

Ward Report – April 2022
From your local County Councillor - Barry Durkin

Old Gore Ward

Brampton Abbotts, Brockhampton with Much Fawley, How Caple, Kings Caple, Much Marcle, Upton Bishop and Woolhope.

Dear Parish Councillors and Residents, welcome to this edition of my ward report I hope you find it interesting and there is a 'useful information' section at the end.



Dear resident

As a colleague of mine recently reflected that with the recent blue skies and tremendous display of yellow daffodils that it seems to be nature`s way of reflecting the Ukrainian colours.

In this month`s update I cover some of the local effort going into supporting relief to the people of Ukraine that we can confidently give our support.

The arrival of spring brings flowers, blossoms, birds singing lambing sporting and of course the thud of the annual council tax bill on the doormat. As part of the Government`s initiative to help households with rising energy bills there is a one off £150 council tax rebate for certain households bands A-D inc.– more detail on council website

- <https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/council-tax-1/council-tax-discounts-exemptions/19>

Council still reminds residents Covid has not gone away

As Covid restrictions are dropped, we're reminding residents that we have not seen the last of the virus. We therefore ask residents to continue with the good habits they formed during restrictive periods wherever and whenever possible. These include:

- Getting vaccinated
- Letting fresh air in if meeting indoors; or meet outside
- Wearing a face mask in crowded and enclosed spaces, especially where you come into contact with people you do not usually meet and when transmission rates are high
- Trying to stay at home if you feel unwell
- Taking a test if you have Covid symptoms and staying at home and avoiding contact with other people if you test positive
- Washing hands regularly with soap and water
- Following advice to catch it, bin it, kill it

More information is available on Council's [webpage](#).

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COVID-19 council activity

The Council are moving into a new phase regarding our approach to Covid, in line with new government guidance. Take a look at the latest guidance:

[Council urges caution to live safely with Covid – Herefordshire Council](#)



Support for Ukraine



Russia's invasion of Ukraine is distressing and concerning, it's a deeply saddening time to see the devastating impact of war on families and communities. For many years Herefordshire has welcomed workers from Eastern Europe, Ukraine included, and some have stayed and are bringing up their families here.

We've collated resources together on the Talk Community Directory, to help our fellow Ukrainians, along with different ways that we can support each other as well. There's information on how you can donate to get urgent supplies to people fleeing Ukraine; and how to support children and young people who may have questions about the war or are seeking reassurance.

- [Hereford Help for Ukraine Facebook group](#) – information about what support is available locally and where drop off points are across the county, to take essential donated items to.
- [Herefordshire Refugees Appeal](#) - donations will fund the transport of essential goods from Herefordshire to where they are needed, with residual funds supporting the resettlement of refugees in Herefordshire (Herefordshire Community Foundation and Hereford Times). Donate through the [Herefordshire Community Foundation website](#).

The government's 'Homes for Ukraine' scheme opened in Herefordshire on Friday 18 March, with residents able to offer accommodation invited to sign up on the [government website](#). We have received outline information regarding the government's expectations on how we support this scheme which will include initial reception, safeguarding checks, education, health and work & benefits assistance and sponsor payments.

The information pages, services and groups on the [Talk Community Directory](#) can be translated into over 100 different languages, including Ukrainian.

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Our Ukraine support information can be found at www.talkcommunitydirectory.org/ukraine

There are many different ways you can support the humanitarian effort for Ukraine.

The Council are working with a range of agencies across the county to respond to the unfolding situation in Ukraine. You can offer your support in a number of ways. The Leader has written to Michael Gove MP, offering Herefordshire's support. Please review options:

[Support for Ukraine – Herefordshire Council](#)

Phosphates in the Lugg



Some encouraging news on the phosphate problem in the Lugg catchment with the wetlands scheme now beginning. Luston wetland has planning permission and construction is beginning; and land adjoining the sewage works at Titley has been purchased by the council to build a scheme there. The filtering out of phosphate in these schemes allows a calculation of phosphate removal which then permits the building of houses, with credits being purchased by the builder.

Other phosphate calculations are also coming forward so an announcement is anticipated which will be a great relief to our local construction industry who haven't seen planning approvals for house builds in Lugg catchment

area – 40% of Herefordshire- since July 2019!

Westminster watch - Lobbying for Rural services (from my colleague Cllr. Roger Phillips)

I am vice chairman of the Rural Services Network, which is an organisation made up of various English rural councils and rural organisations, who evidence and lobby government on behalf of public services that have to be delivered over large geographical areas. We live in essentially an urban nation with urban thinking and solutions and there is little understanding of the particular pressures and costs in delivering services in rural areas.

Home care will be more costly as there is more travel time and less contact requiring more employees, a bin lorry will travel further to fill up compared to city one using more fuel and again taking more time. Public transport is more expensive to run with more fuel miles and

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less passengers. Often because of the remoteness of households there isn't the business case for sub-contractors to operate leaving expensive gaps in the market.

In the past we have been successful to establish a Rural Services Delivery Grant of 85 million to rural councils – 5.2 million of which goes to Herefordshire. However there is a review of local government funding and we are active in ensuring we evidence our concerns and lobbying all our rural MPs.

The Government recently published its Levelling up paper aimed at ensuring more equal local economies, opportunities and life expectation across England. Much of the chatter has been about levelling the north with the south but it is also applicable for levelling up rural areas to their urban neighbours.

Governments of all political persuasion like to work on a region basis which often mean rural poorer statistics are hidden by the larger urban figures. With higher housing prices and running costs, greater fuel bills, poorer wages and salaries we will continue to put the rural case forward.

Supporting Rural Communities

The Prince's Countryside Fund is inviting applications for grants, for projects that will have a lasting impact in rural communities. If you're part of a group or organisation in a hamlet, village or small market town in our beautiful county, this could be for you. The funding available is up to £25,000 over two years, and applicants must be from properly constituted, not for profit organisations with an income of less than £500,000. For more information and how to apply, visit the [Princes Countryside Fund website](#). The spring grant is open for applications until midday on Tuesday 12 April.

Men's Shed – Ross-on-Wye



The Chief Executive has visited the Men's Shed charity in Ross, where the retired or semi-retired members share skills and work on local projects, benefitting their mental health and the wider community. You may have seen local press coverage about the Men's Shed being asked to fund the lease of their site. He is pleased to say that the Council agreed a new lease with the charity

The Shed is open to men over 55 years of age. Please take a look at their Facebook page (link below) and see some of the tasks they have completed. Their address is there and if interested you may contact them via this page. [Ross-on-Wye Men's Shed | Facebook](#)

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Household Waste and Recycling Centres

Household Waste and Recycling Centres in Herefordshire will operate summer opening hours from 1 April. However, to ensure safety and efficiency, residents are **still required to book slots** to visit the Household Recycling Centres. Only those who have booked a slot will be allowed entry.

[Household Recycling Centres move to summer opening hours – Herefordshire Council](#)

Planned Investment in Children’s Services

Herefordshire Council continues on its improvement path with planned major investment in Children’s Social Care Services. A recommendation to Cabinet, published today, requests a £11.49m investment to help ensure Children’s Social Care Services are adequately resourced and that we provide the foundations for a more secure and resilient service for the future.

The additional £11.49m funding will allow for significant and lasting improvements to reduce caseloads for Social Workers, provide more frequent and better supervision and management of our social care staff, and allow us to make more changes, more quickly to improve our social work practice for children and families in Herefordshire.

[Planned Investment in Children’s Services](#)

Planning SPD - consultation

As I have notified your parish council earlier in March there is a live consultation for the new Herefordshire standard for buildings. The Consultation on the draft Environmental Building Standards Supplementary Planning Document (EBS SPD) has run for 6 weeks from 2 March and will end on 13 April 2022. Herefordshire Council would welcome your views.

[Environmental Building Standards - HC would like your views - Herefordshire Green Network \(hgnetwork.org\)](#)

Herefordshire Hoard

The Herefordshire Hoard is a very significant treasure that experts believe may have been buried by the Viking Great Army over 1100 years ago. Herefordshire Council’s museum service has launched a campaign to raise the funds necessary to ‘bring the hoard home to Herefordshire’.

[Campaign to bring hoard home to Herefordshire – Herefordshire Council](#)

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Draft Environmental Building Standards Supplementary Planning Document

Herefordshire Council are producing a Supplementary Planning Document to promote higher building standards and comments are invited with a closing date of 13th April.

[Consultation on building standards now open – Herefordshire Council](#)

Herefordshire Council appoints new director of public health

Herefordshire Council has appointed its new director of public health. Matt Pearce takes up the role that puts him in charge of the health of the population of Herefordshire.

[Council appoints new health chief – Herefordshire Council](#)

Company director fined for fly tipping

The company Hope Maintenance and its director, Garry Ridley, pleaded guilty to three charges at Hereford Magistrates court on 22 February 2022. The company and director were ordered to pay a total of £318.00 in fines and costs.

[Company fined for fly-tipping in Herefordshire](#)

NEW CHANGE - Dealing with Traffic Regulation Orders TRO and PROW

As of 1st April 2022 there have been some changes. At the request of HC, Public Rights of Way and TRO's are now being handled by HC Directly

This means that they will be dealing with the following aspects

- All PROW enquiries and/or Complaints
- PROW inspections, emergencies, Closures, defects and repairs.
- Highways Enforcement (past stage 1) and full PROW Enforcement process.
- P3 Schemes
- Communication updates
- Support with Walking groups, PFO's and any others.

The new contact Email address is - PROW@herefordshire.gov.uk

- All TRO Enquiries/ complaints / applications
- Section 116/117 stopping up orders
- Tourist signs, Disabled Bays & H-Bars
- SIDs – applications, installs and deployments

The new contact Email address is – TM@herefordshire.gov.uk

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Local Parishes News

List of roadworks programmed to be happening across the County - Look for roadworks in your parish and area:



Weekly Works
Template wc 2022.04.

Working with the Locality Steward

I continue to work with our local Balfour steward Neil James and met up last week for a catch up on various issues. I consulted with my parish councils and asked them to inform me of urgent matters in their parish for his attention. I shall be compiling a report this week to my parish councils on the defects reviewed and actions to be taken. In the useful Information section below there is information where you may report most defects and how other community issues may be addressed.

Footpaths

[https://link.edgepilot.com/s/bfc12403/ZkrYKa-OpU6QLbww4S9Nyw?u=https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/transport-and-highways/footpaths-byways-and-bridleways/cg-report-prov-problem.](https://link.edgepilot.com/s/bfc12403/ZkrYKa-OpU6QLbww4S9Nyw?u=https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/transport-and-highways/footpaths-byways-and-bridleways/cg-report-prov-problem)

Report fly tipping

Your report will be dealt with in a much quicker time frame, by either calling the Contact Centre on 01432 261800 or by logging the fly tipping via the council website on the links below: -

https://link.edgepilot.com/s/f452e836/Hy5YWk_SgEGkleekL2ROFO?u=https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/info/200226/report_a_problem/98/fly_tipping

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



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General Data Protection Act

The General Data Protection Act places obligations and responsibilities on any company, organisation and individual who holds and process personal information. The new General data protection regulations (GDPR) that supersedes the Data Protection act came into force on the 25th May 2018. 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. **In seeking to maintain legal compliance I am requesting that if anyone is unhappy with me holding your email please contact me to advise and I will remove you from the list.** Otherwise I will retain your email contact and continue to send you monthly updates and occasional key information in my capacity as an elected Herefordshire Councillor.

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Useful Information - FAQs

Flooding: emergency contact details – please share with your networks

Environment Agency: 0800 80 70 60 (24-hours) or visit www.gov.uk/report-an-environmental-incident

Flood alerts: Floodline 0345 988 1188. Sign up online at www.gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings to get Flood Warnings from the Environment Agency by phone, email or text message. If you live by a river or stream, keep a watch on current and expected water levels.

Power cut: Call 105 or visit www.powercut105.com

BT phone line issues: www.downdetector.co.uk/status/bt-british-telecom

Gas leak: 0800 111 999 or visit www.wvutilities.co.uk/services/smell-gas

Welsh Water: [0800 052 0130](tel:08000520130) (Water emergencies) or [0800 085 3968](tel:08000853968) (Sewer emergencies) or visit www.contact.dwrcymru.com/

Severn Trent water: [0800 783 4444](tel:08007834444) www.stwater.co.uk/in-my-area/check-my-area/

Report a flooded road or highway obstruction- Balfour Beatty Living Places: **01432 26180**

Has your property been affected by flooding? – Please share with your networks

By letting us know where and what happened, especially if it hasn't been reported, we and our partners can use the information which may help reduce the future impacts of flooding. Please [report it here](#) or contact TalkCommunityEnquiries@herefordshire.gov.uk.

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

Potholes, Defects, and dog poo reporting, blocked gullies, etc. online

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, 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.

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As always please continue to make use and encourage the use of established reporting methods for any highways defect; online, or using the telephone app – for potholes, dog poo

- Telephone customer services on [01432 261 800](tel:01432 261 800).

Please note that Herefordshire Council strongly encourages Balfour Beatty to promote all service requests and queries should be logged via the HC website at Herefordshire Council website - also download the pothole App to help report potholes as you see them.

<https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/transport-and-highways/maintenance/potholes>

[https://link.edgepilot.com/s/e3b2b34e/ttjzBlvIfEewR-](https://link.edgepilot.com/s/e3b2b34e/ttjzBlvIfEewR-39NN73dA?u=https://myaccount.herefordshire.gov.uk/report-a-pothole)

[39NN73dA?u=https://myaccount.herefordshire.gov.uk/report-a-pothole](https://myaccount.herefordshire.gov.uk/report-a-pothole)

<https://myaccount.herefordshire.gov.uk/report-a-pothole> or

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

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.

Footpaths and Public Rights of Way

For any PROW (Public Rights of Way) maps or problems, you can report these via the following link on the Herefordshire Council's website: [Report a public right of way problem | Herefordshire](#)

Report fly tippers

If you spot someone fly-tipping

- Make a note of any vehicle used, including model, colour and registration number. If it is safe to do so without being seen, take a photograph or video of the activity
- Note the fly tippers' clothes, and distinguishing features. If you can hear the fly tippers, take note of anything which was said along with the speakers' accents
- Make a note of what they dumped, the location, weather conditions and how far away you were at the time;
- You may report fly tipping on an app on the website and available for download.

Please send us this information by using the [report flytipping form](#).

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

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Parishes Councils have their own inbox 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](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](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](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](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](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](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., and [@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_claims](https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/info/200196/roads/206/highway-claims) please use

Council tax reduction or exemption

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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