



October 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

As the nights drawn in for Autumn the last few months from spring into summer have been particularly active, leading up to our year of delivery, on capital projects e.g. Shirehall. More as we progress through to the new financial year

We all know the importance of good broadband and mobile contact these days and the chairman of the council has requested a scrutiny review by the council on the current coverage post the massive public grants Gigaclear and Airband have received for delivering improved connectivity in our rural areas. Despite promises many properties are not getting access to the better Broadband provision expected. Cllr. Phillips has written to OFCOM and encourage other affected residents to do similar and to continue to pressure EE.

The Chief Executive of Herefordshire Council Paul Walker – pictured left- has announced he will



be retiring at the end of March. He is the fourth Chief Executive since the establishment of Herefordshire Council in 1997 and has over the last five years been a strong lead in what is a difficult role.

A national peer team from the Local Government Association carried out a review of the council and last month published its report. They describe Herefordshire Council as a good council and mention the positive changes in our culture and the improved staff engagement. The council was praised for having strong leadership, good financial management, constructive partnership working and highlight improvements in children's services, a maturing political culture, and our commitment to transformation. Their recommendations for improvement were to accelerate corporate transformation, refresh the Medium-Term Financial Strategy, improve oversight of commissioned services, deepen strategic engagement with partners, especially the voluntary sector, to co-deliver services. A full report can be found on council's website on Cabinet papers for September 25th.

Barry

Your Local Councillor – Old Gore

Grants and Funding



Herefordshire Council and its recycling collection contractor, FCC Environment (the green and black bins), 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 of £500 to £10,000 are available to fund initiatives that create or enhance green spaces, improve biodiversity, or support local ecosystems e.g Tree and hedge planting or management, creation of wildlife corridors, for example hedgehog corridors on housing estates, support for wildlife such as bird, bat or bug boxes and hedgehog homes, planting wildflower areas, purchase of equipment for planting and ongoing long-term maintenance or creation of pond or enhancement of a community nature area.

The deadline for application is the 13th October with grants awarded by 30th November.

Campaigning for Fairer Funding – your council tax

Submissions to government on their review of funding of councils we continue to monitor the potential impact on our own council. English Councils are funded by a complex mechanism which requires overhaul, but we are concerned on what the revised proposed new rules will mean for rural authorities like Herefordshire. As I mentioned last year the government scrapped the Rural Service Delivery grant which was worth over £7 million to us with no intention to replace.

However, the new mechanism also scraps the sparsity indicator, which as we are the fourth most sparsely populated county again impacts on us. The size of rural counties and the sparsity of their populations make it more costly to administer social services. the fact or quality of being small in amount or number; scantiness.

This is being replaced by accessibility and remoteness factors but the current projections leave us much worse off. There are other little amendments which impact on us like home to school transport funding which no longer will acknowledge journeys of over 20 miles – big issue for us in special educational needs journeys.

The governments projections make assumptions that all council tax will increase by 4.99% for each of the next three years, and that our Band D tax is £2,200 when in fact it is £1969; leaving councils no real choice on council tax setting. Our finance team indicate on current projections this could mean a projected deficit of 26 million in 2026/27 rising to 40 million in 2027/8.

Neighbouring councils will also be under pressure with Shropshire currently in serious financial trouble and potentially facing a section 114 notice; where the council forecasts that its expenditure will exceed its income and it cannot find a legal way to finance its budget, effectively flagging the authority as being in financial distress

Rural councils receive 40% less funding from Government than our urban counterparts and we pay on average 20% more in council tax. It's clear this remodelling will again favour urban councils. We are expecting the draft settlement details on December 19th. We will continue to work with other rural authorities and parties to get as fair a deal as we can.

[Herefordshire Council warning over government funding allocation – Herefordshire Council](#)

Council Finances – external auditors' response

For the second consecutive year, Herefordshire Council is the first local authority in the UK to have its annual accounts — detailing financial position and performance — confirmed as free from error by its external auditors.

[Herefordshire Council is the first UK local authority to receive clean bill of health from external auditors for its 2024/25 accounts](#)

Corporate Peer Review

Herefordshire Council welcomes the findings of the Local Government Association's Corporate Peer Challenge (CPC) report, following the peer team's visit in June 2025

[Herefordshire Council welcomes LGA Corporate Peer Challenge Report](#)

Homelessness – Have your say

The council's five-year strategy (2020-25) to tackle homelessness in Herefordshire is approaching the end of its cycle.

[Tell us what you think about Herefordshire's Homeless Prevention and Rough Sleeping Strategy](#)

Flood management schemes

In this month's update as summer leaves us I look at preparations for winter and the flooding risk in the ward. Herefordshire Council closely monitors areas of flooding in the county and identifies where preventative measures could be taken to protect homes and businesses.

We work with the Environment Agency and communities to develop flood management schemes to mitigate future flooding.

Flood management – Herefordshire Council

Herefordshire Council has approved a £2.055 million investment over the next two years to strengthen flood resilience across the county for homes, businesses, and infrastructure in the areas most affected by flooding.

[£2 Million Investment to Protect Herefordshire Communities from Flooding](#)

Construction begins on new Peterchurch Primary School

A major milestone has been reached in the transformation of education in Herefordshire's Golden Valley, as construction begins on a brand-new building for Peterchurch Primary School.

Contractor appointed for Hampton Dene School

Speller Metcalfe has been appointed as the contractor for the redevelopment of Hampton Dene Primary School in Tupsley, Hereford.

[Contractor appointed for £2.4m redevelopment of Hampton Dene Primary School](#)

Herefordshire Council renames building in honour of local philanthropist John Venn

Herefordshire Council is proud to announce that the John Haider building will be renamed the John Venn Building, in tribute to the 19th-century clergyman and philanthropist whose legacy continues to shape the city's social fabric.

[Herefordshire Council renames building in honour of local philanthropist John Venn – Herefordshire Council](#)

Hereford Leisure Pool has taken a big step towards becoming more eco-friendly, with a major new sustainability upgrade, thanks to funding from Sport England.

[Eco-friendly upgrade to Hereford Leisure Pool](#)

Keep fit

Across Herefordshire and Worcestershire people aged 55 and over are leading the way when it comes to physical activity, according to Sport England's Active Lives Survey (November 2023–2024)

[Over 55s are leading the way in staying active](#)

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

Regards



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

Operation Spotlight



Everyone knows the rules around seatbelts, drink/drug driving, mobile phones and speeding so why are these issues still the most common reasons for collisions to occur? Enforcing the law on these is 24/7 for our officers, however over the next couple of weeks we are supporting 'Operation Spotlight' to help highlight the issues around the 'Fatal 4'

[Operation Spotlight highlights the 'Fatal Four' | West Mercia Police](#)

Police Mobile Station

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



Police Community Support Officers Claire and Kirsten will be bringing the Police Mobile Van to a number of villages covered by the Ross-On-Wye policing area.

We can give advice on home security, frauds and scams, safety, discuss police issues you may be experiencing and answer any general queries. The best part will be all face to face as I know many of you would prefer this form of communication. You will find us parked in the car park in a large police marked van with awning and two smiley police community support officers. We have lots of dates booked for the future and before each month we will send the dates out for your diaries.

OCTOBER

Wednesday 1st October 11:30 am - 01:30 pm - Lea Village Hall, Lea, HR9 7JY

Thursday 2nd October 11:30 am - 01:30 pm - Bailey Lane End, Hope Mansell, HR9 5TR

Thursday 2nd October 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm - The Nurdens, Woolhope, HR1 4RG

Sunday 5th October 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm - Kings Caple Village Hall, Kings Caple, HR1 4TY

Monday 6th October 11:30 am - 1:30 pm - Much Marcle Memorial Hall, Much Marcle, HR8 2LY

Wednesday 8th October 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm - Llangrove Village Hall, Llangrove, HR9 6EX

Friday 10th October 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm - Larrupuez Centre, Grammer School Close, Ross on Wye, HR9 7QD

Wednesday 15th October 11:30 am - 01:30 pm - St Dubricius Church, Whitchurch, HR9 6BZ
Saturday 18th October 11:30 am - 01:30 pm - Orchard Cafe, Gorsley, HR9 7SJ
Saturday 25th October 9:00 am - 12:00 pm - Ross on Wye Market, Broad Street, Ross on Wye, HR9 5NX
Monday 27th October 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm - Sellack Village Hall, Sellack, HR9 6QP
Tuesday 28th October 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm - Walford Village Hall, Walford Road, Ross on Wye, HR9 5QS

Would be lovely to see you so please pop along and share the details with friends and family.

Take Care.

Police Community Support Officer Claire and Kirsten.

Subsidised course available for mature drivers thanks to PCC funding

Mature drivers are able to book onto an innovative course that helps increase confidence and sharpen skills at a discounted price, thanks to Police and Crime Commissioner John Campion

Delivered by IAM RoadSmart, in partnership with West Mercia Police's Road Safety Team, the Mature Driver Review which normally costs £86.50, has been reduced to £20 – following £15,000 of funding through the PCC's latest road safety grant.

The one-hour review is carried out by an Approved Driving Instructor (ADI) in the motorist's own car, from their home address, on roads familiar to them, and they can take a relative or friend if they prefer - offering a trusted, impartial appraisal of driving skills.

To book your Mature Driver Review: Call 0300 303 1134 and quote code 'WMP' (*eligible for those living in Herefordshire, Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin and Worcestershire).

To receive the subsidised rate, courses **must** be booked over the phone. This is a limited offer, and bookings are available on a first-come-first-served basis.

[PCC funding helps provide subsidised courses for mature drivers - West Mercia Police Crime Commissioner](#)

Attachments

[Mature Driver Review West Mercia Leaflet.pdf](#)

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_october_2016.pdf

Litter picking

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

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