

Report on Divisional Fund and Highways Fund Allocations for 2025/26

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Introduction

As the elected County Councillor for the Hallow Division, I am pleased to provide this summary report on the use of my Divisional Fund (also known as the Worcestershire Councillors' Divisional Fund) and Local Members' Highways Fund during the 2025/26 financial year.

These funds allow local councillors to support small-scale community projects, road safety initiatives, and local improvements that benefit residents across the division. The Hallow Division covers the parishes of Hallow, Grimley, Astley and Dunley, Holt, Shrawley, Wichenford and Kenswick, Broadwas and Cotheridge, and surrounding areas.

The allocations below focus on road safety measures (such as speed roundels and VAS cameras), community infrastructure (bus stop surfacing, playground improvements), and support for local facilities and groups. All projects aim to enhance safety, accessibility, and quality of life for local residents.

Allocations from Divisional Fund and Highways Fund 2025/26

Here is a breakdown of the approved contributions:

Hallow – Moseley Road Speed Roundels

Contribution towards installation of speed roundels on Moseley Road to reinforce the 30mph limit and improve driver awareness and road safety following resident concerns.

Grimley / Sinton Green / Monkwood Parish Council – Bus Stop Road Surfacing
Funding to improve road surfacing at bus stops in the Grimley, Sinton Green, and Monkwood area, enhancing safety and accessibility for public transport users.

Astley and Dunley – Contribution towards Speed Roundels

Support for speed roundels to promote safer driving in the parish.

Holt – £2,500 towards VAS camera

Contribution of £2,500 for a Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) camera to alert drivers to their speed and improve road safety.

Shrawley – £2,500 towards VAS camera

Contribution of £2,500 for a Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) camera.

Wichenford and Kenswick – £2,500 towards VAS camera

Contribution of £2,500 for a Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) camera.

Broadwas and Cotheridge – £2,500 towards VAS camera
Contribution of £2,500 for a Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) camera.

Wildgoose Rural Training Centre – £500 towards the Roundhouse
Contribution of £500 to support the Roundhouse project at this important local rural training facility.

Grimley Primary School – £500 towards improving playground
Contribution of £500 to enhance the school playground, benefiting children's play and wellbeing.

Nature Families in Holt – £1,000 towards The Red Lion playground for children
Contribution of £1,000 to develop and improve the playground at The Red Lion, providing a safe and enjoyable space for children and families in Holt.

Summary of Key Themes

Road Safety Focus: A significant portion of the funding supported speed reduction measures, including speed roundels and multiple VAS cameras across several parishes. These initiatives respond directly to community concerns about speeding and aim to make our roads safer for all users.

Community and Education: Support for local schools, playgrounds, and training facilities helps strengthen community infrastructure and opportunities for young people and families.

Transport Accessibility: Improvements to bus stop surfacing address practical needs for residents relying on public transport in rural areas.

These projects demonstrate targeted, local investment that complements wider Worcestershire County Council highways and community programmes.

Total Expenditure

Individual project costs vary (with several Highways Fund contributions fixed at £2,500 each for VAS installations). The full financial breakdown is held internally by Worcestershire County Council for audit and reporting purposes. All allocations comply with the rules of the Divisional Fund and Local Members' Highways Fund schemes.

Closing Remarks

I am grateful for the opportunity to direct these funds to initiatives that matter most to residents in the Hallow Division. Feedback from parish councils, schools, and local groups has been invaluable in prioritising these projects.

If you have ideas for future use of these funds in 2026/27 or would like further details on any of the above projects, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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