

Ward Report – July 2023
From your Local Community Champion – Ward 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 Residents

It's been a very active past month following our local elections, Annual Parish meetings, and my duties as the Cabinet Member for Public Realm and Public Protection and additionally I will continue to do my best to support the wellbeing of all parishioners, businesses and our environment.

The new Cabinet is getting down to work and is reviewing the decision to put the City library in Maylords shopping centre – we will be identifying a new site this summer, and good to know that the proposals for a new Museum build in Broad Street has received Lottery support. I am focussed to a larger extent on potholes and their repair and the state of the highways. A strategy is being put together to provide a cost effective and efficient method of repairing our highways with a focus on our local roads; because they are our 'A' and 'B' roads.

The previous administration's decision to cancel the bypass around Hereford is also being reviewed but it is clear that not only has the funding being lost but the previous consultations will need to be redone, and the land that was compulsory purchased has been sold back. Another impact on the county is that this will halt the work of the replacement Core Planning Strategy while a proposed new highway is inserted into the new plan. We will therefore have to wait longer before we can revisit the Neighbourhood plans and discuss settlement status for our villages.

The financial year accounts for the Council for 2022/23 to the 31st March have been presented to the new Cabinet and show overspend of £5.6 million (representing 3.6% of the budget). The council has faced the pressures of inflation and cost of living, but also the significant pressures in the Children and young people directorate with 10.2 million of the allocated 11.5 million spent meeting continued demand for placements and transport services. Continued funding will be required to support transformation improvement in 2023/24. The accounts will now be subject to external audit and assurance.

The Government has, in addition to The Three Counties Hotel in Hereford, indicated that it wants to use Talbot Hotel in Leominster as accommodation for refugees arriving in this County. While understanding the need to house those who are genuinely fleeing from their native countries, there are concerns on the safety of the premises and pressure on local services given the high proposed number to be housed; however, this is not a request to the Council.

Barry

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Armed Forces Week and WWII Pilot honoured



As Chairman of the Armed Forces Covenant Partnership I attended the raising of the flag in Hightown Hereford as part of Armed Forces week, and afterwards joined the Lord Lieutenant Edward Harley to honour Brian Davies DFC. During this meeting I met with Brian who was very active in the RAF is celebrating his 100th birthday and trained glider pilots at Shobdon during the war. He explained to the young pilots of today how difficult it was as there was no communication between the tug and glider. As they flew above the ground. I was able to tell him about the recent visit of the local RBL branch to Pegasus Bridge, where the gliders he trained for filled their first mission of the D day landing campaign by securing the important strategic bridge.

He was presented with a picture of today's RAF refuelling a jet mid-flight by members of the squadron at Brize Norton. Brian's two daughters also attended the event.

Alcohol Awareness Week in Herefordshire

How much alcohol can you safely drink? How many units of alcohol are there in a pint of cider? Or a large glass of wine? We are regularly told that men and women shouldn't drink any more than 14 units of alcohol a week. And that those units should be spread across the week, rather than reserved for a weekend binge. But what does 14 units of alcohol look like?

Herefordshire's [Turning Point](#) team will provide answers to these and similar questions at pop-up events around the county during [Alcohol Awareness Week](#), 3 – 9 July. Meet the team between 10am – 4pm at the following places:

- Weds 5 July Hereford, High Town, opposite Apple store
- Thurs 6 July Ross-on-Wye, market space, opposite Boots
- Fri 7 July Leominster, Corn Square

First Ofsted Report Published

Feedback from the first Ofsted monitoring visit of Herefordshire Council's children's services, since they were judged inadequate last summer, has been published by the council today.

[First Ofsted monitoring report published – Herefordshire Council](#)

New family rooms with privacy and comfort during meetings

Work is well on its way at Herefordshire Council's Plough Lane offices to transform a series of rooms into family and child friendly spaces with the project due to be completed at the end of July. The rooms are being transformed for families who are meeting Children's Services care and support staff and a dedicated entrance to the building is being created so families can access the new area directly without having to go through the main reception area.

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[Work starts to transform offices into family friendly meeting spaces – Herefordshire Council](#)

Permanent move for Library paused



The decision to move the library from Broad Street to Maylords Orchard has been paused to consider whether it is to go to the most appropriate location. Last week was ended by the Chief Executive and Cllr Jonathan Lester, Leader of the Council visiting the Library staff with, ahead of the move to their temporary home. They met with Jonathan Chedgzoy and the team.

They've a lot to do to over the next few weeks to re-home the library, but a good plan in place and I sensed they are looking forward to what the future might bring.

We're moving home – Herefordshire Council

Library's new location to be reviewed – Herefordshire Council

Crackdown on Fly Tippers

Herefordshire Council has successfully secured £20,000 of grant money, funded by the West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) John Campion

[£20k Crackdown on Fly tippers – Herefordshire Council](#)

Council's accounts published

Herefordshire residents can now see the council's most recent financial accounts online.

[Council's accounts published – Herefordshire Council](#)

Talk Community – for the community

Cost of living support

We recognise many people are worried about the rising cost of living and energy bills. It's important to remember you're not alone, as there's lots of local and national support available in this section.

If you'd like further support around the cost of living, please get in touch with our Talk Community Helpline.

01432 260027

talkcommunityhelpline@herefordshire.gov.uk

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(Super) Hubs Capital Grant Scheme Networking Event

The hubs capital grant scheme aims to help communities to build ‘superhubs’ which will offer a range of activities and services that reflect local need. By building on the success of the Talk Community hubs model, the scheme is looking to support new and existing hubs to enhance and increase their community offer.

Talk Community are hosting a breakfast networking event on the 11th July (8.30am-11.30am) at Hereford Rugby Club. Providing an exciting opportunity for community groups and services to come together, to find out more about the scheme, and how they can work collaboratively to offer a wider range of services to residents in their communities as well as support the hubs to be sustainable moving forwards, there’s also tea, coffee and breakfast bap included!

The hubs capital grant scheme is currently open for Expressions of Interest (EoI) With grants of £5,000 to £300,000 on offer, the capital funding could be used for adapting existing buildings, improving accessibility and enabling multi-agency working. For examples of how the fund could be used, visit the Talk Community Directory where you can also access the grant information leaflet. The EoI deadline is 25th July 2023. If you’re a community group or service provider who would like to find out more, please use this link to fill out a short form and one of the Talk Community Development team will be in touch with you.

If you would like to attend the networking event on 11th July please book your tickets here with Eventbrite.

Herefordshire Talk Community an exemplar



Well done to the Talk Community Team whose community hubs are being heralded as a great example of how to connect residents with wellbeing advice, support and somewhere that

can sign post to services. The LGA are now using their model as an example of good practice. You can read the case study below:

Talk Community LGA case study - Herefordshire: A county-wide network of community wellbeing hubs | Local Government Association

Help Raise Awareness of Private Fostering

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Private Fostering is a 'private arrangement,' where a child under the age of 16 (or 18 if they have a disability), is cared for by someone who is not their parent or a close relative for a period of 28 days or more. This is a 'private arrangement,' usually made by the child's parent. By law, the Local Authority (Herefordshire Council) must be notified of any private fostering arrangements, as visits should take place to ensure that the child is safe and well.

The Herefordshire Safeguarding Children Partnership needs your help to raise awareness of private fostering. You can request leaflets and posters about private fostering to display in your public spaces or to hand out at events. These materials are available to any organisations in Herefordshire - for e.g. Parish Councils, Community Centres, schools, GP surgeries, leisure centres, including voluntary and community groups.

You can [email the Partnership Team](#) to request a private fostering leaflet and poster, and we will make arrangements to have it sent to you.

For more information about private fostering, visit the [Herefordshire Council website](#).

(Display a private fostering leaflet and poster in your organisation)

Courier Fraud – West Mercia Police Economic Unit

We reported an outbreak of Courier Fraud scams in this region earlier in the year and now, once again, we are raising your awareness following a spate of reports of Courier Frauds focused in the Herefordshire area.

Courier Fraud occurs when a fraudster contacts victim by telephone usually claiming to be a police officer, bank official or other law enforcement official.

The caller may also be able to confirm some easily obtainable basic details about the victim such as their full name and address. The caller will try and build up trust with the potential victim before proceeding.

Their aim is to get the victim to reveal their PIN, credit or debit card and /or bank details, and more than often will target the elderly as potential victims.

How does it work?

- The scammer calls you claiming to be from your bank or as a police officer and will tell you either a fraudulent payment on your account needs dealing with, or sometimes that a person has been arrested using your details and cards
- You may be asked to call the bank back to convince you the call is genuine using the number on the reverse of your card. However, the Scammer has still kept the line open so you are still touch with the Scammer

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- If you do try to call your Bank back, always wait at least 5 minutes for the line to clear or use another phone
 - They will either ask you for your card PIN number or tell you to key it into the phone – you should never be asked for your PIN or pass it over on the phone
 - The Caller then tells you they will send a Courier to pick up your card – they may often provide a “password” to give to the Courier to make it sound even more genuine
- Once they have your card and your PIN they then have access to your money.

Other versions of this scam include:

- Asking you to withdraw a large sum of cash which the police will mark and return to the banking system in an effort to identify a corrupt banking person – once you hand over the cash to the courier - it is gone
- Scammers have also realised now that when a more vulnerable person goes into the Bank to withdraw large sums of cash the Bank staff become suspicious so the Scammer may tell the victim to withdraw the cash in Euros from a Foreign Exchange outlet
- A person claiming to be a police officer and is investigating sales of counterfeit goods then asks you to buy an expensive item such as a watch or jewellery from a specific retailer. You are then asked to hand it over to the Courier to deliver to the “Police” and again that is the last you see or hear of it.
- A further common variation is to tell you your bank account has been compromised and you need to transfer all your money into a “Safe Account”. Once again you have delivered your cash directly to the Scammer.

Protect yourself

- Your bank or the police will never call you to ask you to verify your personal details or PIN by phone or offer to pick up your card by courier. Hang up if you get a call like this.
- If you need to call your bank back to check, wait five minutes; fraudsters may stay on the line after you hang up. Alternatively, use a different line altogether to call your bank.
- If you think you have been scammed use the dedicated “159” telephone number for direct access to your Bank



Our Community Support Officers

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.

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

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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.



While 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 2023)



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!**

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](#).

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:

<https://link.edgepilot.com/s/bb21d405/UARq0VNajkqv1vLf0zKSJO?u=http://www.neighbourhoodmatters.co.uk/>

Old Gore Parish Councils

Nil to report at present

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 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.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.

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.

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).

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

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.

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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., and [@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

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