



## July 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

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Dear Residents

I hope you all surviving the heat and being sensible in this exception hot weather we are experiencing.

The last week of June is an opportunity for all to mark Armed Forces week, and to attend the



raising of the flag ceremony in Hereford Hightown together with civic dignitaries. It is estimated that nearly a quarter of all households in the county have military connections and Herefordshire schools and collages educate over 10,000 “military children”. We have of course an important active regiment in the county and are home to many thousands of veterans. The Council particularly promotes the Herefordshire Veterans Support centre in Widemarsh Street to support veterans and their families, and also promote Employers, Charities and businesses to become members of the Armed Forces Covenant, again to support veterans in employment.

Above: Herefordshire’s Lord Lieutenant Edward Harley, the High Sheriff and Council Chairman, Roger Philips at the raising of the flag in Hightown. [Herefordshire raises the Armed Forces flag to mark the beginning of Armed Forces Week 2025 – Herefordshire Council](#)



Herefordshire Council has appointed consultants to further investigate the flooding issues in Eardisland. While locals are more than aware of the problems and the potential mitigation it is hoped this will help concentrate authorities to continue to prioritise one of our most vulnerable community.

Attending the meeting – picture left - were village representatives along with the Environment agency, Lugg Drainage board, Balfour Beatty and Herefordshire council.

As usual I draw my narratives from many sources, including other councillors – for which I thank them.

As ever if I can be of any help please don’t hesitate to contact

*Barry*

## High temperatures are with us – its summer.

Its summer and Herefordshire can expect high temperatures over the next few days, according to forecasters. The Met Office this week declared an amber heat health alert, meaning there is likely to be significant impact on particularly at-risk individuals and those in health and social care services. Not wishing to teach you to 'suck eggs' but remember those who may need support, guidance and help; including the effects on our pets.

The government's advice for staying safe in hot weather is:

- Keep out of the sun at the hottest time of day, between 11am to 3pm
- If you are going to do a physical activity (for example exercise or walking the dog) plan to do these during times of the day when it is cooler, such as the morning or evening
- Keep your home cool by closing windows and curtains in rooms that face the sun
- If you do go outside, cover up with suitable clothing such as an appropriate hat and sunglasses, seek shade and apply sunscreen
- Drink plenty of fluids and limit your alcohol intake
- Check on family, friends and neighbours who may be at higher risk of becoming unwell, and if you are at higher risk, ask them to do the same for you
- Know the symptoms of heat exhaustion and heatstroke and what to do if you or someone else has them.

## Vapes and fire risks

Local people are being urged to ensure they dispose of vapes responsibly, after two waste fires in the last week were found to be caused by vapes in household recycling bins. It is now easier than ever to safely dispose of small electrical items – including vapes – thanks to the council's new waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) service, which forms a part of standard waste collections.

However, it is vitally important that any small electrical items, such as **vapes, batteries, hairdryers etc. are placed in a plastic bag on top of your bin, and never inside it.** The bin collection crew will then put them in a separate cage on the collection vehicle and take them for recycling.

[Bin lorry fires traced back to vapes – Herefordshire Council](#)

## Crayfish plague



**Although not specifically in my ward and your parishes there is a warning in the North of the county:**

**Do not enter the River Arrow between Kington and Pembridge**

This is concerning news from the environment Agency who are investigating the deaths of our rare and legally protected native

white clawed Crayfish (picture opposite) on the River Arrow between Kington and Pembridge. We expect this to be confirmed as Crayfish Plague which is deadly and very infectious disease for white clawed crayfish. **Crayfish plague is a species-specific disease and is not harmful to humans or other animals.**

White clawed Crayfish look like miniature lobsters; they hide away under rocks and logs during the day and emerge during the night to eat. They are our largest native, freshwater invertebrate and present in the river arrow. The few remaining populations of white-clawed crayfish are very vulnerable to this disease and also face local extinction due to competition from non-native crayfish species and loss of habitat. Once crayfish plague is present in a watercourse the white-clawed crayfish will usually all succumb to the disease. This may occur over several weeks as the fungus is spread by contact between individual, white-clawed crayfish, through the water or contact with infected mud. The Crayfish Plague fungal spores can live without a crayfish host for 22 days in the water or on damp clothes or equipment. The disease can be transferred to White Clawed Crayfish in other parts of the catchment via water and mud on damp clothes, footwear, bike tyres, vehicle tyres, fishing or boating equipment or any machinery, or by dogs, horses or livestock.

**The ask is that all the public, contractors and fishermen stay out of watercourses in these areas until further notice.** Please help us to prevent the spread of this disease by asking your staff and contractors to also suspend activities in this watercourse.

### **Herefordshire's Call for sites**

Following an update to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) by the UK Government, the new standard method for calculating growth requirements has set a 20-year housing requirement for Herefordshire of 27,260 dwellings. Despite Herefordshire Council's objections the Government is persisting with its increased housing target on our County of 27,260 new dwellings in the next 20 years. A rate on average of over 1,350 per year which we have never ever achieved in the County, where we currently have 82,000 homes for our population of c. 190,000 people. We have made the case of lack of transport and public services infrastructure or capacity, and where the people are coming from with the skills to build all these properties.

However, the Council, as the planning authority, must begin again a new core strategy and has done, identifying potential sites and as a result a call for sites is being issued to landowners in Herefordshire. In the first instance potential for significant increases in our City and Market towns will be examined.

I must however stress that any new sites must reflect the government's policy of sustainable locations and as such the over whelming majority of our parishes will be classified as open countryside with planning strictly limited. Including the additional protection afforded by any National Landscape protection under the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) [National Planning Policy Framework - GOV.UK](#). The most obvious potential sites will be around our

main village settlements. Landowners will need to assess the sustainability and deliverability of the sites, consider the constraints and how to overcome them.

The problem will not just be building dwellings but dealing with the lack of affordable housing and housing an ageing population. We also need to continue to resolve the phosphate issue in the Lugg catchment area.

I encourage my parish councils to start a new round of Neighbourhood plans to influence future local development; however, this government indicates it will not financially support this round of Neighbourhood plans.

[Neighbourhood planning – Herefordshire Council](#)

### **Call for Sites**

To ensure additional flexibility and choice when identifying development land, the aim is to identify sufficient land to accommodate 30,000 dwellings with all other associated development required. The Council is therefore calling for sites as part of Local Plan development.

Landowners, developers, parish councils and other interested parties are being invited to suggest sites that may be suitable for a range of future uses

[Council calling for sites as part of Local Plan development – Herefordshire Council](#)

### **Highways**

Despite the government's withdrawal of the Rural Services Delivery Grant of £7m (previously reported) the Council is continuing its support to Parish councils on highway networks. Using the parish officially appointed lengthsmen, grants will be available for ditching works, asset surveys, minor drainage schemes, gully clearing and cleansing for Parishes to apply for before the end of September. This gives the opportunity for local concerns to be addressed including targeting water retention on highways by ditching, gully cleaning and mapping drainage systems.

The current council administration has included an extra £13.5 million for highway surfacing and in July and August some significant works will be done in this ward detailed below. While these works take place there will be pressure on our smaller highways as they bear the brunt of the diverted traffic, and I ask that residents understand the inconvenience of this to allow the improvement.

I have submitted several C and Unclassified highways for inspection and this last month sent inquiries in particular on the Stansbatch lower road and a section of the Noke lane. During these summer months please keep report potholes so we can repair as many as possible before the winter conditions return.

### **Continuing 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.**

## Council Finances 24/25

Here is some information about the Council's last year finances which may be of interest.

- The budget we inherited in May 2023 had a forecast overspend of £13.8M  
At Q2 through good governance and tight controls by the end of the 2023/24 financial year we got that overspend down to £8.7M. That was then funded for by using various reserves last year.
- In FY24/25 we had planned savings of £19.5M which, with 56% delivered and 44% or £8.6M to be delivered this year.

We were very transparent throughout the year, that we intended to use the budget resilience reserve (that we created by transferring £11m from the Business Rates reserve) to assist those demand led directorates such as Community and wellbeing directorate with unplanned and unexpected demand pressures. Which is exactly what we did.

However, with other directorates coming under budget we were able to deliver an underspend on last year's budget of £0.5M.

In summary we acted throughout the year to consider the impact on reserves of overspend and identified a proactive plan, rather than having to react and identify sources at the end of the year.

## Corporate Peer Challenge (CPC)

We have had a Corporate Peer Challenge. This is a request by our council to Local Government Association to provide experienced member and officers from other authorities to inspect the council and see 'how we are doing'. We gave a good account of ourselves as an organisation, how we work together across the council and with our partners. I am pleased to report that, overall, the outcome of the peer review was positive and the wide range of partnership working in Herefordshire was particularly noted. **The fist and major finding are that this is a good council, which is striving hard to improve further.**

There were five recommendations for us to consider and take forward and it was good to see that they were things we were already working on, particularly our corporate transformation and the use of data, skills and resource to effectively deliver. The full report will be sent to us in the next month which we will be publishing in September, along with our action plan to address the findings.

## Shared Lives – carers open their homes.

Cllr Carole Gandy, and the Chief Executive attended a special event recently to celebrate our Shared Lives carers and recognise their great work. Shared Lives carers open their homes and



lives to people with care or support needs including young adults leaving care, people with a learning disability or older people with dementia for example. There are some wonderful new videos on the council's You Tube channel showcasing a number of our Shared Lives families and their stories. You can find them here [on our YouTube](#).

We're always looking for new people and families to be shared lives carers. If you know someone who may be interested in this fantastic scheme which makes such a difference to people's lives, there are more details [on our website](#), please share with them.

[Shared Lives celebrated at Hereford event – Herefordshire Council](#)

### **Microgrants to boost community connections and wellbeing.**

Do you have a community project that needs some funding to get off the ground? Maybe the Herefordshire and Worcestershire Microgrants scheme is for you!

Public Health is supporting resident led activities across the counties, offering up to £250 for projects which boost community connections and improve mental health and wellbeing. The funding is available for residents as well as community groups and all you need to do is complete a simple form. [Complete the form online via Microsoft forms](#).

**For more information please contact your local Talk Community Development officer, by emailing [talkcommunityenquiries@herefordshire.gov.uk](mailto:talkcommunityenquiries@herefordshire.gov.uk)**

### **Learning Disability Strategy Survey**

Herefordshire Council have launched a new survey aimed at people with lived experience of learning disability, with the aim to get feedback of their views on a number of aspects including where they live, what they do during the day, being healthy and safe, citizenship, choice and control.

All views will be taken on board as part of a review of Herefordshire's [Learning Disability Strategy](#).

For more information visit the [Talk Community Directory](#).

### **Eat well, play more, feel good – book soon!**

The Here for Herefordshire Holidays programme will offer fully funded activities to eligible families during the school summer holidays (28 July – 22 August). The programme is open to school aged children and young people (reception to year 11) who receive benefits-related free school meals.

Each child can enjoy up to 16 free activity sessions throughout the programme. This summer there's a wide range of exciting activities on offer, from gym sessions, cheerleading, farm visits,

bushcraft, coding, sports, dance, ceramics and much more! There will be a free, healthy meal on offer at each session.

The Here for Herefordshire Holidays programme, which is funded by the Department for Education, aims to get young people involved with new, fun activities, keeping them active and connected with others.

Eligible families can book their places on the [Talk Community Directory](#). Families can check their eligibility for the programme directly with schools, or on the [Herefordshire Council website](#). For more information on the programme contact [HAF@herefordshire.gov.uk](mailto:HAF@herefordshire.gov.uk)

**Bookings will open at midday on 1 July.**

### **Wellbeing picnic and marketplace (WOW sounds good)**

The WOW events are back, and the first event to take place in Ledbury next week is a wellbeing walk and picnic. Anyone interested can join the [weekly wellbeing walk](#) at Ledbury Rugby club on Wednesday 2nd July at 10.30am for a gentle stroll around the club grounds.

There will be a free picnic lunch, and a community marketplace where people can access information and advice to support with the cost of living. Visit the [Talk Community Directory](#) for more information.

**To find out more about WOW activities, visit the [Talk Community Directory](#).**

### **Future County Business Potential**

Last year with support from the previous government Herefordshire Council purchased the Buttercross building complex in Leominster – which includes the library and the old site of Barclay's bank. The Council intends to develop part of the building into a business hub and workspaces for small enterprises and the self-employed to have base units and hiring facilities to support business growth. Work will begin in a few months' time and should be completed for March 2026.

### **Master a scythe, then join us to mow**

Herefordshire Council is offering a free course in the traditional skill of scything for anyone interested in volunteering to help make hay and make a difference for wildlife.

[Master a scythe, then join us to mow – Herefordshire Council](#)

A stylized, cursive signature in blue ink that reads "Barry".

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

Email – [barry.durkin@herefordshire.gov.uk](mailto: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

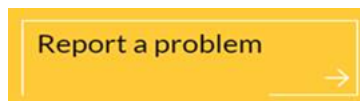
[https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/info/200196/roads/190/report\\_problems\\_on\\_the\\_road](https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/info/200196/roads/190/report_problems_on_the_road)

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

**Planned Roadworks**

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 because 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).

### **Report fly's 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](mailto: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.edgepilot.com/s/f452e836/Hy5YWk\\_SgEGkleekL2ROFQ?u=https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/info/200226/report\\_a\\_problem/98/fly\\_tipping](https://link.edgepilot.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](http://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](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.

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

Welsh Water: [0800 052 0130](tel:08000520130) (Water emergencies) or [0800 085 3968](tel:08000853968) (Sewer emergencies) or visit [www.contact.dwrcymru.com/](http://www.contact.dwrcymru.com/)

Severn Trent water: [0800 783 4444](tel:08007834444) [www.stwater.co.uk/in-my-area/check-my-area/](http://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](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.wwutilities.co.uk/services/smell-gas](http://www.wwutilities.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/](http://www.contact.dwrcymru.com/)

**The Citizens Advice Bureau** Online at [advice@citizensadviceherefordshire.org.uk](mailto: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](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](mailto: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](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](https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/14134/community_litter_pick_toolkit.pdf)

### **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](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](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](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](https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/1859/speed_indicator_device_toolkit.pdf)