

# Ward Report – For November 2019

## From your local County Councillor - Barry Durkin

### Old Gore Ward – Herefordshire Council

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#### **Fastershire – Broadband Provision**

Broadband is a challenge for parts of my parishes and while the County now has 90% of all premises with superfast broadband including most of my villages the remaining 10% left is in the rural areas. The Gigaclear contract which was supporting the incorporation of another 30,000 Herefordshire premises is underway as are the contractor of Airband. However there remains many challenges with the contractors and while 97% coverage is the projected aim by 2021 I remain to be convinced on delivery timetable. There is some funding for support to help rural business and households. To check your availability and which phase your property is in visit [www.fastershire.com](http://www.fastershire.com) .

#### **Veteran Support Centre Opens in Herefordshire**

Herefordshire's Veteran Support Centre (VSC) opened its doors on Monday 11th November, ahead of an official launch in the New Year. Located in the city centre, it offers a friendly one-stop shop for anyone in the armed forces community needing guidance, with flexible and accessible spaces for meetings and group workshops, along with employment and volunteering opportunities. The VSC has been established thanks to a successful grant application by Herefordshire Council to the Ministry of Defence to pilot a veteran hub project. Herefordshire's Armed Forces Covenant Partnership will continue to oversee the centre for the next year whilst a new team of trustees forms and achieves its own independent charitable status.

#### **Christmas rubbish and recycling collections**

You will be able to find out the collection day changes through the following means:

- Herefordshire Now
- Local parish clerks have been sent the attached
- Adverts will be placed in local papers w/c 16th December
- Social media posts will go out w/c 16th 23rd and 30th December - Check your address revised collection day:
- Bin collection look up on Herefordshire Council web site <https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/bincollection>
- Christmas recycling dates: [Christmas Recycling dates PDF 268 KB](#)

#### **WARNING FROM THE POLICE ABOUT TELEPHONE SCAMS**

##### **62% of courier fraud victims were aged 75 - 89**

Recently, there has been an increase in courier fraud offences, in particular in Herefordshire and Worcestershire. These despicable crimes mostly impact upon vulnerable people within our communities, who are often convinced to hand over large amounts of money or expensive items such as designer watches.

What tends to happen is that the victim is 'cold-called' by the criminal who falsely claims to be a Police Officer, saying that there has been fraudulent use of their bank card/account. They are advised that they need to withdraw large sums of money from their bank to protect it, and then return home. They are told that a "Police Officer" will come round and collect the money to keep it safe.

Often they are advised to ring 999 to report to the local police. The line is kept open and a different offender will persuade them to withdraw their money ready for collection.

- If you are suspicious or feel uncomfortable with the caller's questions, end the call.

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- If in doubt hang up, wait 10 minutes, then report the call to **Action Fraud on 0300 1232040**.
- Report it to the police 101 if the crime is still happening and the suspect is in the local area, or if you are vulnerable and/or unable to contact Action Fraud,

#### **REMEMBER - NEITHER THE BANK OR THE POLICE WILL EVER :-**

- • Phone and ask you for your full PIN or full banking password
- • **Ask you to transfer money out of your account**
- • Ask you to hand over any money or purchase vouchers
- • Send someone to collect cash, PIN's, cards or cheque books

For Crime Prevention advice contact:

**Paul Crumpton**, Rural & Business Crime Officer (Crime Prevention) HEREFORDSHIRE,  
West Mercia Police

Email: [Paul.crumpton@westmercia.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Paul.crumpton@westmercia.pnn.police.uk) Tel: **07773 044781**

There are some posters that I would like you to share on notice boards and any other outlets for residents:

Fraud Offences targeting the elderly: <http://hc-modgov:9070/documents/s50073324/Fraud%20Offences%20Targeting%20the%20Elderly.pdf>

Prospero Poster: <http://hc-modgov:9070/documents/s50073325/Prospero%20poster.jpg.pdf>

Information relating to guarding your information: [http://hc-modgov:9070/documents/s50073326/TakeFive\\_A\\_14e\\_Poster\\_A4\\_Primary\\_Short.pdf](http://hc-modgov:9070/documents/s50073326/TakeFive_A_14e_Poster_A4_Primary_Short.pdf)

I am delighted that my email list has expanded this month and would like to welcome new members. I've attached a copy of the agenda for our meeting next week on Wednesday 4th December for your information. Please do come along if you can, we'd be delighted to welcome you.

#### **Planting trees**

National tree week was 23<sup>rd</sup> November to 1<sup>st</sup> December. Fownhope Parish Council has ordered **free trees from the Woodland Trust** and gave them away on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2019 (too late for this publication). If you are interested in the application of planting trees to assist with the climate emergency please contact the Woodland Trust.

<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/plant-trees/schools-and-communities/>

#### **Beryl Bikes – free 30 minute ride**

In partnership with Herefordshire Council, Beryl Bikes are offering a festive treat to Herefordians this Christmas season with free 30 minutes rides on selected dates.

[https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/news/article/905/beryl\\_bike\\_share\\_to\\_offer\\_30\\_minute\\_free\\_rides\\_for\\_sustainable\\_christmas\\_shopping\\_in\\_hereford](https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/news/article/905/beryl_bike_share_to_offer_30_minute_free_rides_for_sustainable_christmas_shopping_in_hereford)

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#### **Livestock farmer pleaded guilty to allowing animals to suffer**

In a case brought by Herefordshire Council's Trading Standards service a livestock farmer in Bringsty pleaded guilty to ten charges in total and was disqualified from keeping all animals for ten years (except his dog) after allowing livestock to suffer (including 50 calves) and for failing to correctly store and dispose of large amounts of animal carcasses. He was sentenced on 11 November 2019 at Hereford Magistrates' Court to four months imprisonment suspended for 18 months, 200 hours community service, a victim surcharge of £115 and costs of £2221.

[https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/news/article/904/bringsty\\_farmer\\_banned\\_from\\_keeping\\_livestock\\_for\\_ten\\_years](https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/news/article/904/bringsty_farmer_banned_from_keeping_livestock_for_ten_years)

#### **Changes to time and location of Cabinet will make the meetings more accessible**

Herefordshire Council is alternating the time and location of Cabinet meetings to provide more opportunity for the public to attend. Detail as to locations, dates and times may be found at:

[https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/news/article/902/more\\_opportunity\\_for\\_residents\\_to\\_attend\\_cabinet\\_meetings](https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/news/article/902/more_opportunity_for_residents_to_attend_cabinet_meetings)

#### **Postal Votes**

A reminder that your postal ballot packs must be returned to Herefordshire Council Electoral Services before 10 p.m. on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2019 for them to be counted.

#### **Parish Summit**

Please find attached the slide for the Core Strategy and Neighbourhood Planning seminar which was held on the 6 November. There were a total of 105 delegates from 56 parish councils who attended. Here are the slides used at the summit.



Parish Council  
seminar 6 November

*There will not be a ward report provided for December. May I take this opportunity to thank you for your help, assistance and friendship during 2019 and to wish you all a merry Christmas and a Happy New Year for 2020. Normal ward reporting service will be resumed in January 2020*

Regards

A stylized, cursive signature of the name 'Barry' in blue ink.

**Barry Durkin**

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#### Old Gore Ward

Mob. 07792 882054

[bdurkin@herefordshire.gov.uk](mailto:bdurkin@herefordshire.gov.uk)

#### Parishes Information

Nil

#### General Information

##### Defect Reporting

As always please continue to make use and encourage the use of established reporting methods for any highways defect;

- Telephone our customer services on [01432 261 800](tel:01432261800).
- Online using the telephone app – for potholes, dog poo and Public Rights of Way (PROW)

Please note that Herefordshire Council strongly encourages Balfour Beatty to promote all service requests and queries should be logged via the HC website at <https://myaccount.herefordshire.gov.uk/report-a-pothole> or <https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/transport-and-highways/maintenance/potholes>

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.

##### 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

For any PROW (Public Rights of Way) maps or problems, you can report these via the following link on the Herefordshire Council's website:

<https://myaccount.herefordshire.gov.uk/report-a-public-right-of-way-problem>

To report defects (potholes, fly tipping, blocked gullies, etc.) online:

[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)

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 on 01432 261800, 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.

If you wish to email into the business, the best email address for Parishes have their own inbox

[herefordshireparishes@bblivingplaces.com](mailto:herefordshireparishes@bblivingplaces.com) and both of these email inboxes 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)

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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., [@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](https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/info/200196/roads/206/highway_claimspleaseuse)

#### **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)

#### **General Data Protection Regulations Statement**

The General Data Protection Act places obligations and responsibilities on any company, organisation and individual who hold and process personnel information, and it comes into force on the 25th May 2018; superseding the Data Protection Act 1998. As a County Councillor I hold a list of emails of local people that I have built up over the years which I retain and use on my council computer and email. I can give you all the reassurance that I do not and will not share those email addresses with any third party.

**In seeking legal compliance as a data controller I am requesting that if anyone is unhappy with my holding their email contact that you please advise me so that I am able to remove you from the list.**

Otherwise I will retain your email contact and continue to send you monthly updates, emails as required and occasional key information.