

## July 2024 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

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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. This report is prepared from information from Herefordshire Council and other councillor sources so that I may provide a comprehensive review of the County activities.

Unfortunately the spring/early summer sunshine has turned back to rain and although the forecast for the week ahead looks to be greatly improving nothing is guaranteed so please do be careful when travelling as heavy showers often lead to slippery road surfaces. Excess rain also leads to muddy fields and with farmers needing to enter and exit fields at the moment it is not uncommon to see mud on the roads. The vast majority of farmers are very diligent and clear up any mud very quickly but where you do spot a problem please let me or the locality steward know so the matter may be appropriately dealt with.

The recent warm and wet weather has continued to lead to surge growth on the verges. This can cause visibility / safety issues at junctions and on narrow roads. The delay in cutting potentially dangerous junctions has been raised with Herefordshire Council / Balfour Beatty and if you are aware of any that haven't yet been cut then please do let me know.

Equally Balfour Beatty have started the normal verge cutting programme. I remind you, in this newsletter that any verge areas requiring to be extended or reduced require to be notified to BBLP. We are operating to the practices contained within the principles of community wildflower planting, ([Verging on Wild | Herefordshire Wildlife Trust](https://www.vergingonwild.org/) ([herefordshirewt.org](https://www.herefordshirewt.org))).

### Parish Council Summit

The parish council summit have returned. The next is being held on Tuesday 9 July at Plough Lane at 7pm. There will be more than 30 council services in the atrium from 5:30 pm to share information with parish council members and answer questions. If you are coming along with your parish council colleagues, I look forward to seeing you there.

### Results of General election - Herefordshire

North Herefordshire / Hereford and South Herefordshire constituencies declared

Ellie Chowns (Green Party) gain North Herefordshire with 21,736 votes.

Jesse Norman (Conservative Party) held Hereford and South Herefordshire with 14,871 votes.

The total number of ballot papers verified for North Herefordshire was 50,507.

The overall turnout for North Herefordshire was 69.4%.

The total number of ballot papers verified for Hereford and South Herefordshire was 45,726.

The overall turnout for Hereford and South Herefordshire was 63.3%.

Turnout % = ballot paper issued, divided by electorate, multiplied by 100.

The full results for both constituencies can be found

at: <https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/elections-1/election-results>

## **Armed Forces Week**

Last week was Armed Forces week and sadly many local communities no longer marked



this opportunity to recognise the important contribution our military forces have and to continue to have on giving us the peace and prosperity we take so much for granted. Herefordshire has long history with the military with over 2,500 active military personnel in the County today and their 1100 children educated in our schools.

We have nearly 10,000 veterans living in the county of which half are under the age of 65. They play an important contribution to our local economy providing enterprise and employment in defence and security sectors. There is also a great need to support veterans and their families who enter into the very different world of civilian life provided by many charities and a Veterans centre in Hereford which with the recent backing of a lottery grant will be opening 5 days a week.

Picture of the County procession of cadets and veterans in Bromyard with the Lord Lieutenant taking the salute.

## **Council News**

### **Childrens' Services**

The progress of the priority service of the council – children`s care remains being addressed. It is a large task to improve the outcomes but steady improvement is being made with indications we are moving to a position of similar authorities.

There are 390 children in local authority care with:

- 195 having protection plans, and
- During 2023/24 early help family support was given to 938 children and their families.
- Of the children in care approximately

- 20% were 4 years and under;
- 48% were 5-14 years;
- 9% were 14-16 years and;
- 23% were 16-18

Individuals can remain within the system till 21 years and older. Nine children were adopted and 18 are awaiting adoption.

Budgets are tightly monitored with reduction in high costs of out of county placements and transfer of less agency to move to full time employees being priority.

Our fostering team are on the lookout for new foster carers and they have a fantastic referral scheme which promises £500 to anyone who recommends someone who is then successfully recruited as a foster carer. Fostering is such a rewarding and vital role and if you know of someone who would be a perfect candidate please let me or Childrens' Services know.

A new Corporate Director of Children and Young People has joined Herefordshire Council. Tina Russell joined from Monday 1st July. Tina will lead on the children's services improvement programme and establishing a strong leadership team for the directorate.

### **Hereford Football Club – lease extended and** work being undertaken



Hereford FC have signed a deal to remain at Edgar Street stadium until 2070. The club said the agreement with Herefordshire Council would secure its long term future. The council is also working with Hereford FC to look at the redevelopment of the

Blackfriars End. Last month saw the demolition of the old western end stand of Hereford football club making way for a new development as part of the council's extended partnership with the club.

### **Herefordshire Council – National Awards**



Herefordshire's unprecedented Luston Wetland project has been acknowledged with a Local Government Chronicle (LGC) award for Environmental Services. High levels of Phosphate have long been known to damage our rivers including the Wye and Lugg. By 2019 Natural England advised Herefordshire Council that the levels of phosphate in the Lugg sub catchment meant that in order to protect the river, any new housing development must fully offset its

phosphate load.

Herefordshire Council responded to this with a unique global first in developing the Luston Wetland to capture and remove phosphate, helping to improve the wellbeing of our rivers and creating credits that could be used for new homes. The scheme ensures that more phosphate is removed from the river system than is returned to it through any form of development and provides a boost to local biodiversity and wildlife, helping to safeguard our natural environment as a county.

Our Luston Wetlands project has been recognised once again, this time by the Royal Town Planning Institute West Midlands Awards for Planning Excellence. Congratulations again to our natural environment team for all their hard work – it's great to see this innovative project getting the attention it deserves. As part of the River Severn Partnership, we received the Innovation of Partnerships award at the Municipal Journal (MJ) achievement awards. The River Severn Partnership has had a transformative effect, attracting funding for improvement projects that are having a positive impact on the health of the river and the environment surrounding it.



### **Summer Activities in Herefordshire – Talk Community**

Herefordshire children receiving free school meals can enjoy a wide range of activities during the summer holidays. Herefordshire Council's summer children's activities programme is open for bookings from Wednesday 26 June.

Parents of children (from reception to year 11) who are eligible for benefits-related free school meals can now book up to 20 sessions (approximately 64 hours) of free activities for their child from Saturday 20 July to Sunday 18 August.

[Exciting free activities on offer for eligible children this summer – Herefordshire Council](#)

### **Talk Community Champions**

The Council are excited to announce Talk Community Champions!



If you have a passion for helping others and want to support your local community then this opportunity could be for you. We are looking for caring and confident community minded individuals who are interested in boosting the wellbeing of those around them. Talk Community Champions support people by connecting them with information and advice, to help them live healthier and happier lives.

Find out more on the [Talk Community Directory](#) .

This link provides information relating to activities for summer in Herefordshire. Talk Community Engagement [talkcommunityengagement@public.govdelivery.com](mailto:talkcommunityengagement@public.govdelivery.com)

## Potholes and Highways defects



Sadly I know there are a lot of highways still requiring attention. Potholes are reported by public, locality stewards, and parish councils and after review are categorised and repairs are undertaken with the required urgency of the categorisation, within the time limits. However, budgets do play an important role in pothole repairs.

There are programmes of work being carried out relating to highways resurfacing and surface dressing. The areas requiring attention are arrived at following regular inspections by Locality Stewards and the results of their investigation are recorded and a programme of repairs relating to their categorisation is programmed to be carried out.

There is not only a problem with highway surfaces but also some defects to the highway caused due to drainage issues. These require to be addressed at the same time, if there are adding to the problem. This will work towards addressing the defects in the highway.

The summer months do provide a respite on the deterioration of the highways and I am keen to get our roads in a good repair before winter returns.

**PLEASE report potholes and concerns.**

**All defect need to be reported:**

Report problems on the road –

[www.herefordshire.gov.uk/roads-1/report-problems-road](http://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/roads-1/report-problems-road)

Check on progress of a defect - [herefordshire.gov.uk/roads-1/pothole-road-defect-progress-map](http://herefordshire.gov.uk/roads-1/pothole-road-defect-progress-map)

Report a serious pothole, flooded road or highway obstruction- Balfour Beatty Living Places:  
**01432 261800**

Footpaths issues –

- PROW - [PROW@herefordshire.gov.uk](mailto:PROW@herefordshire.gov.uk)
- PROW No – **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.edgepilot.com/s/f452e836/Hy5YWk\\_SgEGkleekL2ROFO?u=https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/info/200226/report-a-problem/98/fly-tipping](https://link.edgepilot.com/s/f452e836/Hy5YWk_SgEGkleekL2ROFO?u=https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/info/200226/report-a-problem/98/fly-tipping)

## Community Flood Signage Scheme



On behalf of Herefordshire Council, Balfour Beatty Living Places has established the county's first Community Flood Signage Scheme in Orleton. The scheme enables trained Flood Warden Volunteers to close a small stretch of highway during a flood event to prevent vehicles driving through flood water, preventing accidents, breakdowns and damage to property caused by bow waves.

The scheme has taken a lead from Nottinghamshire County Council who already run a successful Community Flood Signage Scheme. Initially being run as a trial scheme, it is hoped that the model can be rolled out to other communities within Herefordshire.

If your parish council would like to be involved in this community flooding scheme please contact BBLP.

## Animal Wellbeing



You must make sure your dog or cat is fitted with a microchip and registered on a database. Your dog must be microchipped and registered by the time they're 8 weeks old. Your cat must be microchipped and registered by the time they're 20 weeks old. This includes cats that usually only stay indoors.

**For more information please visit the Gov.UK website.**  
[Get your dog or cat microchipped - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

As ever if you think I can help please do not hesitate to contact me? Stay safe and keep well everybody

Kind Regards

*Barry*

## Police and Community Safety



**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/UARq0VNajkqv1vLf0zKSJO?u=http://www.neighbourhoodmatters.co.uk/>

**Report a crime Police 101 Ext 61216**

The new General data protection regulations (GDPR) that supersede the Data Protection act, came into force on the 25th May 2018 and places obligations and responsibilities on any company, organisation and individual who holds and process personnel information. I make this statement that I hold a list of emails of local people that I have built up over the years which I retain and use. In seeking legal compliance I am requesting that if anyone is unhappy with me holding your email contact please advise me 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

### **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](http://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](http://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](http://www.powercut105.com)

BT phone line issues: [www.downdetector.co.uk/status/bt-british-telecom](http://www.downdetector.co.uk/status/bt-british-telecom)

Gas leak: 0800 111 999 or visit [www.wvutilities.co.uk/services/smell-gas](http://www.wvutilities.co.uk/services/smell-gas)

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

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

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

Report a flooded road or highway obstruction- Balfour Beatty Living Places: 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.

### **Talk Community**

**Email:** [Talkcommunitycovidresponse@herefordshire.gov.uk](mailto: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).

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](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.

### **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](#).

### **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](#)

### **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 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](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](http://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\\_claimsplease use](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](https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/info/200146/council_tax/39/council_tax_reduction)