

Ward Report – for February 2021
From your local County Councillor - Barry Durkin

Old Gore Ward
Brampton Abbots, Brockhampton with Much Fawley, How Caple, Kings Caple, Much Marcle,
Upton Bishop and Woolhope.

Dear Parish Councillors and Residents

Thank you all

Positive news of another vaccine approved for use and manufactured in the UK. The chair of the vaccination group of England was Kate Bingham always comes over well and clearly the committee she chaired last year knew their stuff in identifying and ordering the right vaccines in trial. She is the daughter of the former Lord Chief Justice who lived on the welsh borders and she is married to Jesse Norman MP for South Herefordshire.

Can I remind everyone to be vigilant about scams including those apparently involving vaccines – the NHS will never charge you for a vaccine and will only visit your home if you are totally house bound. If you are concerned about your health for other reasons please still contact your GP.

Locally, Upton Bishop Parish Council are still looking for a new clerk if you are interested please visit their website <http://uptonbishop.org> and contact the Acting Clerk Alison Feist

COVID19

I attach the summary of the latest local information received which still indicated a serious level of concern and high bed occupancy in our hospitals. A reminder our local community contacts are listed in monthly updates.



Jan 27 COVID
Intelligence Summary

Please copy and paste the following links for more information

The Latest local Covid data and information www.herefordshire.gov.uk/coronavirus-3

National Covid guidance is available on the Government website www.gov.uk/coronavirus

Stay safe and well everyone

SCAMS

I have heard of a cruel email below, from of a Japanese server.

Clearly a con I am cute enough to spot these but many will not. One aspect is the time limit they have set for a reply which is outside a time when it can be checked with a surgery!

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Can I suggest that as many people as possible should be warned of these emails and you might like to pass on to your contacts? I have removed the hyperlinks so it doesn't carry to your computer. However if it needs investigation I have retained the links and can forward them.

But, although I get some scam emails and phone calls, I think that in these times this is a particularly nasty fraud attempt worth highlighting.

This is the text received

Coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccination - NHS

Dear "email address"

The NHS is performing selections for coronavirus vaccination on the basis of family genetics and medical history.

You have been selected to receive a coronavirus vaccination.

NOTE: The coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccine is safe and effective. It gives you the best protection against coronavirus.

Use this service to confirm your coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccination.

You will need to:

- * have 2 doses of the coronavirus vaccination at 2 appointments*
- * book both appointments at the same time*
- * get the 2nd dose 3 to 4 weeks after getting your 1st dose*

Who can use this service

You can only use this service if you have received an email/SMS regarding this invitation. You can not use this service for anyone other than yourself.

You are also free to reject this invitation, your appointment will be issued to the next person in line in that case.

Please confirm or reject your invitation by selecting an option below.

>> N H S - ACCEPT Invitation ➞

>> N H S - Decline Invitation ➞

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You are required to reply to this invitation within 12 hours of this notification.

Important Notice:

Vaccines work by training and preparing the body's natural defences - the immune system - to recognize and fight off viruses and bacteria. If the body is exposed to those disease-causing pathogens later, it will be ready to destroy them quickly - which prevents illness. When a person gets vaccinated against a disease, their risk of infection is also reduced - so they're also less likely to transmit the virus or bacteria to others. As more people in a community get vaccinated, fewer people remain vulnerable, and there is less possibility for an infected person to pass the pathogen on to another person. Lowering the possibility for a pathogen to circulate in the community protects those who cannot be vaccinated (due to health conditions, like allergies, or their age) from the disease targeted by the vaccine.

Vaccination is safe and side effects from a vaccine are usually minor and temporary, such as a sore arm or mild fever.

Any licensed vaccine is rigorously tested across multiple phases of trials before it is approved for use, and regularly reassessed once it is introduced. Scientists are also constantly monitoring information from several sources for any sign that a vaccine may cause health risks.

Remember, you are far more likely to be seriously injured by a vaccine-preventable disease than by a vaccine. For example, tetanus can cause extreme pain, muscle spasms (lockjaw) and blood clots, measles can cause encephalitis (an infection of the brain) and blindness. Many vaccine-preventable diseases can even result in death. The benefits of vaccination greatly outweigh the risks, and many more illnesses and deaths would occur without vaccines.

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NOTE: - It is important to know that the 'clicking' onto the links contained within this email your computer then links with the scammers computer and there your troubles begin. DO NOT 'click' in any link and delete the email without opening. The vaccination we are receiving is free and is from the NHS ONLY.

There are other email and text scams 'out there' so please be very aware of the potential for scams!

Warm Home Discount Scheme.

You could get £140 off your electricity bill for winter 2020 to 2021 under the Warm Home Discount Scheme.

The money is not paid to you - it's a one-off discount on your electricity bill, between September and March.

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You may be able to get the discount on your gas bill instead if your supplier provides you with both gas and electricity. Contact your supplier to find out.

The discount will not affect your [Cold Weather Payment](#) or [Winter Fuel Payment](#).

<https://www.gov.uk/the-warm-home-discount-scheme>

Budget 20/21

The Cabinet has agreed its proposed budget and Council Tax for 2021/22. The Proposed budget will now be put forward for recommendation to Full Council on 12th February 2021.

Herefordshire Council is predicting a worst case scenario budget gap of up to £16 million in the next financial year. The council say that Covid-19 pandemic has caused uncertainty which has made it difficult to anticipate how much funding the council will receive from central government, Council Tax and Business Rates in future years.

The council must prepare to make savings in some services so that a balanced budget can be delivered for 2021/2022.

<https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/news/article/1090/cabinet-agrees-proposed-budget-and-council-tax-for-2021-22>

Parishes - Flooding

You will be aware of my request last month with regard to providing a first aid response to local domestic flooding. The continuing rainfall reminds us of last winter and has brought lots of surface water with some flooding on our roads. This has caused concerns with our parish councils where they were not able to fully assist their parishioners. Looking into Herefordshire Council website there is a whole section recognising the issue and how personal responsibility (link below) may be considered to implement especially with regard to planning with household flooding, in conjunction with Talk Community assistance, <https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/roads-1/flooding>.

I asked that each parish council consider whether they want to be part of a ward approach to assisting parishioners to deal with flooding (first aid) and perhaps an emergency plan (again ward specific). This will be an in parish response but with a 'ward global' purchasing of sand, bins and bags etc. Of course a major problem will be where to safely store within each parish but that is just one issue. I would be obliged if each parish council would reply by

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end February and say if they are in the first instance interested to proceed to discussion – I have had an offer from a clerk, so we are well under way.

2021/2022 Council Tax Reduction Scheme

Council Tax Reduction is a scheme to assist people on a low income with their Council Tax bill. The amount of reduction you can claim will depend [on your circumstances](#). If you are eligible, the way you will receive this will be through a reduction in your Council Tax bill. Council tax charges can be reduced where the bill payer meets certain set criteria contained in the council tax reduction scheme (CTR). The current scheme was initially approved by Council on 18 December 2015, amendments to the scheme are recommended to commence from 1 April 2021 to increase the discount support available.

The administration has agreed a change in this coming financial year's discount – please see details below

<http://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?id=7590&LLL=0>

Maylords Shopping Centre

The shopping centre which was quite recently purchased by the Council for community activities for £4.5M is to receive a £100K upgrade to the toilets, nothing other than the toilets.

<https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/news/article/1089/maylord-improvement-works-set-to-begin>

Businesses call for Western relief road

Local businesses have been distributing a leaflet calling for the Wester by Pass to not be scrapped – “Save the bypass”. The leaflet is attached below.



By pass Flyer v3
(002).docx

This I understand has received broad support for the bypass and Southern Relief Road. The current administration is against building the bypass and Southern Relief Road and are putting their case to full council on 2nd February. If Council does cancel the bypass then the administration/Council will be required to pay back £12M.

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Pipeline of selected council owned sites

This is currently a decision paper which was discussed at Cabinet on the 28th January to seek approval to commence further feasibility work on selected council owned sites within the county for proposed affordable housing to be built by the council. The purpose of this is to provide an opportunity to understand the work completed to date and outline feasibility work being proposed on the selected potential sites.

The list is for selected council sites only and approval is being requested to complete further feasibility work. No decision has been taken on any of the sites proceeding and will be subject to further decision. The purpose of the session on the 27th January is to provide an opportunity to understand the work completed to date and outline the work being proposed on those sites.

The houses are being investigated with the expectation that the Southern Relief Road and Western Bypass will be cancelled on February 2nd 2021. Thereby introducing houses onto a city without any form of alternative to the A49 Trunk Road through Hereford; with the consideration of an Eastern 'bypass' and it's completion, if approved and capable of being funding, many years away; if this would provide a reasonable alternative to the A49 trunk road in Hereford



Appendix 1 For
recommendation of p

Chief Executive Retires

Alastair Neil, Chief Executive for Hereford Council, has chosen to retire from his role. A recruitment process was undertaken and a new Chief Executive was chosen. The next Chief Executive progressed today with Council approval and Paul Walker, from Harrow Council in North West London, is expected to commence his role shortly after Easter 2021.

Talk Community

Below is an update from Talk Community.

In order to support people to remain at home the Talk Community Covid-19 helpline continues to operate for those more vulnerable residents who are unable to source support from family, friends or their local community with food supplies, medication delivery or befriending. The Talk Community helpline can also support registration for online

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shopping slots that have been allocated to Herefordshire with Tesco and Iceland and for CEV's through the national system.

If you are in need please contact them or forward your contact details onto those requiring support to 01432 260027 or email talkcommunityhelpline@herefordshire.gov.uk or go to [Coronavirus - Talk Community support](#) for more information and to complete an online support form. The [WISH website](#) provides information on food and local suppliers. Contact NHS 111 for any urgent medication supplies.

Here is an important message relating to staying well this winter and indeed any winter

A poster with a blue background and white text. The title 'Stay well this winter' is in large, bold, white letters. Below it, in smaller white text, is a paragraph: 'This year, it's more important than ever for us all to try and look after our health and wellbeing. The healthier we are, the more likely we are to beat viruses like flu and Covid-19.' This is followed by another paragraph: 'There's a few simple steps we can take to look after our health, during the winter months...' and a bulleted list of four points: '• Have your flu vaccination, especially if you receive a letter from your GP, because you're in a high risk group', '• Keep your home heated to at least 18°C (65°F)', '• Keep active at home with virtual exercise classes', and '• If you start to feel unwell, call NHS 111 or visit www.111.nhs.uk (24/7)'. Below the list is a final paragraph: 'Don't forget to look out for elderly relatives or neighbours, who may need a little extra help and support this winter.' At the bottom, the website www.wisherefordshire.org/winter is listed in white text.

Stay well this winter

This year, it's more important than ever for us all to try and look after our health and wellbeing. The healthier we are, the more likely we are to beat viruses like flu and Covid-19.

There's a few simple steps we can take to look after our health, during the winter months...

- Have your flu vaccination, especially if you receive a letter from your GP, because you're in a high risk group
- Keep your home heated to at least 18°C (65°F)
- Keep active at home with virtual exercise classes
- If you start to feel unwell, call NHS 111 or visit www.111.nhs.uk (24/7)

Don't forget to look out for elderly relatives or neighbours, who may need a little extra help and support this winter.

www.wisherefordshire.org/winter

Your chance to become a foster carer

A banner with a yellow background. On the left, the text 'Be amazing, Be a foster carer' is in large, bold, black letters. Below it, in smaller black text, is 'There is a child in Herefordshire waiting for your help' and the website www.herefordshire.gov.uk/fostering. To the right of the text is the Herefordshire Council logo, which consists of an apple icon and the words 'Herefordshire Council'. Further right is a photograph of a young child with blonde hair, smiling and looking towards the camera.

**Be amazing,
Be a foster carer**

There is a child in Herefordshire waiting for your help
www.herefordshire.gov.uk/fostering 01432 383240

 Herefordshire Council



PLEASE SUPPORT OUR LOCAL BUSINESS

Many of our local business are supporting our community with supplying delivery of groceries, take away food and other items.

They are too many too 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.

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As ever if you think I can be of help please do not hesitate to contact me.



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Useful Information

Information from Parishes

General Information

Covid19

The Latest local Covid data and information www.herefordshire.gov.uk/coronavirus-3

National Covid guidance is available on the Government website www.gov.uk/coronavirus

Talk Community

Email: Talkcommunitycovidresponse@herefordshire.gov.uk

Telephone: 01432 260027

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>

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>

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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](https://twitter.com/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

General Data Protection Regulations Statement

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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.