-9,750				
	less Transfer to EMR	0	18,750				

Summary Income & Expenditure by Budget Heading 31/03/2021

Month No: 12

Year End Budget Report 2020-21

		Actual Last Year	Actual Year To Date	Current Annual Bud	Variance Annual Total	Committed Expenditure	Funds Available
	Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	(14,099)	(47,803)				
Environment & Amenities							
300	Play Parks						
	Income	40,000	500	0	(500)		
	Expenditure	82,199	8,554	16,000	7,446		7,446
	Net Income over Expenditure	<u>(42,199)</u>	<u>(8,054)</u>	<u>(16,000)</u>	<u>(7,946)</u>		
	plus Transfer from EMR	34,316	-7,110				
	Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	<u>(7,883)</u>	<u>(15,164)</u>				
310	Spring Gardens						
	Income	2,386	0	0	0		
	Expenditure	9,144	6,644	10,650	4,006		4,006
	Net Income over Expenditure	<u>(6,758)</u>	<u>(6,644)</u>	<u>(10,650)</u>	<u>(4,006)</u>		
	plus Transfer from EMR	970	-3,200				
	Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	<u>(5,788)</u>	<u>(9,844)</u>				
320	Gloucester Road						
	Income	1,267	0	0	0		
	Expenditure	7,126	4,837	5,000	163		163
	Net Income over Expenditure	<u>(5,859)</u>	<u>(4,837)</u>	<u>(5,000)</u>	<u>(163)</u>		
	plus Transfer from EMR	1,219	0				
	Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	<u>(4,640)</u>	<u>(4,837)</u>				
330	Cleaning & Consumables						
	Expenditure	2,388	3,329	5,200	1,871		1,871
340	Outside Spaces						
	Expenditure	15,387	17,958	32,095	14,137	2,669	11,468
	plus Transfer from EMR	5,885	-8,155				
	Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	<u>(9,502)</u>	<u>(26,113)</u>				
700	Memorial Benches						
	Income	0	803	0	(803)		
	Expenditure	70	1,003	0	(1,003)		(1,003)
	Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	<u>(70)</u>	<u>(200)</u>				
	Environment & Amenities Income	43,653	1,303	0	(1,303)		
	Expenditure	116,314	42,325	68,945	26,620	2,669	23,952
	Net Income over Expenditure	<u>(72,661)</u>	<u>(41,022)</u>				
	plus Transfer from EMR	42,390	-18,465				
	Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	<u>(30,271)</u>	<u>(59,487)</u>				
Planning							
400	Planning						
	Expenditure	158	0	2,500	2,500		2,500
	Planning Income	0	0	0	0		
	Expenditure	158	0	2,500	2,500	0	2,500
	Net Income over Expenditure	<u>(158)</u>	<u>0</u>				
	plus Transfer from EMR	0	0				

Summary Income & Expenditure by Budget Heading 31/03/2021

Month No: 12

Year End Budget Report 2020-21

	Actual Last Year	Actual Year To Date	Current Annual Bud	Variance Annual Total	Committed Expenditure	Funds Available
Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	(158)	0				
Severn Ham						
500 Severn Ham						
Income	58,211	40,981	37,328	(3,653)		
Expenditure	11,271	11,448	27,869	16,421	3,720	12,701
Net Income over Expenditure	<u>46,940</u>	<u>29,534</u>	<u>9,459</u>	<u>(20,075)</u>		
plus Transfer from EMR	0	-7,675				
Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	<u>46,940</u>	<u>21,859</u>				
Severn Ham Income	58,211	40,981	37,328	(3,653)		
Expenditure	11,271	11,448	27,869	16,421	3,720	12,701
Net Income over Expenditure	46,940	29,534				
plus Transfer from EMR	0	-7,675				
Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	46,940	21,859				
Watson Hall						
600 Watson Hall						
Income	73,636	36,219	72,135	35,916		
Expenditure	68,003	42,926	61,700	18,774	2,069	16,705
Net Income over Expenditure	<u>5,633</u>	<u>(6,706)</u>	<u>10,435</u>	<u>17,141</u>		
plus Transfer from EMR	0	-12,134				
Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	<u>5,633</u>	<u>(18,840)</u>				
Watson Hall Income	73,636	36,219	72,135	35,916		
Expenditure	68,003	42,926	61,700	18,774	2,069	16,705
Net Income over Expenditure	5,633	(6,706)				
plus Transfer from EMR	0	-12,134				
Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	5,633	(18,840)				
Staffing						
110 Staffing						
Income	0	4,320	0	(4,320)		
Expenditure	170,570	206,972	192,576	(14,396)		(14,396)
Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	<u>(170,570)</u>	<u>(202,651)</u>				
Staffing Income	0	4,320	0	(4,320)		
Expenditure	170,570	206,972	192,576	(14,396)	0	(14,396)
Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	(170,570)	(202,651)				

Summary Income & Expenditure by Budget Heading 31/03/2021

Month No: 12

Year End Budget Report 2020-21

	Actual Last Year	Actual Year To Date	Current Annual Bud	Variance Annual Total	Committed Expenditure	Funds Available
Grand Totals:- Income	501,303	425,097	447,700	22,603		
Expenditure	466,713	398,883	492,700	93,817	9,908	83,908
Net Income over Expenditure	<u>34,590</u>	<u>26,213</u>	<u>(45,000)</u>	<u>(71,213)</u>		
plus Transfer from EMR	49,794	-54,470				
less Transfer to EMR	0	18,750				
Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	<u>84,384</u>	<u>(47,007)</u>				

Account	Opening Balance	Net Transfers	Closing Balance
320 EMR B&M Museum Maintenance	7,321.00	3,919.00	11,240.00
321 EMR B&M Town Hall Gardens	250.00		250.00
322 EMR B&M Moorings Prior's Court	19,894.23		19,894.23
323 (Not In Use)	0.00		0.00
324 EMR E&A Noticeboards	1,500.00	-53.00	1,447.00
325 EMR E&A Playground Projects	0.00	7,110.00	7,110.00
326 EMR E&A Youth	2,615.00	4,000.00	6,615.00
327 EMR Fin Asset Management Proj	3,821.00		3,821.00
328 EMR B&M War Memorial *	5,557.73		5,557.73
329 EMR SH Severn Ham	6,140.00		6,140.00
330 EMR E&A CCTV	3,625.00	-551.00	3,074.00
331 EMR E&A Tree Maintenance	2,520.00	2,630.00	5,150.00
332 EMR E&A Street Furniture	3,900.00	129.00	4,029.00
333 EMR E&A Toilet Block Project	3,194.00	3,200.00	6,394.00
334 EMR E&A Gloucester Road Maint.	0.00		0.00
335 EMR E&A Bus Shelters	0.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
336 EMR Fin Regalia	0.00		0.00
337 EMR Fin Website	2,160.00		2,160.00
338 EMR Fin Professional	1,942.00	-1,942.00	0.00
339 EMR Fin Legal	0.00		0.00
340 EMR Fin Elections	2,000.00	1,000.00	3,000.00
341 EMR Fin Tourism & Marketing	1,474.00		1,474.00
342 EMR Fin Newsletter	500.00		500.00
343 EMR SH Weeding	2,000.00	1,000.00	3,000.00
344 EMR SH Severn Ham Tree Maint	5,000.00	3,000.00	8,000.00
345 EMR SH Hay Sowing Project	5,000.00	3,675.00	8,675.00
346 EMR SH Carver Knowles	2,050.00		2,050.00
347 EMR Pla Comm. & Display	2,500.00		2,500.00
348 EMR Pla Outreach Sessions	342.00		342.00
349 EMR B&M Moorings Projects	4,263.00		4,263.00
350 EMR B&M Watson Hall Lease *	20,000.00		20,000.00
351 EMR B&M Moorings St Mary's Lan	2,433.00		2,433.00
352 EMR Fin Insurance	0.00	1,556.00	1,556.00
353 EMR Fin Shop Windows Project	0.00	3,890.00	3,890.00
354 EMR B&M TH Maintenance	0.00	5,831.00	5,831.00
355 EMR B&M WH Projects	0.00	10,515.00	10,515.00
356 EMR B&M WH Bar Equipment	0.00	1,619.00	1,619.00
357 EMR B&M Museum Roof Project	0.00	18,750.00	18,750.00
	<u>112,001.96</u>	<u>71,278.00</u>	<u>183,279.96</u>

Bank Reconciliation Statement as at 31/03/2021
for Cashbook 1 - Lloyds - Business Account

<u>Bank Statement Account Name (s)</u>	<u>Statement Date</u>	<u>Page No</u>	<u>Balances</u>
Lloyds Bank Current A/c	31/03/2021		219,324.80
			<hr/> 219,324.80
<u>Unpresented Cheques (Minus)</u>		<u>Amount</u>	
		0.00	
			<hr/> 0.00
			219,324.80
<u>Receipts not Banked/Cleared (Plus)</u>			
16/02/2021 002424		-48.00	
11/03/2021 002425		-23.76	
			<hr/> -71.76
			219,253.04
		Balance per Cash Book is :-	219,253.04
		Difference is :-	0.00

Bank Reconciliation Statement as at 31/03/2021
for Cashbook 4 - Lloyds - 32 Day Notice A/C

<u>Bank Statement Account Name (s)</u>	<u>Statement Date</u>	<u>Page No</u>	<u>Balances</u>
Lloyds Bank Savings A/c	31/03/2021	40	112,076.88
			<hr/> 112,076.88
<u>Unpresented Cheques (Minus)</u>		<u>Amount</u>	
		0.00	
			<hr/> 0.00
			112,076.88
<u>Receipts not Banked/Cleared (Plus)</u>			
		0.00	
			<hr/> 0.00
			112,076.88
		Balance per Cash Book is :-	112,076.88
		Difference is :-	0.00

<u>Bank Statement Account Name (s)</u>	<u>Statement Date</u>	<u>Page No</u>	<u>Balances</u>
Mayor's Charity	31/03/2021	1	1,361.76
			<hr/> 1,361.76
<u>Unpresented Cheques (Minus)</u>		<u>Amount</u>	
		0.00	
			<hr/> 0.00
			1,361.76
<u>Receipts not Banked/Cleared (Plus)</u>			
		0.00	
			<hr/> 0.00
			1,361.76
		Balance per Cash Book is :-	1,361.76
		Difference is :-	0.00

Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2020/21

We acknowledge as the members of:

TEWKESBURY TOWN COUNCIL

our responsibility for ensuring that there is a sound system of internal control, including arrangements for the preparation of the Accounting Statements. We confirm, to the best of our knowledge and belief, with respect to the Accounting Statements for the year ended 31 March 2021, that:

	Agreed			'Yes' means that this authority:
	Yes	No*		
1. We have put in place arrangements for effective financial management during the year, and for the preparation of the accounting statements.	✓			<i>prepared its accounting statements in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations.</i>
2. We maintained an adequate system of internal control including measures designed to prevent and detect fraud and corruption and reviewed its effectiveness.	✓			<i>made proper arrangements and accepted responsibility for safeguarding the public money and resources in its charge.</i>
3. We took all reasonable steps to assure ourselves that there are no matters of actual or potential non-compliance with laws, regulations and Proper Practices that could have a significant financial effect on the ability of this authority to conduct its business or manage its finances.	✓			<i>has only done what it has the legal power to do and has complied with Proper Practices in doing so.</i>
4. We provided proper opportunity during the year for the exercise of electors' rights in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations.	✓			<i>during the year gave all persons interested the opportunity to inspect and ask questions about this authority's accounts.</i>
5. We carried out an assessment of the risks facing this authority and took appropriate steps to manage those risks, including the introduction of internal controls and/or external insurance cover where required.	✓			<i>considered and documented the financial and other risks it faces and dealt with them properly.</i>
6. We maintained throughout the year an adequate and effective system of internal audit of the accounting records and control systems.	✓			<i>arranged for a competent person, independent of the financial controls and procedures, to give an objective view on whether internal controls meet the needs of this smaller authority.</i>
7. We took appropriate action on all matters raised in reports from internal and external audit.	✓			<i>responded to matters brought to its attention by internal and external audit.</i>
8. We considered whether any litigation, liabilities or commitments, events or transactions, occurring either during or after the year-end, have a financial impact on this authority and, where appropriate, have included them in the accounting statements.	✓			<i>disclosed everything it should have about its business activity during the year including events taking place after the year end if relevant.</i>
9. (For local councils only) Trust funds including charitable. In our capacity as the sole managing trustee we discharged our accountability responsibilities for the fund(s)/assets, including financial reporting and, if required, independent examination or audit.	Yes	No	N/A	<i>has met all of its responsibilities where, as a body corporate, it is a sole managing trustee of a local trust or trusts.</i>
	✓			

*Please provide explanations to the external auditor on a separate sheet for each 'No' response and describe how the authority will address the weaknesses identified. These sheets must be published with the Annual Governance Statement.

This Annual Governance Statement was approved at a meeting of the authority on:

21/06/2021

and recorded as minute reference:

Signed by the Chairman and Clerk of the meeting where approval was given:

Chairman

Clerk

www.tewkeshurytowncouncil.gov.uk

15/06/2021

Tewkesbury Town Council

13:07

Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2021

31st March 2020

31st March 2021

31st March 2020		31st March 2021
	Current Assets	
661	Sales	1,436
4,721	VAT Control A/c	5,542
1,077	Prepayments	0
2,300	Stock	1,215
213,476	Current Bank A/c	219,253
4,232	Lloyds Bank - Mayor's Charity	1,362
38	Petty Cash	117
0	Bar Petty Cash	15
73,124	Lloyds Bank - Savings A/c	112,077
800	Floats	800
0	Wages Control	816
<u>300,428</u>		<u>342,632</u>
300,428	Total Assets	342,632
	Current Liabilities	
0	Creditors	16,804
108	Other Creditors	0
530	Accruals	0
84	Receipts in Advance	1,605
5,342	Uncleared Electronic Payments	0
0	Tax/NI Control	1,699
0	Pension Control	2,043
1,217	Holding Deposits	1,120
<u>7,280</u>		<u>23,271</u>
293,148	Total Assets Less Current Liabilities	319,361
	Represented By	
181,146	General Reserves	136,081
112,002	Earmarked Reserves	183,280
<u>293,148</u>		<u>319,361</u>

15/06/2021

Tewkesbury Town Council

13:07

Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2021

31st March 2020

31st March 2021

The above statement represents fairly the financial position of the authority as at 31st March 2021 and reflects its Income and Expenditure during the year.

Signed :

Chairman

Date : _____

Signed :

Responsible

Financial

Date : _____

Tewkesbury Town Council

Income and Expenditure Account for Year Ended 31st March 2021

31st March 2020		31st March 2021
	Operating Income	
0	Staffing	4,320
301,839	Finance	314,189
4,048	Mayor's Charity	1,130
4,442	Moorings	4,461
0	Museum	18,750
14,772	Town Hall	3,743
700	War Memorial	0
40,000	Play Parks	500
2,386	Spring Gardens	0
1,267	Gloucester Road	0
58,211	Severn Ham	40,981
73,636	Watson Hall	36,219
0	Memorial Benches	803
<u>501,303</u>	Total Income	<u>425,097</u>
	Running Costs	
170,570	Staffing	206,972
61,103	Finance	44,957
5,280	Mayor's Charity	4,000
3,965	Moorings	15,105
214	Museum	17,108
29,183	Town Hall	14,044
650	War Memorial	0
82,199	Play Parks	8,554
9,144	Spring Gardens	6,644
7,126	Gloucester Road	4,837
2,388	Cleaning & Consumables	3,329
15,387	Outside Spaces	17,958
158	Planning	0
11,271	Severn Ham	11,448
68,003	Watson Hall	42,926
70	Memorial Benches	1,003
<u>466,713</u>	Total Expenditure	<u>398,883</u>
	General Fund Analysis	
141,414	Opening Balance	181,146
501,303	Plus : Income for Year	425,097
<u>642,717</u>		<u>606,243</u>
466,713	Less : Expenditure for Year	398,883
<u>176,004</u>		<u>207,359</u>
0	Transfers TO / FROM Reserves	71,278
<u>176,004</u>	Closing Balance	<u>136,081</u>

Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2020/21 for

TEWKESBURY TOWN COUNCIL

	Year ending		Notes and guidance
	31 March 2020 £	31 March 2021 £	
1. Balances brought forward	258,558	293,148	<i>Total balances and reserves at the beginning of the year as recorded in the financial records. Value must agree to Box 7 of previous year.</i>
2. (+) Precept or Rates and Levies	301,288	314,087	<i>Total amount of precept (or for IDBs rates and levies) received or receivable in the year. Exclude any grants received.</i>
3. (+) Total other receipts	200,015	111,010	<i>Total income or receipts as recorded in the cashbook less the precept or rates/levies received (line 2). Include any grants received.</i>
4. (-) Staff costs	128,812	150,542	<i>Total expenditure or payments made to and on behalf of all employees. Include gross salaries and wages, employers NI contributions, employers pension contributions, gratuities and severance payments.</i>
5. (-) Loan interest/capital repayments	0	0	<i>Total expenditure or payments of capital and interest made during the year on the authority's borrowings (if any).</i>
6. (-) All other payments	337,901	248,342	<i>Total expenditure or payments as recorded in the cashbook less staff costs (line 4) and loan interest/capital repayments (line 5).</i>
7. (=) Balances carried forward	293,148	319,361	<i>Total balances and reserves at the end of the year. Must equal (1+2+3) - (4+5+6).</i>
8. Total value of cash and short term investments	291,670	333,623	<i>The sum of all current and deposit bank accounts, cash holdings and short term investments held as at 31 March – To agree with bank reconciliation.</i>
9. Total fixed assets plus long term investments and assets	6,077,361	6,094,278	<i>The value of all the property the authority owns – it is made up of all its fixed assets and long term investments as at 31 March.</i>
10. Total borrowings	0	0	<i>The outstanding capital balance as at 31 March of all loans from third parties (including PWLB).</i>
11. (For Local Councils Only) Disclosure note re Trust funds (including charitable)	Yes	No	<i>The Council, as a body corporate, acts as sole trustee for and is responsible for managing Trust funds or assets. N.B. The figures in the accounting statements above do not include any Trust transactions.</i>
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

I certify that for the year ended 31 March 2021 the Accounting Statements in this Annual Governance and Accountability Return have been prepared on either a receipts and payments or income and expenditure basis following the guidance in Governance and Accountability for Smaller Authorities – a Practitioners' Guide to Proper Practices and present fairly the financial position of this authority.

Signed by Responsible Financial Officer before being presented to the authority for approval

Date

21/06/2021

I confirm that these Accounting Statements were approved by this authority on this date:

21/06/2021

as recorded in minute reference:

Signed by Chairman of the meeting where the Accounting Statements were approved

To: Neighbouring Parish Councils



6th April 2021

Dear Councillors

Tewkesbury Garden Town

As you are no doubt aware Tewkesbury Borough Council (TBC) have obtained support from central government for a Garden Town east of the M5 located largely within the Parishes of Northway and Ashchurch, but also spreading into the neighbouring District of Wychavon. This Garden Town is over 10,000 new homes and approx. 100 hectares of employment land with funding from central government to enable proposals to be developed in more detail.

The scale of these proposals will effectively double the size of the population of Tewkesbury and the surrounding area thereby destroying the character and setting of the local area, which will be felt beyond the development area including your parish, hence why we consider it necessary to contact you as well.

An example is the recent decision by Tewkesbury Borough Council to grant planning permission for Ashchurch Bridge or more accurately the “bridge to nowhere” over the railway line. It is an illustration of how they are simply ignoring the wishes of the local community and all neighbouring parish councils who will now have to live with the impact of traffic congestion and potentially an increase in flooding.

Similar decisions on the shape of the Garden Town itself will also no doubt suffer the same consequences as the Borough Council try to force through their preferences. Ashchurch Rural and Northway Parish Councils are doing what they can to influence the design but ultimately, we have no power to do so despite the fine words.

To date, as with all significant aspects of the Garden Town, the information is shrouded in secrecy, meaning that local parishes have not been consulted. Consequently, Ashchurch Rural Parish Council are joining with Bredon Parish Council and Northway Parish Council to form Gloucestershire & Worcestershire Parish Council Association. The purpose is to address cross border issues which affect all members and are inviting all neighbouring Parish Councils including local Community Groups to join with us. Broadly we envisage that the objections of the GWPCA would be as follows: -

- Share relevant and useful information between Parish Councils & Community Groups.
- Collaborate to resolve issues of mutual concern under the umbrella of a recognised organisation.
- Provide advice and support to members.
- Ensure that the Association is consulted on issues which have the ability to affect member councils & communities.
- Provide a platform for the shared views of councils & communities to be expressed and recognised at the highest level as well as reaching a wider audience.

This way we can use our collective strength to ensure that the Garden Town proposals reflect the views and opinions of the existing residents that we represent and to mitigate any detrimental effects to our communities. It is our view from our interactions with the Borough Council to date that the views of the local community are ignored.

A number of other Parish Councils have already advised they will join with us and we want to invite all neighbouring PC's and action groups to join with us as well so that we can maximise our collective strength. Once complete it will be for the members to collectively agree the overall structure, finalise the objections and to determine the Terms of Reference.

We recognise that some Parish Councils and Community Groups will want to support the Association but for varying reason are not able to play an active part. Others are able to do so, and we suggest that there is a working group of these active members to represent the Association to determine options for a way forward. It is open to each Parish Council/Community Group to decide how they wish to participate.

Under the circumstance we would appreciate your views, indicating whether you wish to be part of this Association and if you want to play an active part.

If you wish to discuss the invitation in more detail, please contact us either by mail or telephone – our contact details are show below.

Yours faithfully

John Hargreaves, Chairman – Ashchurch Rural Parish Council

Steve Ward, Chairman – Northway Parish Council

Nick Bradley, Chairman – Bredon Parish Council