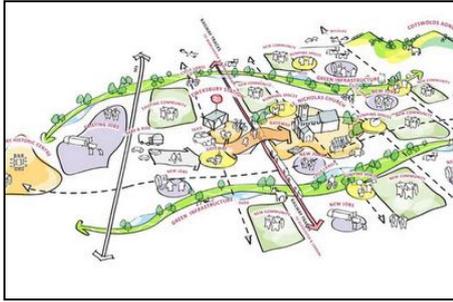


*There seems to be a lot going on in the village at the moment so we thought we would make sure you have all the news in one place.*



## 'BRIDGE TO NOWHERE'

Some of you may know that Tewksbury Borough Council have received £8 million funding towards building a bridge as part of a new 'Garden Town' with initially approx 800 houses to be built and with further development scheduled. Bredon Parish Council has produced a response to this, see P2. We feel that much of what they have outlined would affect us too. We urge you to visit the website and read the planning documents, website addresses listed below. If you agree with

Bredon PC's comments, they have suggested you email or write to TBC planning department. The deadline is 10th November.

<https://www.tewkesburygardentown.co.uk/>



## POPPY APPEAL 2020 ASHTON UNDER HILL & GRAFTON

See details on P3



Halloween 2020 might be a bit different this year and trick or treating as we know it will be off the cards. But we can still have loads of spooky fun!

This Halloween let's all join together to create The Big Neighbourhood Pumpkin Trail! Stick a pumpkin in your window or outside your home - a real one, plastic, painted....whatever you like! Together we can create one giant pumpkin trail in our local areas and children can see how many they can spot over Halloween weekend!

Join in at  
**The Big Neighbourhood Pumpkin Trail!**  
 hosted by  
**ARTventurers**  
Spreads, stretch, paint, colour, sing, dance!

**Pumpkin Trail** This looks like a lovely idea for the village. We would be very happy to publish a gallery on facebook and the website if there are pumpkin masterpieces for display!

There are lots of other halloween related activities, colouring templates etc on the event organisers facebook page and website.

Click here: [Art Adventurers](#)



**Village Roadworks** The contractors have finally collected their barriers and other items from the roads just past Willow Close. Good service from the county council, we only told them about this on Wednesday!

**A46** After another unexpected closure last night, the red hatching on the island at the top of the Groaten has been completed. Roadworks due to end tomorrow, 24th, according to our updates. Let's see if this



We still have a few Smartwater packs (anti theft property marking system). Expiry date for use is Feb 2021 (but once applied to items has approx 5yr life). If you are interested, please contact Karen at [ashtonuhillcommunity@gmail.com](mailto:ashtonuhillcommunity@gmail.com)

openreach

**FTTP** FAQs. Thanks to all who have signed up. Please see P4 for more details and FAQs

# BRIDGE TO NOWHERE ASHCHURCH

Tewkesbury Borough Council (TBC) has submitted its own planning application to build new road bridge over the railway just north of Ashchurch. The purpose of the bridge is to unlock land for 826 houses east of the railway, by diverting traffic into Northway. More details of the bridge application can be seen at [tewkesbury.gov.uk](http://tewkesbury.gov.uk) (scroll down to the 'Planning' section and search for Planning Reference Number 20/00896/FUL). You can see Bredon Parish Council's response and other information at [bredonpc.org.uk/bridge](http://bredonpc.org.uk/bridge).

## THE PARISH COUNCIL BELIEVES THERE IS A STRONG CASE FOR REFUSING THE APPLICATION ON THE FOLLOWING GROUNDS:

- **Lack of sequencing.** The scheme is a classic case of putting the cart before the horse. Capacity problems along the trunk road network have not been addressed. Funding for the link roads has not been secured. The new housing has not been allocated under the local plan. Unless and until these things are done, this will be a 'bridge to nowhere.'
- **Negative impacts on the highway network.** The Strategic Highway Network already suffers from severe lack of capacity around Ashchurch, with pinch points along the A46 and at M5 Junction 9. The bridge does not add capacity where it is needed. Traffic from the new housing will make existing congestion significantly worse, increasing delays for commuters, harming local businesses and reducing road safety.
- **Poor use of public funds.** The scheme will cost an estimated £8m for the first phase. A similar sum will be needed to complete the bridge. Far greater sums will be needed for the linking roads. At best, these funds will help to unlock a relatively small amount of housing. These funds would be much better spent on upgrades to the A46.
- **Harm to the Cotswolds AONB.** The proposed bridge is only 1.6 miles from the boundary of the AONB and clearly falls within its setting. It is overlooked by Bredon Hill, a well-known beauty spot and visitor destination within the AONB. The new bridge will be 11m high (the height of 3 double decker buses) and 74m wide. It will be an eyesore when seen from the AONB.

### YOUR VOICE MATTERS!

The Parish Council urges you to email or write to Planning Department, Tewkesbury Borough Council, Council Offices, Tewkesbury Road, Tewkesbury, GL20 5TT / email: [developmentapplications@tewkesbury.gov.uk](mailto:developmentapplications@tewkesbury.gov.uk)

Responses should quote the Planning Reference Number '20/00896/FUL'. Please feel free to copy the points above or to make points of your own. Every member of a household may respond if they wish. Comments should reach Tewkesbury Borough Council before 10<sup>th</sup> November 2020 (although later comments may also be considered).



# POPPY APPEAL 2020

## ASHTON UNDER HILL AND GRAFTON

This year's annual Poppy Appeal will be the 99th! Sadly, due to the pandemic there will be no door to door collections but we are still determined to offer a poppy to everyone who would like one. Locally, we will do this in 3 ways:

1. On **Saturday 24th October from 9am to 11am** there will be a manned table **outside Ashton First School** offering poppy goodies.
2. We are very happy to take a poppy to anyone who is unable to collect one personally. Please contact Claire Dickson (07985 263509).
3. Most local shops and pubs together with major supermarkets will also offer poppies.

**Please help the Poppy Appeal.** Your support would be particularly appreciated this year when the Royal British Legion has, like all charities, lost so many traditional fundraising opportunities due to Covid-19.

# THANK YOU!

**OpenReach/Worcestershire Superfast FTTP FAQs**

<p>Thank you to all who have signed up to the OpenReach/Superfast Worcestershire FTTP project. We know you all have a lot of questions so we have created a set of FAQs which we hope will help. Although your response has been terrific, we still need more of you to sign up to ensure this project can go ahead. Details as follows: <a href="http://www.openreach.com/connectmycommunity">www.openreach.com/connectmycommunity</a></p>		<p><b>Other ways to get help</b>                  Superfast Worcestershire FAQs: <a href="http://www.superfastworcestershire.com/#faqs">www.superfastworcestershire.com/#faqs</a>.                  Nikki at <a href="mailto:CllrMcIntyreAUH@outlook.com">CllrMcIntyreAUH@outlook.com</a>                  Rob Stepniewski (Superfast Worcestershire) is a member of the Ashton Noticeboard Facebook page and there to answer your questions. You can also email him at <a href="mailto:rstepniewski@worcestershire.gov.uk">rstepniewski@worcestershire.gov.uk</a></p>	
<p><b>Do we pay VAT?</b></p>	<p>NO. The project is VAT neutral and there will NOT be any VAT charges for residents or businesses.</p>	<p><b>Can we stay with our existing supplier?</b></p>	<p>If you currently have a contract with a broadband supplier, most will allow you to change over the contract to the new FTTP offer. However, you do not need to stay with your existing supplier. All the major suppliers, e.g. BT, Sky, Talktalk, Vodaphone, Zen Internet etc offer FTTP as an option and you can find a deal that best suits your needs.</p>
<p><b>Do we pay any installation costs?</b></p>	<p>NO. The infrastructure build cost is covered.</p>	<p><b>My speeds are fine, why should I change over to fibre?</b></p>	<p>If you live near the main cabinet, you may well get higher speeds during quieter times. However, your connection will still be unreliable with frequent drop outs. Having a fibre connection will stabilise this.</p>
<p><b>How much will our contracts cost?</b></p>	<p>Costs start at £25 for 50mbps. This speed is nearly always more than enough. A family with many devices connected, those that use streaming and gaming software, or businesses that are internet heavy, may benefit from a higher bandwidth.</p>	<p><b>I have had an email from the Government. Is it a scam?</b></p>	<p>The voucher will be sent via email, so check your junk mail. It looks like the sample below. Click on link and follow the instructions on the website. NOTE: there definitely is NO VAT to be paid. This is an error in wording which is being addressed. There is an expiry date on your voucher so don't delay in completing it!</p>

