

Ward Report – May 2022
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, 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

Next month sees the Platinum Jubilee celebrations and all my communities seem to be arranging events to mark the occasion. Please get involved and not leave it all to others. After the last two years this is a time to celebrate community and being thankful that we live in a safe and secure part of the world.

By law all Parishes must hold an annual meeting this time of year where local organisations and the Parish council can report to residents. This is not a normal parish council type meeting it is essentially an open session where you can speak with the parish councillors and raise local issues. I urge you to attend your parish council's annual parish meeting and to join in on this important event. Find this year's dates, time and venues on their website and notice boards

As part of the Government's continuing 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

I continue to remind you that 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

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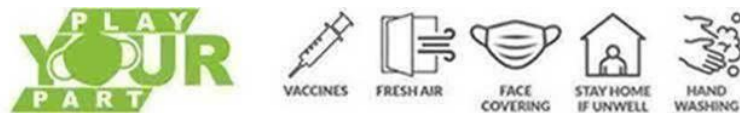
- Taking a test if you have Covid symptoms and staying at home and avoiding contact with other people if you test positive
- Washing hands regularly with soap and water
- Following advice to catch it, bin it, kill it

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

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 - Continuing



The conflict in Ukraine continues to escalate with Russia's invasion of Ukraine becoming more 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](#).

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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.

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](#)

Hereford Travel Survey.

The online survey will run until Wednesday 25 May. It is open to anyone aged 16 and over who lives or works in the county.

<https://consultations.herefordshire.gov.uk/news/article/76/hereford-travel-survey>

[Have your say on travel in Herefordshire – Herefordshire Council](#)

The survey, which is required as part of the Department for Transport Access Fund, will seek to provide data on changes to travel patterns, including changes during and post-pandemic, and the impact of more widespread home working. The data will support future travel and transport planning and will be shared with the Department for Transport.

More planning consultations till 16th May

The council is updating its planning strategy and following on from its consultation on rural development settlements a major review of a whole series of important policies including Rural access policy, rural economy, future of neighbourhood planning, affordable housing and balanced communities together with water management, landscape, housing design, transport, infrastructure and several others is currently online till 16th May.

Information and options can be found at

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<https://hlp.commonplace.is/>

If you need further assistance, please email ldf@herefordshire.gov.uk or phone 01432 383357

I have concerns about the pace and frequency that these consultations are coming out and the size of them. A survey on village services came out to Parish Councils with originally only a week to reply and was full of inaccuracies; which is of course disappointing!

Thus these consultations are easy to miss or ignore due to their frequency and the size and complexity can be off-putting. However, the consequences on the provisions of homes, development of businesses including farming in the future are significant.

Waste Collection – new plans

Future Service - Twin Stream Recycling



hfdscouncil

Herefordshire.gov.uk

Emerging new Waste collections service for 2023.

The council is renewing its waste collection service to meet the new government regulations. The emerging plan is a weekly collection service which will require households to store five bins with a three week rotational service.

Week one – a blue bin collection of paper and card products;

Week two – green bin of plastic, cans and glass

Week three- grey bin – general waste

In addition there will be weekly collection of a small food waste bin and seasonal gardening collection fortnightly.

Food and unwashed food packaging is also unfit for recycling. All leftover food needs to go in with general waste. Firm food containers – like the plastic trays ready-meals are packaged in – need to be quickly rinsed before being put out with other recycling items.

Other things not accepted in recycling bins and sacks include:

- Batteries
- Black sacks and other soft plastics
- Drinking glasses (plastic and glass)
- Electronic equipment
- Food
- Garden waste including flowers
- Knives and saucepans
- Nappies

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- Textiles and shoes
- Tissues

Black plastic cannot be recycled yet as Envirosort's scanning machines are unable to detect it.

[Green bin campaign given the green light – Herefordshire Council](#)

It is anticipated these changes will not happen till mid-2023.

The new system will be a problem for residents with little room to store the bins and bag collections will continue where existing problems occur. However the aim is boost still further the recycling rates of the county and exceed the government targets.

New community grant looks to improve overall wellbeing

Herefordshire Council has announced further funding in response to the overwhelming demand for recent grant schemes. Another round of grants has been launched for community and voluntary groups wanting to provide services and activities to improve overall wellbeing for residents in Herefordshire.

The grants are being funded as part of the council's investment to support economic recovery and improve wellbeing, as the county continues to recover from the impact of Covid-19. The community and personal resilience grant will be administered by Herefordshire Community Foundation and is for grants up to £10,000. It is for projects that will increase the capacity of voluntary and community groups to promote greater personal and community resilience.

The grant scheme is open for applications until Friday 13 May 2022.

For more details, see the Herefordshire Community Foundation website at:

<https://www.herefordshirecf.org/community-and-personal-resilience-grant/>

Local Plan Consultation

As part of the preparation of a new Local Plan for Herefordshire, our existing planning policies need to be re-assessed to determine their effectiveness, consistency with national planning policy and to consider whether they would help to deliver key aspirations of the Herefordshire County Plan.

The Local Plan 2021-2041 Policy Options consultation will run for 6 weeks from **Monday 4 April to 16 May 2022**. It sets out a summary of the context around each of the policy areas and includes range of possible approaches that the new local plan could include.

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The policy options within the consultation paper cover general and county-wide matters. Consultation on the policy options for specific places and areas, including the rural settlement hierarchy will take place later this year.

“The policies will be key in determining planning applications and so it is important that this consultation provides the opportunity for everyone to have their say early in the process of plan making. The responses received, together with a number of other studies, will help form the draft Local Plan, so I would urge everybody to get involved and have their say.”

More information about the Local Plan 2021-2041 Policy Options is available on [the website](#)

Message from Chief Executive - Member News

Refugee Week – please share with your networks

Refugee Week takes place in June each year, and the council will be marking it this year with several events. The objectives for the week, along with details of some of the planned events, can be found on our [intranet page](#).

There are several ways that staff members (and residents) can get involved in the events of Refugee Week, and more will be revealed as we get nearer to the time. In the meantime:

1. One of our aims is to spread the message of welcome to refugees around the county, by displaying orange hearts in public places around the county. So we need orange hearts made out of various materials and in all sizes – you could knit, paint or sew orange hearts, or make them out of wood or other materials. Or you could encourage your children or community group to help out by making them. How about making some orange heart bunting or badges?
2. We'll be producing a heart-shaped collage made out of photographs of local people, designed to show we are a welcoming county. If you'd like your photo to form a part of the collage, please send a good quality selfie to diversity@herefordshire.gov.uk.
3. Attend our events (a list will be kept up-to-date on our intranet page). The main event for council staff will be a two-hour workshop at the Kindle Centre on the morning of Friday 17 June delivered by a professional trainer. To book a place please e-mail [Crystal Lathwell](#).
4. If you have personal experience of being displaced from your home country, come and talk to us about how you could get involved.

Any queries can be directed to [Harriet Yellin](#).



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Signs of Safety Survey



The Signs of Safety Team is running a survey to hear about your experience of using the Signs of Safety practice model in your work so far, and to help inform the next steps we need to take to continue to improve our practice to support children, young people and their families.

Signs of Safety was introduced in Herefordshire just over a year ago and provides a framework to transform the way in which we work alongside families, recognising family strengths as well as difficulties.

This survey provides an opportunity for staff that use the model in their work with children and families to share their experiences.

Your feedback will help us understand how Signs of Safety is being implemented and to ensure that this is effective as it can be. It will also help us to gauge what we need to do to support you in our continued role out of the practice model to ensure it has the most effective impact to support you on improving outcomes for children.

You can [complete the survey here](#). **The survey will close on Friday 13 May 2022.**

If you have any questions about the survey please email signsofsafetyherefordshire@herefordshire.gov.uk

All responses to the survey will be anonymous and the information you provide will be handled in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR). Further information about how your data will be processed is available within the privacy notice on [our council website](#).

Police warnings – West Mercia Police



Safety Surveys

If you're heading out this bank holiday weekend, whether it's for a night on the town or a day trip with the family, and you experience something that leaves you feeling unsafe, we **need** to know.

The StreetSafe reporting form on our website allows you to tell us about:

- A lack of street lighting

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- Signs of drug abuse
- Feeling like you've been followed

By using the StreetSafe reporting form you can tell us about these incidents quickly and anonymously, helping to inform our local policing patrols in your community.

Start your report on our website - [StreetSafe | West Mercia Police](#)

Further Safety Survey

Can we please ask for your support in completing the attached survey? The results will help us better understand where you feel unsafe and the reasons why. It will also help us understand what improvements can be made to make your area safer.

Please note this Survey will only be available for completion between 28th April 2022 and 5th May 2022.

<https://survey.neighbourhoodmatters.co.uk/Survey/GUID/e4f98f24-ee17-4675-8029-19987859993d>

Local Parishes News

Upton Bishop: The works at the crossroads has finished and the lights are working well, they learn bout traffic movements and they have always turned green very quickly when I have approached. I have written to BBLP to thank them and the contractors who installed the system for the excellence of their work and the operation. There appears a slight problem with regard to HGVs/tractors moving of the carriageway and causing tyres marks on the verge. BBLP will investigating why this has happened; it has been mooted that it could be narrow carriageway following completed highways works. However, it is clear to see that the carriageways have not been reduced following the works carried out.

Warning Notice



If you see a sheep lay on its back like this please go and push her on to her side so she can get on her feet.

This time of year before shearing, the ewes have a large fleece on them and after grazing on the spring grass they become prone to turning on their backs and unable to get themselves up as the grass ferments in their stomach.

Don't contact the farmer just go and pull them up as time can be critical before the internal gases bloat and kill them probably leaving two orphan lambs.

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



Barry Durkin

Old Gore Ward

Mob. 07792 882054

Email. bdurkin@herefordshire.gov.uk

General Data Protection Act

The General Data Protection Act places obligations and responsibilities on any company, organisation and individual who holds and process personnel 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.wutilities.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:01432261800).

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/tjzBlvIfEewR-](https://link.edgepilot.com/s/e3b2b34e/tjzBlvIfEewR-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