



Cllr Louis Stephen & Tom Piotrowski

SAYING THANK YOU IS NOT ENOUGH

The NHS is a fantastic institution and we rightly call it our national treasure. Many Battenhall residents work for it; many others were perhaps saved by the NHS during Coronavirus crisis. We all owe the NHS Heroes our gratitude. As a sign of our appreciation Tom is asking Worcester City Council to award our two NHS Trusts the **Freedom of our City**.

The Freedom of the City is an honour given by a local council to either a person or an organisation, in recognition of their exceptional service to the City. **It's one of our oldest surviving traditional ceremonies in the UK.**



Tom: 'Thank you, Leo and Katrina, for your lovely rainbows of hope.'

Please say 'Thank you' to our NHS Heroes by signing this petition via Tom's website:

[**SIGN PETITION**](#)

SUPPORT FOR LOCAL BUSINESSES

We realise that the coronavirus pandemic has had a negative affect on local businesses and we are keen to support businesses owners at this difficult time. The city council website www.worcester.gov.uk/business includes the following support packages:

- Business Rate Relief
- Small Business Grant
- Retail, Hospitality & Leisure Grant
- Discretionary grants scheme for small businesses
- Low-interest Business Interruption Loan Scheme
- Eat Out to Help Out Scheme for food businesses

Local Businesses: Please get in touch with Louis or Tom for more information.

ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

During the lock-down there has been an increase in antisocial behaviour across the ward including the **Cromwell Crescent Park, St Dunstan's Close Park, Foxwell Street Allotments**, the allotments near the **Duck Brook** and on the **Battenhall playing fields**.

Louis and Tom have been liaising with the police, council out-reach workers and the University to step up their patrols.

Louis said, "There is no excuse for this antisocial behaviour. Some of it is coming from people who should know better. If you see antisocial behaviour let us know, if it is criminal behaviour please report it directly to the police by calling 101."



Litter on Battenhall playing fields

NITROUS OXIDE DANGER



We have seen a big increase in the number of discarded nitrous oxide gas canisters discarded in our parks.

Some people have asked why they are seeing little metal canisters and sometimes balloons discarded across our parks. These canisters contain nitrous oxide (laughing gas) that is used to fill balloons that are then inhaled to get a cheap but dangerous 'high'.

Parents and grandparents:

Tom said "We are seeing a very worrying trend, they are creating litter but the often young people involved are endangering their own lives. Please help get a message out that inhaling this gas is dicing with death. The video below is the story of a young mum who may never walk again."

[Watch Video](#)



NO! TO NEW CYCLE RACKS

A request by **Worcester City Council** to install bike racks for 10 bikes outside the Museum & Art Gallery has been **blocked by the County Council**.

The proposal was to install two bike racks in the shape of a car (see picture below) in two of the very many short stay on street parking bays on Foregate Street.



“With the increased popularity of cycling during the coronavirus pandemic, the health benefits of cycling and the ever present problem of congestion in the city we are genuinely surprised that this decision has been taken – we will keep pushing for more family friendly infrastructure.” – Tom Piotrowski.

EMPTY HOMES ARE WASTED RESOURCES

There are over 300 houses in Worcester lying empty for more than 6 months, over 80 have been empty for more than 2 years, 15 properties have been empty for more than 5 years and 13 that have been empty for more than 10 years.

Louis' view: “There is massive pressure to build on greenfield sites. The alternatives are not easy but tackling **empty homes**,



Is there an empty property near where you live?

building on **brown field sites** and getting more flats and apartments built in the city centre including **Living Over The Shop (LOTS)** must be prioritised over building on greenfield sites.”

Success At Council: At the latest city council meeting (15/07/20) Louis successfully proposed measures that were unanimously agreed to increase the council powers to tackle empty homes in the city.

From next year houses that have been empty for over **five years** will pay an **additional 2x council tax**, for properties empty for **ten years** the owners will have to pay an **additional 3x council tax**. Hopefully this will concentrate minds to bring empty properties back into use.

CLIMATE EMERGENCY - HAVE YOUR SAY

Worcester City Council declared a climate emergency in July 2019 and committed to taking action to help the city become carbon neutral by 2030. The council has written a draft strategy setting out options to achieve this. It sets out proposed policies in six areas:

- Reducing carbon emissions in the city so that Worcester can become a carbon-neutral city by 2030
- Making the work of Worcester City Council carbon neutral
- Developing the city's low carbon economy and ensuring sustainability becomes embedded in the practices of businesses
- Protecting Worcester's natural environment and enhancing its biodiversity
- Ensuring the city is prepared for and able to cope with the effects and impacts of the changing climate
- Reducing Worcester's consumption of resources.

Tom said, "I know that tackling climate change is important to many Battenhall residents. The Green Party have lead the way in getting the council to declare a climate emergency and have initiated measures like fitting solar panels and insulating the Guildhall. It would be fantastic to have a large number of responses to the consultation to make sure that the decision makers know that you care about this issue. Can you spare 10 minutes to fill-in the survey now?"

[Have Your Say](#)



More of this? Solar panels similar to those fitted on top of St Martin's Gate multi-storey car park.

CAN WE HELP YOU?

If you have a comment or query about our area, Louis and Tom would love to know. Here are the ways you can get in touch:



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LOUIS & TOM: WORKING HARD FOR BATTENHALL ALL YEAR ROUND