

Ward Report – November 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,

Hopefully, the messages provided with this ward report will still provide you with information and details on where to report issues. To enable this report I consult with many sources including information provided by other councillors.

This month I have continued to have planned meetings with the Police and Crime Commissioner in my role as vice chairman of the West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner's Panel. In addition to attending a full council meeting – reports from this will follow later in this report.

Please forward this update to any residents in the ward who you think may be interested and copy me in. As ever if you think I can be of help please do not hesitate to contact me. Stay safe and keep well everybody.

Barry

Covid-19 update

There is still local and national Covid-19 information and support available.

Local information: [Herefordshire Council website](#)

Local vaccinations: [Herefordshire and Worcestershire Clinical Commissioning Group website](#)

National guidance: [Government website](#)

Urgent medication supplies: [NHS website](#) / call NHS 111

Talk Community helpline: The helpline is still available to help residents, who don't have support from family, friends or their local community, with food supplies, medication delivery or befriending (this includes those who are self-isolating).

Call: 01432 260027

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E-mail: talkcommunityhelpline@herefordshire.gov.uk

Online: [Coronavirus - Talk Community support](#)

Avian Flu - Herefordshire

As you may be aware, we're currently experiencing the biggest avian influenza outbreak we've ever had across the United Kingdom and just last week, there was an outbreak at Leigh Sinton on the Herefordshire border. On Monday, Defra announced that it will be a legal requirement for all bird keepers in Great Britain to follow strict biosecurity measures to help protect their flocks from the threat of avian flu. [Further information can be found on their website](#) and please share this with anyone in our agricultural communities who may be directly affected by this.

An avian influenza prevention zone (AIPZ) was brought into force at midday, **Monday 17 October 2022**. This means it is now a legal requirement for all bird keepers, small and large, to follow the new strict biosecurity measures to help prevent the disease spreading to more poultry and other domestic birds.

Avian influenza circulates naturally in wild birds. When they migrate to the UK from mainland Europe they can spread the disease to poultry and other captive birds.

Keepers with more than 500 birds need to comply with the minimum and enhanced biosecurity measures. These are to:

- Restrict access for non-essential people on their sites
- Ensure workers change clothing and footwear before entering bird enclosures
- Ensure site vehicles are cleaned and disinfected regularly to limit the risk of the disease spreading

There are requirement for backyard owners with smaller numbers of poultry, including chickens, ducks and geese to comply with the minimum biosecurity measures restrictions.

Further information may be found at [Bird flu alert – Herefordshire Council](#)

Childrens' Services – news and update

On Thursday 20th October morning, the 'A Common Bond' group held a public meeting at Hereford Rowing Club to discuss the group's concerns about Herefordshire Children's Services, which I attended. I fully appreciate the importance of listening to all voices in our communities and will be using the feedback from Thursday's public meeting proactively to help us improve support for vulnerable families.

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The recent Ofsted report has reinforced the fact that we need to work more closely with families and use their feedback to help us to improve over the next two years. The Council is also responding to concerns raised by our MPs where families have approached them directly, as have I been approached also. There is the need to ensure that any problems are effectively and efficiently addressed and if anybody has concerns in my ward over their children's treatment please contact me.

National changes to Telecare Service - please share

Some of you may have heard of 'digital switchover 2025', which is when existing analogue telephone lines, which use old copper wiring, will be switched off. This decision has been made by the communications industry which owns the copper lines due to the high cost of maintaining the infrastructure.

To replace the analogue lines, users nationally will be moved to a digital line which uses the internet connection to make and receive calls. The upgrade will be delivered by the telecoms industry in a phased approach over the next couple of years, with the UK network expected to be fully upgraded to in 2025. The switchover will happen on a telephone exchange by exchange basis (not on a regional basis).

This move affects the existing Telecare equipment as the majority of the current Lifeline units commissioned by the council use the analogue telephone lines to place the emergency calls. We'll therefore begin a changeover process across Herefordshire from 7 November 2022. This work is estimated to take about 18 months to complete.

During this time all existing analogue Lifeline units will be replaced with new hybrid units, which have the ability to work across both analogue and digital networks, and mobile phone networks. Using these new more versatile units will mean that we can meet all of our users' needs during this period of change.

The new Telecare equipment is supplied by a company called Tele alarm. If you're a Telecare prescriber within the Independent Living Service (ILS), the **new equipment will be visible for you to order on IRIS from 7 November**. In order for the transition to the new stock lines to take place, **ILS prescribers are asked not to place any orders for Telecare equipment after 2.30pm on Friday 4 November**.

So that prescribers can see the new equipment in action and ask questions, we have set up some short face-to-face sessions on Friday 4 November and Tuesday 8 November and you'll receive further information about how to book yourself onto one of these sessions soon.

We'll continue to release communications at each stage of the changeover process over the next 18 months in order to keep you up to date with what's happening. Initially, from 7

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November we'll just be fitting the new equipment to brand new users of the Telecare Service and those whose analogue telephone lines have already been switched to digital.

Gritters ready to keep roads safe this winter

Herefordshire's gritting team were out on the roads last week carrying out their annual 'dry run' before winter. The safety of road users is our number one priority, so these trial runs are a crucial part of the preparations to ensure we are ready for the cold weather ahead. The gritters don't spread any salt during these runs but they are a good way to test all the equipment and systems in place, whilst also helping the drivers familiarise themselves with priority routes.

Balfour Beatty Living Places, working together with Herefordshire Council, deliver a winter maintenance service every year which covers 1000 miles of the county's roads. The service includes salting the roads with grit, which melts snow and ice and helps to prevent ice forming, snow ploughing and refilling thousands of grit bins across the county. Last winter, Herefordshire's gritting team completed 81 gritting treatments, most of which were carried out during the night.

[Gritters ready to keep roads safe this winter – Herefordshire Council](#)

Council launches a directory of warm spaces ready for winter

Talk Community at Herefordshire Council has launched an online directory of warm spaces ready for the winter. The warm spaces listed in the directory are open to anyone who may be struggling with the increase in the cost of living and will be completely free of charge to residents looking for somewhere to keep warm and well during the cold weather.

Venues such as Herefordshire's libraries are already signed up to the warm spaces scheme and offer additional services such as free Wi-Fi, computer access and plenty of interesting books to read.

A number of the countywide Talk Community Hubs are also listed in the directory. As well as a warm welcome, people will be able to access up to date health and wellbeing information and details on services and activities within their local community and across the county - [on the warm spaces webpage](#)"

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Money on your mind

If you're finding it difficult to cope with money or debt problems, perhaps you've lost your job or your hours have been reduced, it can leave you feeling stressed and anxious. It's important to remember you're not alone, as there's lots of local and national support available.

If you've got money on your mind, this handy section will help you quickly and easily find what you need, when you need it.

[Money on your mind - Talk Community: Talk Community](#)

Cost of Living Bulletin: October 2022

The [October 2022 Monthly Monitoring Report](#) has just been published. The monthly monitoring report is a supplementary report to the quarterly [Cost of Living Bulletin](#) and provides the latest data from the limited number of datasets that are updated on a monthly basis.



The key points from this edition of the Monitor are:

- The number of people claiming the Universal Credit (UC) doubled between March 2020 and May 2020. Since then the claimant numbers remained at a high level.
- The number of people claiming Pension Credit (UC) in Herefordshire has fallen significantly and fairly consistently since May 2018.
- Apart from the bump in early 2021, numbers of people claiming unemployment-related benefits have decreased gradually and fairly consistently from the peaks seen in May and August 2020. However, numbers remain elevated when compared to the pre-pandemic level. Generally, those wards with the highest numbers of claimants before the pandemic still have the highest numbers now.

The Role of Neighbourhood Planning with the emerging Local Plan

An update for ward members from Sam Banks (Neighbourhood Planning Manager):

For your information, below is an email being sent to all town and parish councils regarding the status and role of current NDPs as the new Local Plan 2021-2041 is emerging and the potential future role of NDPs within the next plan period. As you will be aware many parish councils are concerned about the status of their current made NDPs in light of the work being undertaken on the Local Plan and raise this at meetings, in planning committee and to officers. The [Role of NDPs briefing document](#) and [Local Plan and Neighbourhood Planning FAQs](#) are intended to give some initial answers to those queries.

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Rural Settlement Hierarchy - Revised settlement audit

An update for ward members from Sam Banks (Neighbourhood Planning Manager):

For your information, please find below a consultation regarding the Rural Settlement Hierarchy which will be sent to all parish councils. This is part of a continuing consultation and engagement with parish councils on the rural strategy for the emerging Local Plan 2021-2041.

Documents: [Rural Settlement Hierarchy Fact Check Report](#) and [RSH Appendices](#)

Help shape the future of City's historic streets

A consultation has been launched on proposed improvements to the streets and public spaces in Hereford's historic Cathedral and River Wye Quarter.

Changes are being proposed for the layout and use of the streets and public spaces in the historic core of Hereford, around the Cathedral and the River Wye area - Broad St, King St and Bridge St, and surrounding areas.

The improvements aim to create an attractive, vibrant city centre to help support existing businesses and encourage people to stay longer when they visit, helping to boost the local economy.

The proposals give more space for pedestrians and cyclists, with a new layout and design that gives motor vehicles reduced priority. There are areas for small events, activities and street dining with lots of attractive seating and planting. The unique character and history of the area is a key consideration in the designs, along with making the area safe and enjoyable for all users.

You can visit Hereford Library to view a map of the proposals and complete a questionnaire.

The consultation closes on 8 November 2022.



The cost of the design proposals is being met through the Hereford City Centre Improvement programme, which is jointly funded by Herefordshire Council and Marches LEP. Once the final designs are agreed the funding for implementation, such as from grants, will then be sought.

To find out more about the proposals and to give your views, visit <http://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/consultations>.

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Hereford Town Hall - future

The transfer of the freehold ownership of Hereford Town Hall from Herefordshire Council to Hereford City Council or designated body, is to be explored following a decision by Cabinet (Thursday 29 September 2022).

The decision follows a review of listed sites that focussed on the future of key buildings in the City, owned by Herefordshire Council. The review found that the listed status of Hereford Town Hall means that there are limited options for how Herefordshire Council could use the space in the future, or at the neighbouring 10 St Owen Street.

Hereford City Council have expressed an interest in both the sites for continued public and community use, and so it has been agreed to further explore the possibility of a transfer.

[Future of Hereford Town Hall a step closer – Herefordshire Council](#)

Energy Bills Support Factsheet

The government has set out decisive action to support people and businesses with their energy bills and tackle the root causes of the issues in the UK energy market through increased supply – ensuring the country is not left in the same position again.

[Energy bills support factsheet - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Hereford Station Transport Hub

It is understood and reported in the Hereford Times, that Hereford’s planned new central transport hub, which will now cost an extra £6.3 million. A proposal prepared for a Herefordshire Council cabinet meeting on Thursday (October 27) asks for the plan for an “integrated modern public transport interchange” in front of Hereford railway station to be signed off.

The scheme will enable passengers to switch easily between bus, rail, bicycle and taxi, in order to “support economic growth, improve accessibility and encourage active travel”, it says.

The design “incorporates as much greenspace as possible”, aims to keep people and vehicles separate, and also to enhance the grade II listed station building, it adds. According to an accompanying business case for the project, it will include bus stands, taxi ranks, covered waiting areas, real-time transport information, refreshments, toilets, Wi-Fi, CCTV, cycle parking and lockers, a Beryl bike exchange, and will have safe direct pedestrian access from the city centre. However the work will not include upgrading the station car park, or refurbishing the railway station building.

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The proposal has been reviewed at a briefing of Herefordshire councillors. There were identified a number of issues which were not considered appropriate due to safety and environmental issues. It was reported that these points were noted and will be considered by the project team and the cabinet.

Are you looking for funding? (We're looking out for you!)

Funding and grants are an important element of the support available for charities, social enterprises and community groups and can be used for a range of purposes, whether it's to help set you up or expand your activities and services.

Our amazing Talk Community Development team keep an eye out for funding opportunities, both locally and nationally, adding them to our [funding website](#) behind the scenes. If you're looking for a funding source for your charity, organisation or community group, take a look at our comprehensive [Talk Community funding update](#). You can also contact the Talk Community Development team at talkcommunityenquiries@herefordshire.gov.uk

Friendly faces (meet new people and have a natter)



Hereford Community Farm are inviting people to join their free drop-in sessions, for older people, and they particularly welcome those living with dementia and their family carers.

All sessions have a different theme, from making a garden bird feeder from scrap wood for looking after our feathered friends, to apple pressing to make juice (we love our apples in Herefordshire) through to making a Greenwood Christmas gnome!

For more information, visit the [Talk Community what's on calendar](#).

Neighbourhood Matters from West Mercia Police

Do you want to know what's going on in your area?

The [Neighbourhood Matters](#) messaging service enables residents, businesses and community groups to keep in touch with our local West Mercia Police teams and learn more about what they are doing in your community. It's free to sign up!

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You can choose to receive updates on crimes and the latest information about on-going incidents. You can also hear about positive police action as well as good news stories, and you can also play an active part in helping with public appeals.

To find out more and sign up, visit the [Neighbourhood Matters website](https://www.neighbourhoodmatters.co.uk/).

Meet your safer neighbourhood team

We are a dedicated group of police officers and police community support officers (PCSOs) who work with local communities and partner organisations to keep our residents, businesses and visitors safe and to prevent crime and tackle anti-social behaviour in your locality.

Officers can be contacted on the below numbers concerning community issues. To report a crime in progress call 999 and for non emergencies, report online at www.westmercia.police.uk/report. If you are unable to report online, you can contact us via the 101 non-emergency number.

Ross-on-Wye
rossonwye.snt@westmercia.police.uk

 Inspector James Ashton	 Sergeant Julie Watson	 PC Daniel Underwood 07773 049892	
 PCSO David Alexander 07773 049929	 PCSO Simon Hall 07967 302401	 PCSO Claire Kelly 07866 215011	 PCSO Kirsten Kysow 07773 034152

Report a crime to Police 101

When you sign up to our alerts, you can choose which areas you want to hear about and what activity is taking place in that area. You'll also hear about positive police action, good news stories and be able to play an active part in helping us with our public appeals. Sign up below:



Whilst the information is considered to be true and correct at the date of publication, changes in circumstances after the time of publication may impact on the accuracy of the information (February 2022).

www.westmercia.police.uk
@westmerciapolice @WMerciaPolice @westmerciapolice

<https://link.edgепilot.com/s/bb21d405/UARq0VNajkqv1vLf0zKSJQ?u=http://www.neighbourhoodmatters.co.uk/>

Old Gore Parish Councils

Upton Bishop

Congratulations to the current and previous parish council, in achieving a current approved Neighbourhood Development Plan. This clearly set out the parish direction of development into the future.

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

Barry

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 I 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 – Frequently Asked Questions (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/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