



September 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

My apologies but there was no ward report in August, but this month is a very slow month with officers on leave. While we have enjoyed our sunny weather this summer we still need to be preparing for future times, and it has just started to rain again – so I suppose autumn is coming early but where did the summer go?

Herefordshire council's cabinet took the decision to begin the procurement for the contractor to build the first phase of a resultant bypass for the city from the A49 to A465.

This was originally programmed in 2018 backed with the then with then planning permission gained and land purchased and government's financial support. However, the previous administration with their cancellation in 2022, sent the government funding back and sold back the acquired land. Now, working with an identified contractor design can be finalised, land re-bought and work able to begin in late 2026; to provide this vital first stage. Once fully realised, the completed western bypass could unlock acres of employment land and deliver thousands of new homes and related local infrastructure, while at the same time reducing traffic volume and improving air quality in the city. Given the government's demand for over 27,260 new homes to be built in Herefordshire over the next 20 years (we currently have 82,000 homes) delay in tackling infrastructure will cause huge impacts on our county.

As always if you consider I can assist you please do not hesitate to contact me.

Barry

Local Councillor – Old Gore

Funding available

Herefordshire Council and it's recycling collection contractor, FCC Environment, are inviting schools, parish councils, and community groups across the county to apply for Nature and Biodiversity Community Grant funding to support local environmental projects.

[Grants available to boost nature and biodiversity in Herefordshire – Herefordshire Council](#)

Highways

Herefordshire Council is continuing to invest in the county's roads, with a planned programme of resurfacing works taking place throughout September.

[Continuing to invest in Herefordshire roads – Herefordshire Council](#)

Call for Sites - repeat.

Following an update to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)) [National Planning Policy Framework - GOV.UK](#). 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.

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

Childrens' Services

The next stage of the CQC assurance process will be the site visit in September and running through for two days. This will include formal interviews with adult social care teams and individuals, as well as informal meetings with mixed groups of staff from across the directorate.

Children vaccination

Parents are encouraged to check vaccination records and book appointments during the remainder of the summer break.

[Herefordshire families urged to prioritise child vaccination catch-ups before term starts](#)

Bus route change

Yeomans Canyon Travel has been awarded the contract to operate the Leominster, Wigmore, and 76 Hereford bus services following a competitive tender process.

[Bus services contract change](#)

Highways

Herefordshire Council is continuing to invest in the county's roads, with a planned programme of resurfacing works taking place throughout September. The council is investing an additional £13.5 million into the county's highway network in 2025/26, with many of the road improvement schemes either already completed or underway.

The latest improvement works planned locally for September are as follows:

B4234 - Walford Road, Ross on Wye

B4234 - Copse Cross Street, Ross on Wye

B4234 - Brook End Street, Ross on Wye

Long Year of Delivery



The start of this month marks the beginning of Herefordshire Council's "long year of delivery" – an ambitious 18-month programme of multi-million-pound investment designed to bring lasting benefits to families, businesses and communities across the county – with the ground-breaking of the Hereford Transport Hub. The £11 million Hub will integrate key travel connections, making it easier to move around by train, bus, car, bike, taxi, or on foot. This forms part of a wider Local Transport Plan shaped by public input, with strong support for better bus services, active travel options, and the Bypass. The Hub will enhance the area around the station, providing new bus stands and layovers, taxi and car parking areas (including commuter and short-term parking), indoor welfare facilities for passengers, and covered cycle facilities with lockers.

The official start of the works as I know the hub has been a long-term ambition going back many years, starting with the Hereford City Centre Transport Plan (HCCTP) project back in 2012. The design of the hub kicked off in 2022 when consultants were appointed, and since then we've seen strong backing from Members leading us to where we are today. It truly has been a whole-of-council achievement, but I would especially like to thank Cllr Price for his leading role in the Council on this important project, and Scott Tompkins and his team for driving it through.

Heritage

There is lots going on this September for anyone who has an interest in their history and heritage, thanks to a great programme of events from Herefordshire Museums & Galleries.

[Celebrate Heritage Open Days with free entry to the Old House Hereford](#)

School Places

Herefordshire Council's secondary school admissions process opens for applications from today

[It's time to apply for your child's secondary school place](#)

GCSE Results

Students across the county received their **GCSE results**. It was great to see that 68.5% of Herefordshire students achieved a grade 4 or above in all subjects. If it was results day in your household yesterday, I hope the grades reflected the hard work that went into preparing for the exams. This is an important time for our young people, with decisions being made about their next steps in education and employment. That's why we are so proud of our **Youth Employment Hub** in Hereford, which offers help and advice for young people receiving their exam results this month.

Regards

Barry

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

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

Report a problem



Dedicated Inboxes

Response within 10 working days

Members and Parish Inboxes:

for additional service information

Communities Inbox:

Social Value Support

Gullies

A basic map of known gullies for which Herefordshire Council at:

<https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/flooding-2/flood-management/3#gulliesmap>.

Gullies are individually marked on the map with latitudes and longitudes being displayed along with a site code, which is used to identify the length of road where the asset is located.

Reporting gullies that need attention:

Report issues with the highway drainage network through the Council's online reporting system at <https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/roads-1/report-problems-road>.

Issues reported are investigated by the relevant Locality Steward, who assesses the report against the Highway Maintenance Plan in order to determine the level of intervention required. Where necessary a job for a reactive cleanse is then raised and passed to a crew to attend.

Planned Roadworks

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 because of damage to your vehicle.

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
- 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

Flooding: emergency contact details – please share with your networks

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.

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 (Water emergencies) or 0800 085 3968 (Sewer emergencies) or visit www.contact.dwrcymru.com/

Severn Trent water: 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.wwutilities.co.uk/services/smell-gas

Welsh Water: 0800 052 0130 (Water emergencies) or 0800 085 3968 (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:01432 260027)

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_o
ctober_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_toolki
t.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)