



June 2025 Ward Report – Old Gore Ward

Parishes of: Brampton Abbots with Sollers Hope and Yatton, Brockhampton with Much Fawley, Foy (East), Foy (West), How Caple, Kings Caple, Much Marcle, Upton Bishop and Woolhope

From your local County Councillor: Barry Durkin

Dear Residents

I must admit that this weather is a pleasant change to the flooding we experienced through last year. However, we now require rain to make the crops and gardens to flourish.

Regarding the Hereford by-pass. There has been significant progress towards the first phase of the Hereford by-pass; this being the route from A49 south at Grafton to A465 Abergavenny Road (phase one). This start has been reached with the beginning of the procurement process of a contractor to work on the final details of the designs and then build. They should be identified by the end of the year and work beginning in latter part of 2026. As it has been stated before the £30 million project will now have to be paid for by Herefordshire residents as the previous administration returned the government funding to Westminster and sold back the previously compulsory purchased land! While there remains strong opposition to building any new road infrastructure, I continue to believe that the majority of Herefordians still support the highway schemes. However, the remaining western option will need central government support.

Herefordshire Council is one of very few local authorities who will managed to secure a closure of their 2024/25 accounts before the end of June. Despite the continuing financial challenges and increased demand, the council has shown the outturn to be an underspend of £0.5 million; small but a better situation than when we took over the administration. This achievement included successfully achieving £10.9 million of planned savings, prudent use of reserves and rigorous financial management across all areas of the council during the last fiscal year.

The local election results last month saw some significant changes to local government with all three of our adjoining English Councils experiencing a change in political administration. We will be working with our neighbours to discuss key strategic issues that affect us jointly, including understanding their position on the government's devolution agenda. It is important we share with them what's important to our county and contribute to the discussion, to ensure we secure the best outcome for Herefordshire.

Within the next few weeks central government will be announcing details of its multi-year settlement and the three years funding allocation to local authorities. We have been pleased with the management of our financial performance over the past year which has allowed us to manage the previously reported £7 million rural services grant cut without major cuts. However, this is not a sustainable position. Through the Rural Services Network the Chairman of the Council has helped by lobbying and co-ordinating evidence to support the extra costs of

providing rural services. However, unfortunately suspicions are that how can an urban focused government be favourable to rural areas - but I hope I am wrong.

Finally in my personal review, we are at the halfway point of this administration, time to reflect on what we have achieved in the two years. The administration has pulled children's service round, achieved directorates to run on budget, delivering many projects, increased spend on roads £13.5 M this financial year with £8M last year, addressing drainage and Rights of way funding and delivery of 10 new bridges installations. Herefordshire Council is continuing to invest in the county's roads, with a programme of resurfacing works taking place throughout June. Finally, to put in place a new public realm contract to better deliver the service with inhouse staff by June next year. Plus, all the things you have achieved in your ward.

Finally, I just wanted to congratulate the staff of Herefordshire Council who were recently recognised and celebrated for just some of their achievements last week. I'm really pleased and really very proud of the outstanding work of colleagues who contribute to the organisation and who want to make it better, for residents and for all of us, every day. It's fantastic that we've been able to recognise their hard work in this way. Many congratulations to everyone who was nominated, the finalists and to our worthy award winners, there is a full list of the winners and highly commended in the article below.

Stay safe and well and as ever if I can be of any help please don't hesitate to contact

Barry

NMITE



Last month also saw the first cohort of students from NMITE graduate. This is a major achievement not just for the students and the staff of NMITE but the whole of our county. Offering a new way for aspiring engineers to link their academic knowledge with practical skills and experience. Working with local companies this is good for further education, local jobs and economic growth in our county. Picture left of successful graduates at ceremony at Cathedral.

[NMITE Celebrates Its Inaugural Graduation Ceremony | NMITE News & Blog](#)

Register for New Garden Waste service from next March

As briefly reported last month, Herefordshire Council is preparing to introduce a new household garden waste collection service from March 2026 and residents are being invited to register their interest.



The new, optional, garden waste collection service will replace the current single use green plastic sacks. The fortnightly collection service will cost £60 for the year (per container) plus an additional initial £10 delivery fee.

A new bin (or sacks where bin storage is not possible) will be provided to residents who choose to subscribe, to collect lawn cuttings, hedge clippings, leaves, twigs and small branches, dead flowers and weeds. The garden waste collected will be composted.

The new service follows the recent introduction of the collection of small electrical items and batteries for recycling and will help the council to achieve ambitious recycling targets. Residents are being asked to pre-register their interest in the service now to help inform the delivery of containers and the development of collection rounds. No payment will be taken at this stage.

To find out more about the service and to register your interest please visit the council website

[Garden waste - Expression of interest - Section 1 - MyHerefordshire](#)

The Council also intends to introduce food waste weekly collections from next March also. This will mean each household will have two caddies – a small one for your kitchen which you will empty onto a larger one to put out with your bins weekly.

P.S. Don't forget the new Waste Electrical and electronic equipment and batteries recycling collection is now available. Just leave your small electrical appliances on top of the bin – black or green, with batteries in a small bag!

Local Government Boundary Commission - Review

Herefordshire Council will be undergoing a Ward review to establish whether the current situation and numbers of councillors is appropriate and effective, for those constituents in each Ward area. This will look at our electoral arrangements: the number of councillors, the names, number and boundaries of wards and electoral divisions and the number of councillors to be elected to each. The LGBCE will look to conclude their review within the next year with any subsequent changes that may be recommended being brought into force following all out local elections in May 2027. The review will take around 18 months to complete, with the final recommendations laid in Parliament and new ward boundaries implemented for elections in May 2027.

This is different from the recent Parliamentary review. Further information will be given as and when we are notified.

Parish Council Charter

The parish councils and Herefordshire Council have been in discussion to enable a Parish Council Charter agreed to be published. There are 134 parish and town councils in Herefordshire all playing a valuable role in local democracy and service provision. The most recent quarterly Parish Summit, held in May was very well supported, and saw ongoing collaborative working between councillors and Herefordshire Council. Officers from numerous teams showcased their services in a marketplace, which was engaging, providing updates and support to councillors as needed. The charter which sets out how we aim to work together. This Charter is the result of discussions locally and across Herefordshire to confirm existing good practice and to establish some new ways of working. All parish councils are invited to the quarterly parish council summit. The ways of operating together with the Charter was a key area of discussion when last, we met; with positive feedback from Herefordshire Council, and both town and parish councils alike. From the outset of this ongoing engagement, there are several councillors in place to represent Parish councils going forward. The objective is to evidence how we may work in partnership to address key areas that will benefit residents. We cannot do this work without the essential and valued working relationships we have with Parish Councils.

Grants awarded for SEND activities

Seven Herefordshire organisations and groups have been awarded over £46k in grant funding collectively by Herefordshire Council to provide inclusive social activities for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

[Council awards grant funding to local organisations for SEND activities – Herefordshire Council](#)

Services available to unpaid carers

A free event that highlights the range of services available to unpaid carers living in Herefordshire is coming to the Kindle Centre, Hereford on Monday 9 June. The event will run from 10am – 2pm and will feature market stalls, talks and workshops of interest to unpaid carers

[Coming soon – free event for Herefordshire’s unpaid carers – Herefordshire Council](#)

Better Mental Health

Herefordshire’s Adult Better Mental Health Partnership Board has been accepted as the latest signatory to the government’s ‘Prevention Concordat for Better Mental Health’. This is in recognition of Herefordshire’s success in developing a dedicated plan for partners across Herefordshire to work together to reduce mental health inequalities through preventative and promotional activities.

[Herefordshire’s commitment to better mental health for all – Herefordshire Council](#)

Baton of Hope x Orange Button



In 2025 the Baton of Hope will tour the UK, with the aim of opening a national conversation about suicide, to reduce stigma and to create unity with the suicide prevention community. On 2nd October 2025 the Baton of Hope will come to Herefordshire.

We are pleased to reveal that 25 of Herefordshire's Baton of Hope baton bearers are also proud Orange Button wearers! Orange Button wearers have the confidence to talk about suicide. Wearing an Orange Button is a way of showing others in your community who are having thoughts of suicide, or are worried about somebody else, that you are comfortable to say / hear the word suicide, can listen without judgement and can inform people where to find help and support.



The Orange Button scheme is in both Worcestershire and Herefordshire. In Herefordshire, "orange badge holders" refer to individuals who have undergone mental health and suicide prevention training and wear an orange button to indicate their willingness to offer support and information to others. This "Orange Button Community Scheme" is a way to make trained individuals easily identifiable and encourage people to seek help

If you have had suicide prevention training and would like to find out how you can join the scheme, please visit the [Talk Community Directory](#), and to learn more about the Baton of Hope, please visit our [Baton of Hope page](#).

[Orange Button Community Scheme | Worcestershire County Council](#)

Highways



Following a test period the council and its public realm contractor, Balfour Beatty are continuing with the use of Mastic Asphalt to help improve the management of defects on the county's roads.

Mastic Asphalt is a fast-setting, waterproof and adhesive liquid alternative used to treat road surfaces. The rubberised material bonds to the existing surface, stopping water from entering the road surface, preventing further deterioration before new potholes can form, and resulting in a long-lasting repair.

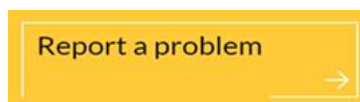
The results show that the use of Mastic Asphalt provided a 50% increase in productivity by reducing the need for hand tools and a cost saving of 20% compared to traditional methods.

It is a tough, durable material that helps to deliver long-term repairs, and it's easier to apply and the savings will mean that more defects will be able to be addressed, with less need for repeat visits.

For all Highway related defects report via:

24hr Phone – 01432 261 800

Website - Click Below



Dedicated Inboxes

Response within 10 working days

Major Disruption on A49 South Hereford

Major gas main works planned for the A49 from Asda towards Ross, from 24 May until the end of August. As significant travel disruption is expected, please find an alternative route for your journey during this period. This is a National Highways route and they are carrying out this work.

Mature Drivers – Police Webinars

West Mercia Police are hosting two free online webinars during June, aimed specifically at mature drivers and their families. Each webinar will cover different topics and aims to provide mature drivers with advice on how to keep driving safer for longer as well as guidance and support on making informed decisions about their driving.

For more information and how to book, visit: <https://www.westmercia.police.uk/news/west-mercia/news/2025/may/free-webinars-for-mature-drivers-in-june/>

Health of trees

The first two phases of works to fell and replace diseased Ash trees in Herefordshire have been completed, in accordance with the council's Ash Dieback Action Plan. Ash dieback was first officially recorded in the UK in 2012, with only a small fraction of trees proving resistant and others showing some levels of resilience.

[Works to address tree health progressing well – Herefordshire Council](#)

Local Transport Plan – Have your say

We are currently developing a new Local Transport Plan (LTP) for the county. The LTP sets out LTP sets out transport priorities and what, where and how we intend to invest in transport in Herefordshire and will cover the period from 2025 to 2041. We're asking residents, partner

organisations, transport providers, user groups and neighbouring councils to provide their feedback to help shape the final plan and ensure it reflects the needs and priorities of communities across Herefordshire. This draft Local Transport Plan will be updated to reflect public feedback and inform a new Local Transport Plan that is expected to be completed later in 2025. The consultation has been extended until the end of June, there is more information in the article below.

[Local Transport Plan \(LTP\) consultation](#)

Final Call for Summer 2025 HAF Grant Funding

The Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Grant is live for Summer 2025, and we're inviting applications from providers across Herefordshire to deliver fun, enriching summer holiday activities for children who are eligible for benefits-related free school meals.

Whether you've been involved before or are brand new to HAF, we're keen to hear from schools, clubs, voluntary groups, and community organisations. If you're part of an organisation that offers safe, inclusive, and engaging activities for children, or you know a fantastic group that could, this is the perfect time to get involved.

Returning providers can express interest by emailing the team directly at:

HAFProviders@herefordshire.gov.uk

New providers can find out more and apply via the [Herefordshire Council website](#).

Please note, priority may be given to providers who are able to deliver in areas of high need or limited existing provision.

The WOW Grant is back!

As part of the Household Support Fund, applications are now open for the WOW grant. The WOW grant is open to organisations in Herefordshire that can identify a particular community need and provide support to those who are most financially vulnerable.

The grant should enable organisations to provide a fun, friendly space and accessible activities alongside food and drink. Importantly all sessions should be open to everyone and completely free of charge. Organisers should be pro-active in delivering information and signposting to support with the cost of living (we've got plenty of information to help with this!).

If your organisation runs community activities, we are inviting you to extend your current offer, to support wellbeing in your community.

Visit the [Talk Community Directory](#) for more information and details of how to apply.

Support for vulnerable young adults

More than £2.5 million has been invested in accommodation to support vulnerable young adults in Herefordshire. This has been made possible through the previous government's Single Homeless Accommodation Programme (SHAP).

[Investment programme leads to more housing for our vulnerable young adults – Herefordshire Council](#)

Herefordshire Museums & Galleries - Public Assembly series

In June and themed around 'contentious narratives', the assembly invites local people to discuss how museums should respond to fake news, misinformation and contested histories. The event will be held at the History Store in Hereford on Saturday 7 June from 1–2.30pm. It is free and open to all, and no booking is required. Topics up for discussion are in the link below:

[Forthcoming Public Assembly discusses fake news, misinformation and 'truth' – Herefordshire Council](#)

I am available should you need to contact me.

Barry

Mobile – [07792 882054 \(non text delivery\)](tel:07792882054)

Email – barry.durkin@herefordshire.gov.uk

Our Local Community Police Support Officers

Sign up to police 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/>

Kirsten Kysow 07773 034152 and Simon Hall 0796302401

Report a crime Police 101 Ext 61216



Local Emergency Numbers

Reporting Highway Issues –

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**.

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

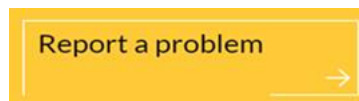
https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/info/200196/roads/190/report_problems_on_the_road

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.

For all Highway related defects report via:

24hr Phone – 01432 261 800

Website - Click Below



Dedicated Inboxes

Response within 10 working days

Members and Parish Inboxes:

for additional service information

Communities Inbox:

Social Value Support

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 fly tipping form](#).

Report Footpaths issues –

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](#).

- PROW - PROW@herefordshire.gov.uk
- PROW No – [01432 383 550](tel:01432 383 550)

Report fly tipping

It 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 as your https://link.edgipilot.com/s/f452e836/Hy5YWk_SgEGkleekL2ROFQ?u=https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/info/200226/report_a_problem/98/fly_tipping

Flooding: emergency contact details – please share with your networks

Report a flooded road or highway obstruction- Balfour Beatty Living Places: [01432 2618000](tel:01432 2618000)
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.

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

Flood alerts: Flood line 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.

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

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

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

Household incidents contact details – please share with your networks.

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/

The Citizens Advice Bureau Online at advice@citizensadviceherefordshire.org.uk for initial contact by email. Please also give a contact phone number in case we need to contact you for more information.

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

Ukraine relief - Local teams continues to organise supplies - details can be found on

<https://www.talkcommunitydirectory.org/ukraine>

<https://www.facebook.com/drivingsuppliestoukraine/>

Community needs contact details – please share with your networks.

Talk Community

Email: Talkcommunitycovidresponse@herefordshire.gov.uk

Telephone: [01432 260027](tel:01432260027)

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

Litter picking

https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/14134/community_litter_pick_toolkit.pdf

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_claimspleaseuse.

Did you know...?

Parishes Councils have their own inbox for emails which 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

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

Toolkits:

Community commissioning

https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/18820/community_commissioning_model_toolkit.pdf

Traffic Regulation Orders

https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/2891/application_toolkit_for_traffic_regulation_orders.pdf

Speed Indicator Devices - SIDs

https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/1859/speed_indicator_device_toolkit.pdf