

Borough Councillor Report July 2022

❖ Tewkesbury Borough Council is extending its energy rebate scheme to help more households with the increasing costs of their energy bills.

The council is now inviting applications for its discretionary energy rebate scheme from low-income households in council tax bands E-H who were not eligible for the core energy rebate scheme.

The government funding for this discretionary scheme is limited, so all applications will be carefully assessed and prioritised. Successful applicants will receive their rebate - up to £150 per household - in the form of a one-off payment.

The following low-income households have been identified as eligible for the discretionary scheme and will receive the payment directly into their bank accounts automatically – provided the council already holds up-to-date bank account details. These households will receive a letter informing them of this automatic payment.

Those in bands E-H in receipt of Council Tax Reduction on 1 April 2022.

Those in bands F-H who are eligible for Disabled Band Reduction on 1 April 2022.

Those that include people considered to be particularly affected by increased energy costs, for example the severely mentally impaired, care leavers or elderly dependent relatives.

Applications from all other households should be submitted by 31 July.

To apply, visit Council tax energy rebate — Tewkesbury Borough Council. If you require any assistance completing the application form, call [01684 272111](tel:01684272111).

❖ Following a discussion at Planning Committee in June it became clear there is no cast iron forward plan to address the local need for secondary education. I asked for a reassurance this would be taken up with GCC and was assured it would be. I followed this up with an email to Sandra Ford who has said she will start a dialogue with the relevant body.

❖ I continue to liaise with GCC, Atkins, concerned residents and our County Councillor regarding the cycle route through Churchdown, in particular identified pinch points in the Dancey Rd area. I have been given a new point of contact at GCC so I am hoping this proves to be more beneficial than the last.

❖ I continue to receive complaints about the ongoing development at Pirton Fields mainly concerns about access along Parkside Drive and Dancey Rd and complaints about out of hours working. Fortunately the Ashbury site manager is really helpful and, where it is within his remit, he has found an answer for questions or a solution to the problems. I had a walkabout on the new estate last week and it is surprising how many houses are already occupied. I think it is in the region of approximately 160 which, in itself, is a large addition to Churchdown with a lot more to come. It is easy to see how the National Census identified

Tewkesbury as being one of the fastest growing boroughs in the country, way exceeding the national average.

❖ The Speed Watch group now has enough volunteers to form a sustainable group. Hopefully I will be able to arrange a mutually convenient date with both the police trainer and the volunteers.

❖ The Repair Café, which I have been involved in setting up, is going from strength to strength with a variety of repairers and an even wider range of items to be repaired. We are in the process of considering how we see it growing as we have to commit to booking a space for the whole of 2023. A Parish Councillor has volunteered which is really appreciated. If anyone else is interested in being a repairer or a general volunteer all are more than welcome.

Cllr Mary Jordan

St.John's Ward, Churchdown