

Wheelie bins on way to help boost recycling

Wheelie bins will be introduced in Tenbury Wells for the first time when a scheme to collect glass at the kerbside for recycling begins.

The new bins could be brought to the town as early as April next year if a bid for a £1.6 million Government grant is successful. Officials at Malvern Hills District Council expect to find out whether they have secured the cash in the next two weeks.

Under the plans people will continue to

see their black refuse sacks collected weekly. All glass, paper and plastic for recycling will be put in the new wheelie bins which will be delivered to almost every town property.

Council chiefs said the move had been taken to meet a European Union requirement for local authorities to be collecting glass, paper and plastics for recycling at the kerbside by 2015. It is also hoped the move will increase the amount of materials recycled by residents across the wider Malvern

Hills district. People in Tenbury currently put waste in black sacks and recycling materials in cherry sacks. But they cannot put glass out for recycling due to problems separating different materials at the recycling plant used by MHDC in Worcester.

Residents have never had wheelie bins for waste or recycling before.

But the plan has received a mixed reaction, with some people claiming on the Tenbury Blog website that the bins could be an

'eyesore'. Councillor Bronwen Behan, MHDC portfolio holder for environmental control, said: "We already carry out weekly waste collections and if our bid for grant funding is successful it would mean we would be able to retain this for a further five years."

"If we get the grant funding we would look to roll this out as soon as possible, possibly by the end of the current financial year."

Efficiency work will see hundreds of bulbs replaced in Telford

Delays warning over streetlights changes

By Judith Sanders

Motorists are being warned of delays this month as work begins to make Telford's streetlights more efficient.

Borough chiefs hope the work to change hundreds of lights will ultimately save money. The project will be carried out along four roads in the area. Telford & Wrekin Council warned drivers that there would be lane closures on the A442 while the change is carried out.

It is hoped improvements in energy efficiency will bring cost savings to the council and ultimately residents.

Work will be carried out along the A442 from Trench Lock to the Castlefields Roundabout, on the A4169 Castlefields Roundabout to Jiggers Roundabout, on the A5223 from Jiggers Roundabout to Shawbirch roundabout and on the A442 from Shawbirch Roundabout to Trench Lock.

Completed

Work is due to start on October 22, and should take a maximum of two weeks.

The work on the dual carriageway section of the A442 is aimed to be completed in the first three days.

There will be lane closures during off peak periods between 9.30am and 4pm.

Councillor Shaun Davies, council cabinet member for neighbourhood services and co-operative council, said: "Telford & Wrekin Council apologises for any inconvenience caused to drivers and their passengers while this work is carried out."

"We know people will understand that this is part of our commitment to reduce our carbon footprint and bring cost savings wherever we can."

"This work is the first phase of our Street Lighting Invest to Save programme, where high energy or inefficient equipment is to be upgraded."

"This phase of work will overcome the problems that we have been experiencing with 'day burning' lights on our main routes."

Drugs meeting

The Drugs Anonymous Movement will meet on November 1, at Portico House, Vineyard Road in Wellington at 7.30pm. There will be no meeting in October. For more contact 07817 981772.

Car firm shifts up a gear to aid the needy

Staff at a Telford car dealership have been going the extra mile for the local community by raising £800 for the annual Children in Need appeal, which is run by the BBC.

Andy Guy, marketing co-ordinator, at Telford Motors based in Holyhead Road, completed a sponsored 30 mile up-hill trek as part of the fundraising.

He walked from Craven Arms Railway Station to the Crown Inn, in Oakengates, Telford, to raise money.

The dealership also organised a quiz at local pub, the Lion Inn, while staff members rallied round to find items to sell at a car boot sale, raising a further £234.

Mr Guy said: "Completing the 30-mile challenge was hard work as parts of Wenlock Edge were still waterlogged, but I really enjoyed it."

"The sponsored walk, quiz and car boot sale is just the start of our fundraising efforts and we can't wait to raise even more money for BBC Children in Need to help make a difference in our local community."

"We are getting so close to our target of raising £1,000 for the charity which is something the full team will be very proud of."

Peugeot UK is an official charity partner of Children in Need, which helps disadvantaged children across the country.

Donations can be made online at www.justgiving.com/Andy-Guy2

Employees raise £200 for charity

A group of employees from a company based near Ellesmere have raised almost £200 for charity.

Lynda Walford, HR manager at ABP UK Ellesmere and John Howell, host catering manager, took part in a bake-off for charity as part of Macmillan Cancer Support's World's Biggest Coffee Morning.

The pair donned their aprons on Friday.

And they managed to collect £183.29 by selling coffee and treats on to the workforce.

Mrs Walford said: "The atmosphere was great and the support from the workforce was excellent."

Farming Talk with MARTIN JONES



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UK still behind Europe as far as woodland

The latest national statistics on forestry produced by the Forestry Commission show that the woodland area in the United Kingdom in 2012 is 3.1 million hectares, and 1.4 million hectares (44 per cent) of woodland is independently certified as sustainably managed.

A total of 13,000 hectares of new woodland was created in the UK in 2011-12; 10.3 million green tonnes of UK roundwood (softwood and hardwood) were delivered to primary wood processors and others in 2011, representing a three per cent increase from the previous year; wood products imported into the UK in 2011 were valued at £6.8 billion, and included 4.9 million cubic metres of sawnwood, 2.8 million cubic metres of wood-based panels, and 6.9 million tonnes of paper.

A total of 58 projects were registered under the Woodland Carbon Code at June 30 this year, covering an area of 2,800 hectares of woodland and projected to sequester 1.3 million tonnes of carbon dioxide.

In 2011, 48 per cent of UK woodland was assessed as being accessible to the public, and about two-thirds of the UK population had visited woodland in the past few years. The Annual Business Survey reported average employment in 2010 of 14,000 people in forestry and 29,000 in primary wood processing.

I would add to this. Although woodland cover was at an all-time low after the two world wars (five per cent) and is now higher (approximately 13 per cent), the UK is still one of the least wooded areas in Europe (EU average 37 per cent) and could be negatively impacted in the future by a number of drivers including climate change, pests (grey squirrel and deer), diseases such as Phytophthora ramorum, Chalara fraxinea etc. and, not least, developmental pressure causing forest fragmentation.

Also, the UK imports 80 per cent of the timber it uses annually and yet harvests significantly less timber than the annual increment, especially of hardwoods.

Currently, according to Forestry Commission 2011 data, there are 600,000 hectares (1.5 million acres) of unmanaged woodland in England alone.

The challenge of increasing the management in woods should not be underestimated. Lack of management in the past has been due to the condition of these woods and their fragmented nature, poor access, lack of skills and a lack of owners' understanding of silviculture and woodland management.

However, in every challenge, there lies an opportunity. Firstly, though we need to raise the political and economic profile of our forests and recognise them as a key player in the UK land-based economy offering many social, environmental and economic benefits, not least of which is the potential of creating an additional 7,300 green jobs as suggested in the recent Confor report published in June.

Martin B Jones is a forestry consultant for Heartwoods and managing director of The Woodland Stewardship Company Ltd, based in Shrewsbury

Jubilee street party nets £500 to help air medics

Residents in a Shropshire village have gathered together to help raise hundreds of pounds for the Midlands Air Ambulance.

Villagers in Boningale gathered in St Chad's Church to present a cheque for £500 to the charity.

In June, villagers organised a jubilee street party to raise the money.

Village stalwart Stan Reynolds, who has lived in the village for more than 80 years, and Councillor Derek Harris presented the cheque to Maria Jones, from Midlands Air Ambulance.

Pub staff put on fundraiser



Jack James, left, and Joe Chadwick take part in the fundraiser

Drive to raise money for children's hospital

Staff from a Newport pub laced up their running shoes to raise money for Great Ormond Street Hospital.

The team from The Three Fishes Beefeater, in Stafford Road, used treadmills and exercise bikes to collectively run and cycle 151 miles on Monday - the distance from the pub to the children's hospital.

Assistant manager Laura Bishop said the eatery regularly held fundraising events for the hospital. She said: "The Beefeater group is owned by Whitbread who sponsor Great Ormond Street Hospital."

"Whenever we get the chance we try and put on a fundraiser to raise some money. This time we ran and cycled the distance

Report by Joseph Masi
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from the pub to the hospital. It turned into quite a competition. We've got quite a few lads who go to the gym and they all started to compete to see who could do 10 miles the quickest.

"I did half a mile and was exhausted. It's surprising how tough it is - 151 miles is a very long way."

Ms Bishop added collection buckets will be in the pub throughout the week. She said: "Our minimum target is £300. We got the £250 mark quite quickly and we have now put collection buckets around the pub."

Produce went like hot cakes

Members of Highley WI raised £120 by selling cakes on Friday morning.

All proceeds were sent to Macmillan Nurses as part of the charity's nationwide coffee morning.

Press secretary, Gwenth Burton, said: "Many thanks to all those who supported us by buying cakes from our stall in Highley village."

Top of the Pops theatre show axed

A show due to be performed at Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre has been cancelled.

Producers Flying Entertainment have announced that the upcoming tour of Top Of The Pops Live has now been called off.

They blamed 'disappointing' demand for the decision to cancel the show. It was due to be performed at the Grand Theatre, in Lichfield Street, in March next year.

Derek Nicol, producer and joint managing director, said: "Ticket sales have so far been disappointing and we have taken the difficult decision to cancel the tour."

"We apologise for any inconvenience caused and wish to reassure anyone who has purchased a ticket that they can obtain a full refund from the point of purchase."

Grand Theatre bosses say they are frustrated by the decision as Top Of

The Pops Live only went on sale to the public on September 21.

Initial sales had generated more than £3,000 worth of revenue, suggesting it would have been popular with Wolverhampton theatre goers.

The Grand Theatre Box Office will be issuing a full refund to everyone who has already booked for Top Of The Pops Live.

For more information call the Box Office on (01902) 429212.

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