

Report from Cllr Barbara Jones-Williams

Funding available for Neighbourhood Planning

Funding is now available for parish and town councils to support with neighbourhood planning.

Grants of up to £10,000 are available per council to help cover the costs of preparing a new plan or reviewing an adopted plan.

By making sure this grant scheme is in place, MHDC is ensuring that residents, businesses, and stakeholders can effectively collaborate to shape local land use, making sure that community needs and aspirations are prioritised through a neighbourhood plan.

Parish and town councils can apply for the grant by submitting an expression of interest form online.

Funding to support business growth

Small and medium businesses across the Malvern Hills district can invest, expand, and reach their full potential with the help of a new grant scheme.

The Malvern Hills Growth Fund offers businesses the chance to apply for grants ranging from £500 to £15,000 depending on the project and business type.

Recognising the crucial role business growth plays in our local economy, Malvern Hills District Council has created the fund to promote business growth in the manufacturing, rural, tourism and hospitality sectors.

The aim is to enable businesses to boost productivity, create jobs, and drive long-term economic prosperity.

Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy

Residents are being asked for their views on an ambitious plan to end homelessness and rough sleeping across districts in Worcestershire.

The draft Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2026 to 2031 sets out how Malvern Hills, Redditch and Bromsgrove, Wychavon, and Wyre Forest District Councils will work together over the next five years to prevent homelessness and rough sleeping. Where this cannot be prevented, the councils aim to ensure it is rare, brief and not repeated.

This survey asks for your views on the key priorities, actions, and approaches set out in the draft strategy.

The consultation will run for six weeks from **13 April and will close at midnight on 24 May 2026.**

Foil and tubes now accepted in your household green bin

You will now be able to recycle aluminium foil and plastic tubes as part of your kerbside recycling collection in the Malvern Hills!

From this month, residents can include the following clean and empty items in their green bin:

- Aluminium foil e.g. kitchen foil, foil trays
- Plastic tubes e.g. toothpaste and cosmetic tubes

Collection days will remain the same and bins should be placed out by 7am on the usual day.

Recycling foil and plastic tubes will reduce waste, save energy, and will help create new items such as household items and even car parts!

Planning Team up for another award!

The planning team has been shortlisted for another prestigious award. This time for the Local Authority Planning Team of the Year in the 2026 Planning Awards.

Congratulations and best of luck to the team!

5-year Housing Land Supply

The Inspectors confirmed as part of their findings on the SWDPR that the council has a five-year housing land supply with a 5% buffer on adoption of the plan.

The Planning team are now undertaking monitoring work for the 2025/26 period to provide an updated 5-year housing land supply calculation taking account of completions and changes in the supply of housing.

This data will be published in early summer.

Heroes nominated for Connected Communities Celebration

We received an amazing 128 nominations for our Connected Communities Celebration!

They shine a light on the valuable contributions made by individuals, teams, organisations, and businesses across the district.

We will be contacting the nominees this month. Each one will receive a letter of thanks, a special bin badge or framed certificate.

They can also be entered into a prize draw to win a pair of tickets to a special Community Celebration event, taking place in June.

We are so pleased to see such positivity within our District.

Malvern Hills Winners at Visit Worcestershire Tourism Awards

Congratulations to the Winners and Highly Commended businesses and experiences from across the Malvern Hills district at the Visit Worcestershire Awards.

The awards took place at the Three Counties Showground on Friday 20 March 2026. The winners will go through to the national VisitEngland Awards.

Winners/Highly Commended from the Malvern Hills District

- Astley Vineyard – Winner - Regenerative Tourism Award
- Rowley Farm Holidays – Winner – Self-Catering Accommodation Award
- Hop Pickers Rural Retreats – Highly Commended - Self-Catering Accommodation Award
- National Trust at Croome Highly Commended - Accessible and Inclusive Award
- Bank House Hotel & Spa – Highly Commended – Business Events Venue Award
- Morgan Experience Factory Tour – Highly Commended – Small Visitor Attraction Award
- Morgan Experience Factory Tour – Highly Commended – Experience Award
- National Trust at Croome - Highly Commended – Large Visitor Attraction Award
- The Crown at Martley – Highly Commended - New Tourism Business of the Year Award
- Madresfield Bar & Kitchen – Highly Commended – Taste of Worcestershire