

Ward Report – for April 2020

From your local County Councillor - Barry Durkin

Old Gore Ward – Herefordshire Council

Dear Parish Councillors and Residents

I believe that we should still be proactive in ensuring the safety and wellbeing of our parishioners; and by us all becoming NICE NOSEY NEIGHBOURS. I am well aware that there is already a great development of support network of friends and neighbours looking after their immediate community, informally within streets, hamlets and pockets of houses including Whatsapp and telephone contacts.

This is valuable and the council has a covid-19 talk community (see previous ward report) but it would be helpful to continue to feed these activities to our parish/community contacts so we can identify anyone or anywhere which may be falling through the net, and for people to know where to go if there are specific problems

With this ongoing pandemic I have included in this ward report a lot of information from different areas which might be of assistance to the parish councils and residents of parishes in Old Gore and I am sorry that this month the report is again extended. I appreciate that this ward report is considerably longer than previous but the information you are seeking may be included in this document.

I shall continue to keep you updated in monthly report and also as and when information is available. As usual I remain available by email and telephone to assist you further when required.

My thanks to the large number of you who have signed up either locally or with Herefordshire Council to offer help and support to your fellow residents. Given the large rural area we have, the more we can find to cover all our patch the better. If you want to volunteer or identify as a vulnerable or extremely vulnerable resident please via the local leads so we can build up a solid network of support.

Hope you are all keeping well in these extraordinary times and being nice nosey neighbours. Thankfully this month the weather has allowed us to enjoy the colours and blossoms of spring, the lockdown to hear the birds singing however, I have not heard the first cuckoo yet.

A big thank you to everyone for looking out for your neighbours, our community lead contacts, and the huge amount of random acts of kindness that are being done in our communities. If you can offer some support, are in need or know someone who is in need please feed into them. I think we all recognise that the past five are a phase in this crisis and we will need to sustain our local support systems for some time yet. We must not be complacent, our County will become more vulnerable possibly in the weeks and months ahead.

Ending of the Second World War - remembrances

Next Friday should have been a public holiday to reflect the 75th anniversary of the ending of World War two in Europe – VE Day. Sadly nationally and locally all plans are postponed.

Ward Report – for April 2020

From your local County Councillor - Barry Durkin

Old Gore Ward – Herefordshire Council

There is a growing campaign in the ward to celebrate by having afternoon tea in your front garden on the 8th optionally including a red, white and blue theme. Flour and Bread stocks permitting put out the bunting and send me your pictures.

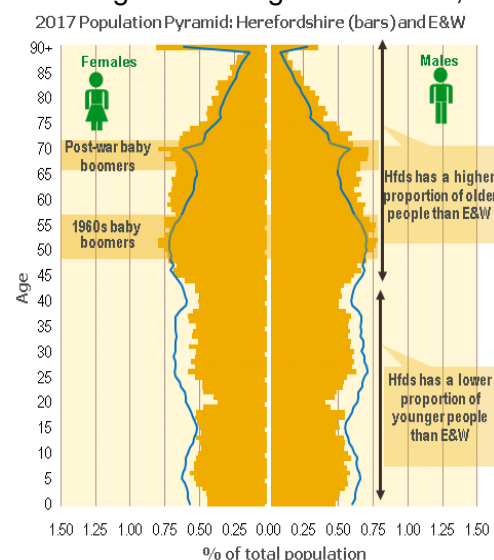
Queen appoints new Lord Lieutenant

With the retirement of Lady Darnley in September, the Queen has appointed Mr. Edward Harley OBE DL as Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of the County of Herefordshire. Congratulations to Mr. Harley and a long and happy retirement for Lady Darnley

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/lord-lieutenant-of-herefordshire-15-april-2020>

Herefordshire Population Pressures

This diagram although dated 2017, I think really gives the background to many of the



economic, health and social pressures in the UK and Herefordshire today.

The central spine has separated males and females and each horizontal bar represents a year and the number of Herefordians in the county of that age. The blue line is the England & Wales average.

The orange mass is the Herefordshire population and you can see clearly that the bulk of our population.

Broken down locally in the Old Gore Ward group of

Parishes. **Census area (square km): 95.9**

Total population: 3180: Population density: 33 per sq.km: Aged under 16: 430: % under 16: 14

Aged 16 to 64: 1885: % aged 16 to 64: 59: Aged 65+: 865: % aged 65+: 27

In Herefordshire case the mature sections are higher than the national average and below 40 years they are lower. This diagram tells us nothing new but I think the graphic is powerful. It shows the pressures that are here and coming on our health services, why we need to bring in workers to support businesses, the pinch point at 20 shows the lack of higher education, lowering birth rates and what that means for local schools, and the need to sustain and attract more younger people to provide a balanced economy, support education and provide the appropriate levels of support to the maturing generation.

Ward Report – for April 2020

From your local County Councillor - Barry Durkin

Old Gore Ward – Herefordshire Council

Ref: - <https://understanding.herefordshire.gov.uk/population/>

Herefordshire Council supports project to record the coronavirus lockdown in the county's historic records

Residents are invited to submit images that reflect life in Herefordshire during the current lockdown in a project that aims to record this historic event.

Herefordshire Council's archive and records team and libraries have joined forces with the Hereford Times to collect images that best capture the spirit and consequences of 'Life Under Lockdown' and will be part of the county's historical records for years to come.

https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/news/article/985/residents_invited_to_contribute_photos_to_herefordshire_s_life_under_lockdown_history_project

The NHS 'Help us to help you' campaign

The NHS is asking councillors to help raise awareness of a new campaign to encourage the public to seek the urgent care and treatment they need. New findings show that four in ten people are too concerned about being a burden on the NHS at this time to seek help from their GP, while data suggests that A&E attendance so far in April has been about 50 per cent lower than this time last year.

The campaign – including digital adverts, posters and social media featuring NHS staff – aims to reassure the public that it is safe to access urgent and emergency services for stroke, heart attack, and other killer conditions, as well as scheduled appointments, vaccinations and maternity services.

Herefordshire Armed Forces Community Partnership



As chairman of this partnership I can say that the partnership and its colleagues continue to look to support armed forces veterans and their families in these restrictive times; and to find ways to make sure that the events are remembered. This year 2020 is an important year historically for armed forces and their veterans i.e. VE Day, VJ day. Currently all public meetings have been banned by the Government. However, there are ways devised with which you may remember these historical events.

You may have heard of a number of campaigns and ways we can mark VE Day 75 over the Bank Holiday Friday from the **safety of our own homes**. Here is a one-off special outlining some of the terrific initiatives that all ages can get involved with, from when to raise a glass to some fantastic activities for children and people of all ages:

Ward Report – for April 2020

From your local County Councillor - Barry Durkin

Old Gore Ward – Herefordshire Council

The Nation's Toast, Friday 8th May at 3pm

We are calling on Herefordshire to join the 'Nation's Toast to the Heroes of WW2' at 3pm on Friday 8th May. Raise a glass or cup of your choice, in the safety of your own home, and use this unique opportunity to pay tribute to the many millions at home and abroad that gave so much to ensure peace in Europe 75 years ago.

The Toast is, “For those that gave so much, we thank you.”

Fitting tribute from Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of Herefordshire, The Dowager Countess of Darnley CVO Lady Darnley



In a recent media release, Lady Darnley says,

“Coronavirus has altered our lives so completely that we are all having to accept unexpected, and unwelcome, restrictions and challenges. It is a great disappointment that so many long-planned events have, for everyone’s safety, to be cancelled, but it is still hugely important that we remember with thanksgiving the sacrifices made during the Second World War, and the joy and relief felt across the nation on Victory in Europe Day”.

“From my high risk isolation, and as Her Majesty’s representative in Herefordshire I send my very best wishes to our veterans and their families, and our friends working across the military charities, whilst also thanking

all of those wonderful people across this county who are working so hard in this present crisis to keep us safe. As Her Majesty the Queen said “we shall meet again”.

Continue to read the article here

https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/news/article/983/commemorate_ve_day_with_your_family_on_8_may

The Queen will commemorate the 75th anniversary of VE Day with a televised address to the nation, 9pm

The monarch's address will be broadcast on the BBC on 8th May at 9pm - the exact moment her father, King George VI, gave a radio address 75 years ago.

The Royal British Legion

With members of the public unable to attend VE Day 75 events, The Royal British Legion is playing a central role in the delivery of a range of remote activities on Friday 8th May, including:

- National moments of Remembrance and thanksgiving, including a Two Minute Silence at 11am

Ward Report – for April 2020

From your local County Councillor - Barry Durkin

Old Gore Ward – Herefordshire Council

- A live VE Day 75 livestream at 11.15am
- A UK-wide singalong to Vera Lynn's 'We'll Meet Again' at 9pm
- A VE Day learning pack for children aged 7-14 years
- An evening of memories and music in partnership with the BBC from 8pm on BBC One

Read more at <https://www.britishlegion.org.uk/get-involved/remembrance/remembrance-events/ve-day-75>

Read more here on further announcements from the DCMS and MoD <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/her-majesty-the-queen-to-send-a-message-to-the-nation-to-mark-75th-anniversary-of-ve-day>

BBC Great British Bunting

Make your own special VE Day 75 'Great British Bunting' to display in your window at home. Hang your bunting with pride over the weekend of Friday 8 May - Sunday 10 May and make sure you share your pictures with us and on social media using the hashtags #GreatBritishBunting, #VEDay75 and #BBCMakeaDifference. Lots of ideas and templates to be found at

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles/4TrqYDyf4PMdLypxzyTwGDg/great-british-bunting>

BBC Herefordshire & Worcestershire

Nicola Goodwin, from BBC Herefordshire & Worcestershire will be covering the day via BBC HW Facebook page @bbcherefordandworcester. Send in your photos, memories, and stories to nicola.goodwin@bbc.co.uk

The Hereford Times VE Day Supplement

Look out for a special edition supplement from the county's newspaper featuring photos, memorabilia and stories, submissions and tributes.

Dan Snow's Creative challenge

Historian and Broadcaster, Dan Snow has set a creative challenge for children and will present a week of history lessons on Dan's History Hit YouTube channel in the week running up to 8 May. For more VE Day activity inspiration visit www.ve-vjday75.gov.uk

Finally, we are facing some of the most challenging times since the end of the Second World War. Let's join together as we honour the brave men and women of yesterday, just as communities are doing now and did so 75 years ago –this time, not on the streets or at parties but just as special, in the safety of our homes.

#StayHome #SaveLives #ProtectTheNHS #ProtectCarers #SocialDistancing

Ward Report – for April 2020

From your local County Councillor - Barry Durkin

Old Gore Ward – Herefordshire Council

COVID-19 Support for the armed forces community in Herefordshire

Our military charities and services continue to do an outstanding job supporting those in our armed forces community who need our help more than ever. As we move into month 2 of COVID-19 lockdown, our caseworkers and band of volunteers continue to use different and creative approaches to support those most in need. Local support available is being constantly updated so do check the link at www.herefordshire.gov.uk/armedforces . Do let us know if anything needs to be added.

24-HOUR MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT FOR HEREFORDSHIRE

Herefordshire Mental Health & Learning Disability Service is running a 24-hour helpline for anyone experiencing increased levels of stress and anxiety as a result of the coronavirus crisis. This helpline is available to people of all ages.

The number to call is 01905 681 915

Help for Heroes – A Field Guide to Self-Care

Help for Heroes have produced an excellent 'Field Guide to Self-Care' for the men and women working tirelessly in our hospitals right now. A useful resource for our healthcare heroes, and for anyone else who may be feeling stressed or anxious during these difficult times. Read more at <https://www.helpforheroes.org.uk/get-support/mental-health-and-wellbeing/a-field-guide-to-self-care/>

Operation CONNECT

Support for the RAF community during COVID-19.

The RAF Association is now operating a volunteer service to support members of the RAF community who are struggling during these difficult times. Volunteers are being mobilised to oversee a telephone outreach service, a friendship helpline, a bag drop services providing vital provisions and a daily online entertainment programme. Find out more at <https://www.rafa.org.uk/operation-connect/>

Food suppliers and resources in your locality

The WISH website has a comprehensive list of suppliers who are delivering food and supplies across the county, conveniently searchable by each market town. It includes details of food banks, food vouchers, ready meals, local supermarket information etc. Plus ideas on activities and more information on national guidance. The website is being constantly updated. Visit <https://www.wisherefordshire.org/keeping-well-staying-healthy/keeping-yourself-well/coronavirus-national-information-and-guidance/coronavirus-local-community-information/>

Ward Report – for April 2020

From your local County Councillor - Barry Durkin

Old Gore Ward – Herefordshire Council

Advice for children from the Children's Commissioner

Many of you will be working with, or indeed have, children and young people who are anxious about the current pandemic. The Children's Commissioner has produced a very useful guide which may help.

<https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/publication/childrens-guide-to-coronavirus/>

Assistance for business and voluntary sector and scams being experienced

Offer for businesses impacted by COVID-19

Please see attached a list of all the current support available to businesses. The sheet is being updated as new information comes out but the key site for businesses to keep an eye on is this <https://www.businesssupport.gov.uk/coronavirus-business-support/http://hc-modgov:9070/documents/s50078435/OFFER%20FOR%20BUSINESSES%20IMPACTED%20BY%20COVID-19%20updated%2026-03.docx.pdf>

Council Tax reduction

For residents facing a reduction in their income can apply for help with Council Tax. There is more information, and how to apply at <https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/ctr>

Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme: step by step guide for employers

A new guide explains the information that employers need to provide to claim for their employees' wages. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-job-retention-scheme-step-by-step-guide-for-employers>

Information regarding funding opportunities for voluntary and community sectors can be accessed via the FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES link on our Funding Update page. The live link is here:

https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/info/200139/community/393/community_funding_advice_and_business_grants

Businesses benefit from grant payments

More than half of small businesses in Herefordshire eligible for a COVID-19 government grant have already received payment. As of Monday (20 April), 3,048 small businesses in the county have received grants totalling £34.820m. With hundreds of payments being made daily, remaining eligible businesses should receive the grant by the end of April. Further

Ward Report – for April 2020

From your local County Councillor - Barry Durkin

Old Gore Ward – Herefordshire Council

information about the grant (including eligibility) and other business support on offer is available on the council website at www.herefordshire.gov.uk/covid19business. Businesses that have not been contacted and believe they are eligible can email smallbusinessgrants@herefordshire.gov.uk quoting their property reference number.

Coronavirus Scams cost victims over £800K in one month alone.

Officers, government and private sector partners are working together to encourage members of the public to be more vigilant against fraud, particularly about sharing their financial and personal information, as criminals seek to capitalise on the Covid-19 pandemic. Criminals are experts at impersonating people, organisations and the police. Advice and guidance about shopping online, watching out for scam messages and how to protect your devices from the latest threats. Visit West Mercia Police / Action Fraud page here at

<https://www.westmercia.police.uk/news/west-mercia/news/2020/march/beware-fraud-and-scams-during-covid-19-pandemic-fraud/>

Update of changes to Neighbourhood Planning process due to Covid-19

This I believe, has already been sent to the parish clerks and it affects one of the parishes in Old Gore Ward. Obviously Covid19 will have any impact on the progress all aspects of work and life but we would like to provide you with an update on the service the NDP team hope to provide during the current crisis – this could be subject to change as we respond to the changing national and local circumstances.

The Neighbourhood Planning team are now home based. Some officers have been redeployed to assist with the emergency response to Covid-19 but remaining officers are available on the same email and telephone numbers if you require any assistance over this period.

We are aware that many parish councils will postpone business during the next couple of months and anticipate that your ability to process any work on the NDP will be impacted. This email is really targeted to those parish council who current have ongoing NDPs from Reg14 to referendum.

We would like to outline the how this may affect you:

Referendum:

- No referenda will be held until further notice in line with the measures within the Coronavirus Bill
- If you have received a Decision Statement and are able to update your plan in line with the modifications, we will publish the final document on the website
- We will then wait until referenda can be arranged

Ward Report – for April 2020

From your local County Councillor - Barry Durkin

Old Gore Ward – Herefordshire Council

This will potential effect 2 NDPs (Ashperton, Allensmore) and has effected 3 with postponements (Ross, Titley, Bredenbury)

Examination

Any plan who has concluded its Reg16 consultation will still be progressed

- Parishes will still receive the representations received and the 'Progression to Examination' report
- NPIERS may take longer than usual to allocate potential examiners as they are reliant on fit and available examiners
- If you are a parish in this position – we will be asking for you to select your preferred examiner from the choice – we understand that you will not be able to meet as a parish council to discuss this – please let us know if you do not have any other method in place to make this decision so we can let examiners know that there will be a delay in selection
- Examiners will not be able to undertake the site visits at this time – this may delay the conclusion of the examination
- If the site visit has been undertaken, the examination can progress
- We will continue to provide a progress update via the clerk
- Once the examiner's report has been received– we will contact you so see if you are able to proceed (i.e. have the method in place to consider the report and requisite authority to allow the NDP to continue or be withdrawn)
- If you determine to proceed, we will continue to progress the 'Decision Statement' and the reviewed SEA and HRA.
- The Decision Statement will be published but we will be unable to set the referendum date until further notice.

This will potential effect 6 NDPs (Brampton Abbots, Madley, Clehonger, Garway, Colwall, Stretton Grandison)

Reg16

- Herefordshire Council will not be commencing any Reg16 consultations at the current time;
- We are following Government regarding travelling outside the home and this will mean that erecting site notices to commence consultation periods will not be possible.
- We are also aware that not everyone will have access to online facilities, therefore to allow for consultations to purely be undertaken online without the ability for the local community to access paper copies of the documents or visit the local libraries would be unreasonable.

This will potential effect 2 NDPs (Linton, Much Birch)

Reg14

- We would strongly advice against any commencement of Reg14 consultations at this time.

Please could any of the above mentions parishes let us know if you are halting business for the foreseeable future or whether you have alterative arrangements in place to progress elements of the NDP

Ward Report – for April 2020

From your local County Councillor - Barry Durkin

Old Gore Ward – Herefordshire Council

Settlement Hierarchy

Please return any outstanding services and facilities questionnaire if they have been completed. We have extended the deadline for return until the end of May

Covid community PPE offer

PCC Launches Dedicated Fund For COVID-19 Support Groups

West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner has launched a dedicated fund to ensure support groups at the heart of the community have the resources they need during the current COVID-19 pandemic. The fund has been established to allow Town and Parish Councils across West Mercia to apply for money to purchase essential items that will allow them to continue providing support to those that need it most. With communities across West Mercia staying at home and following Government guidance, the PCC is also encouraging residents to volunteer in their community. Community groups play a vital role in keeping spirits up and reducing the stresses of social isolation. Whilst face-to-face meetings and group gatherings are no longer possible there are still ways to ensure our most vulnerable neighbours are cared for. The Commissioner said: "COVID-19 is a concern for us all across West Mercia and during these uncertain times we must work together to ease the situation. Keeping everyone connected is crucial in ensuring that the most vulnerable are not alone. I have seen communities come together throughout West Mercia to provide services such as collecting medication, essential shopping and offering phone and video calls.

"This new fund will give volunteer groups the opportunity to fund essential items such as face masks, gloves and ID badges, enabling them to continue the vital work they are doing in our communities. As Commissioner I would encourage you all listen to guidelines issued by the Government, look out for each other and register for volunteer schemes in your area." For more information about the fund and how to apply visit: <https://www.westmercia-pcc.gov.uk/about-your-pcc/pcc-grants-scheme/>

Below is a copy of the email sent to parish councils by Philippa Lydford (HC parishes Officer) – if you have not received it here is the up to date information

"Dear Parish Council Clerk,

I wanted to ensure that you are aware of this new grant funding opportunity for essential items such as face masks, gloves and ID badges, available to parish councils.

Please use the links below to find out more detail and if appropriate, apply before the 30th June deadline and whilst funds are available.

You can also find here current funding opportunities and business support for community, voluntary sector and statutory projects in Herefordshire. If local organisations need advice on funding applications, Elaine Edwards and Dave Tristram can be contacted through projectdevelopment@herefordshire.gov.uk or use the funding enquiry form. They are prioritising enquiries from those needing support and advice on funding linked to COVID-19.

Ward Report – for April 2020

From your local County Councillor - Barry Durkin

Old Gore Ward – Herefordshire Council

*With kind regards
Philippa”*

Highways Infrastructure

The B4224 at Fiddlers Green in Fownhope, still remains out of commission. However work is continuing to make a start of the highway and adjacent wall to bring the road back into use. This is the latest message from the cabinet member.

MESSAGE SENT OF BEHALF OF CLLR HARRINGTON

I am emailing to provide an update on the repair works.

Herefordshire Council is committed to ensuring the reopening of the B4224 as soon as possible, when we have completed the significant repairs to the road, damaged by Storm Dennis.

We have not as yet had confirmation that we will receive government funding for all of the repair works that are needed following Storm Dennis, including the repairs at Fownhope. The Leader of the Council has written to our local MPs requesting their assistance to secure this and I would ask residents and local businesses to consider doing the same. However, it may mean that the council will have to fund these works from our own budgets. This would be a significant pressure and may mean that we need to review our current capital programme to delay or stop current programmed work.

However, given the urgency of the B4224 works these schemes will progress as part of the council's response to the flooding emergency. I have agreed officers will continue to use their emergency powers and the repairs of the landslip on the B4224 at Lechmere Ley will therefore commence as soon as possible. The detailed design works to repair the retaining wall at Stone Cottage on the B4224 will also be progressed and I can assure you that we are exploring all opportunities to enable the road to be reopened as soon as possible. I am hopeful that this could be achieved by early autumn and I will be pushing to get all works completed as soon as possible with a view to bringing this forward.

Council meetings to be held ‘virtually’

Herefordshire Council is set to conduct its public committees as virtual meetings that are able to be viewed live online, following a recent change in legislation due to COVID-19. The first meeting was held in this way a Cabinet meeting scheduled on Thursday 30 April 2020 starting at 2.30pm. It went generally well, please join to see in future.

https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/news/article/981/council_meetings_set_to_be_held_virtually

Planning Committees

During this lockdown period planning committee meetings had been suspended. The Government, at the beginning of April, permitted alternative measures whereby public meetings may be conducted; this has been any the use of virtual meetings via a variety of

Ward Report – for April 2020 **From your local County Councillor - Barry Durkin**

Old Gore Ward – Herefordshire Council

platforms, indeed some parish councils have taken advantage of this too. Herefordshire Council has entered into a virtual meetings last week.

The Council has planned a virtual planning committee for May 12th at 10:30 until 13:00. There are only two matters for discussion and decision; none of the applications on the agenda involve Old Gore Ward.

Accessing Dental Services in the West Midlands – Covid-19

In line with national guidance issued in response to the Covid-19 pandemic dental practices in the West Midlands are currently closed for routine “face to face” dental appointments. People seeking help with dental problems should not visit their dental practice but instead phone their normal practice for information for advice on alternative arrangements in place or contact NHS 111. Most practices are offering telephone or video-link consultations and can prescribe pain killers and antibiotics if needed. They will also be able to refer those patients in need of urgent treatment to a service where they can be seen.

People seeking help should **not** visit A&E departments or GP surgeries for dental care.

The NHS is in the process of identifying and setting up a number of local treatment centres to see any patients referred on for urgent treatment. These will be provided through a network of specially equipped and trained dental practices.

For safety some sites will be designated for patients with Covid-19 symptoms or those self-isolating because of their contacts and others for patients without symptoms. A small number of sites will treat only vulnerable or shielded patients. It is important for their own safety that patients are clear about whether or not they are symptomatic, self-isolating or in a vulnerable or shielded group.

NHS England and Improvement is aware of the problems currently being experienced by those seeking urgent dental care across the West Midlands in advance of these arrangements being fully in place.

We have been working on interim arrangements to ensure that patients can access care and expect to share these with dentists in the next couple of days. This will be at a smaller number of sites than usual, with additional more local sites being opened in the coming weeks.

We expect hubs for patients with Covid-19 symptoms (or those who are self-isolating) to be open in most areas later this week.

Out of Hours services continue to operate with patients being assessed and seen as necessary. Access to these services is via NHS 111.

Advice to landowners and the public when accessing public rights of way and open spaces

The government's priority is to save lives and the best way to protect yourself and others from illness is to stay at home. However, exercise is still important for people's physical and mental wellbeing and many people look to take their daily exercise outside.

Ward Report – for April 2020

From your local County Councillor - Barry Durkin

Old Gore Ward – Herefordshire Council

The extended restrictions on movement announced by the government also apply to public rights of way and everyone must follow government rules and advice for the safety of all.

Please be aware that some people live in very close proximity to public rights of way, which can be through gardens, schools and farmland. Make sure you consider everyone's need for social distancing, treat each other with respect and remember that some people may be in self-isolation because of illness or other vulnerabilities.

The risk of the Coronavirus being passed on to others from people using public rights of way and other paths and trails is considered to be very low as long as everyone follows the government's social distancing rules.

https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/news/article/980/using_the_countryside_and_open_spaces_during_covid-19_lockdown

Please Support Our Local Businesses

As we come out of the lockdown and are gradually permitted to go further afield I would ask that we **Please Support Our Local Businesses**. Many of our local business are supporting our community with supplying delivery of groceries, take away food and other items. They are too many to list here in case I miss someone but they will be on your local websites. Please support them. If this crisis teaches us anything it is the importance of local community and a local economy.

Thank you again for your continued commitment. Stay safe and well.

Barry

Barry Durkin
Old Gore Ward
Mob. 07792 882054
bdurkin@herefordshire.gov.uk

Parishes Information

Nil

General Information

Defect Reporting

As always please continue to make use and encourage the use of established reporting methods for any highways defect;

- Telephone our customer services on [01432 261 800](tel:01432261800).
- Online using the telephone app – for potholes, dog poo and Public Rights of Way (PROW)

Please note that Herefordshire Council strongly encourages Balfour Beatty to promote all service requests and queries should be logged via the HC website at <https://myaccount.herefordshire.gov.uk/report-a-pothole> or <https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/transport-and-highways/maintenance/potholes>

Ward Report – for April 2020

From your local County Councillor - Barry Durkin

Old Gore Ward – Herefordshire Council

Please use the website or call the customer services call handling team. This will help ensure that everything is logged in to the operating system known as CONFIRM where it can be responded to in a timely way.

Did you know...?

You can follow our Twitter feed @HfdsStreets for [24/7](#) updates for all things highways; or.

Log on to <https://roadworks.org> to see any live traffic incidents as well as current and planned road closures, diversions, traffic restrictions and roadworks

For any PROW (Public Rights of Way) maps or problems, you can report these via the following link on the Herefordshire Council's website:

<https://myaccount.herefordshire.gov.uk/report-a-public-right-of-way-problem>

To report defects (potholes, fly tipping, blocked gullies, etc.) online:

https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/info/200196/roads/190/report_problems_on_the_road

If you have a general service request, i.e. if you want to report a pothole etc. , please use the link above, or call us on 01432 261800, rather than emailing your steward. Using the link or the phone number ensures that the enquiry is dealt with promptly and efficiently. Locality Stewards do not have the resource to be able to deal with service requests via email although of course they are happy to provide general guidance and support to you through email.

If you wish to email into the business, the best email address for Parishes have their own inbox

herefordshireparishes@bblivingplaces.com and both of these email inboxes are monitored by teams in the office to ensure cover at all times. If you have an emergency to report please use 01432 261800 as this is answered 24/7.

To identify road numbers, or to see if publicly maintained or to view Public Rights of

Way: https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/info/200136/travel_and_transport/716/highways_and_public_rights_of_way_map

The highways maintenance plan – which sets out the council's system of road inspection, maintenance and repairs, including timescales:

https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/5210/highway_maintenance_plan_october_2016.pdf

Toolkits:

Community commissioning

https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/18820/community_commissioning_model_toolkit.pdf

Litter picking https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/14134/community_litter_pick_toolkit.pdf

Traffic Regulation Orders

https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/2891/application_toolkit_for_traffic_regulation_orders.pdf

SIDs https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/1859/speed_indicator_device_toolkit.pdf

Another useful site:

For information on current and future planned roadworks by utility companies www.roadworks.org

Please do follow BBLP on Twitter for up to date information about road closures, ongoing work etc., [@HfdsStreets](#) and if you need help to set that up please let me know.

If you wish to make a claim as a result of damage to your vehicle

https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/info/200196/roads/206/highway_claimsplease_use

Council tax reduction or exemption

You can get money off your Council Tax bill, or even pay nothing, in certain circumstances. A discount or exemption depends on your current situation and circumstances, but does not take account of income or savings. If you are on a low income, you may also be able to get help to pay your bill through Council Tax Reduction. We will need to assess your financial and other circumstances to see what help you qualify for.

https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/info/200146/council_tax/39/council_tax_reduction

Ward Report – for April 2020

From your local County Councillor - Barry Durkin

Old Gore Ward – Herefordshire Council

General Data Protection Regulations Statement

The General Data Protection Act places obligations and responsibilities on any company, organisation and individual who hold and process personnel information, and it comes into force on the 25th May 2018; superseding the Data Protection Act 1998. As a County Councillor I hold a list of emails of local people that I have built up over the years which I retain and use on my council computer and email. I can give you all the reassurance that I do not and will not share those email addresses with any third party.

In seeking legal compliance as a data controller I am requesting that if anyone is unhappy with my holding their email contact that you please advise me so that I am able to remove you from the list.

Otherwise I will retain your email contact and continue to send you monthly updates, emails as required and occasional key information.