

Ward Report – for January 2021
From your local County Councillor - Barry Durkin

Old Gore Ward
Brampton Abbots, Brockhampton with Much Fawley, How Caple, Kings Caple, Much Marcle,
Upton Bishop and Woolhope.

Dear Parish Councillors and Residents

Thank you all

I wanted to first thank you all, my local community and parish councillors for your support and good wishes during my period of ill health for the last quarter of last year. Thank you for helping with problems encountered during my period of 'non availability'. I am not through my problems with an MRI scan at the end of this month but your good wishes and contact did make a difference to me.

Covid

Well we are back in tier 2 as from Boxing Day and for good reason with a sharp rise in positive cases in the county. The tier 1 status was a mixed blessing, with on occasion over 300 people were refused entry in hospitality businesses as they couldn't prove they were Herefordshire residents. I attach a poster of Tier 2 rules.

As we continue with our tiered 'lockdown' let's retain the already developed support network of friends and neighbours looking after their immediate community of streets, hamlets and hamlets of houses including the use of Whatsapp and telephone contacts.



COVID-19_Tier_Posters_16_December_202

A continuing big thank you to everyone for looking out for your neighbours and the huge amount of random acts of kindness that are being done in our communities. If you can offer some support, are in need or know someone who is in need please feed into the support network.

Parishes - Flooding

The recent rainfall reminds us of last winter and has brought lots of surface water with some flooding on our roads. This has caused concerns with our parish councils where they were not able to fully assist their parishioners. Looking into Herefordshire Council website there is a whole section recognising the issue and how personal responsibility (link below) may be considered to implement

<https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/roads-1/flooding>

Similarly, BBLP our highways agency were not able to assist locals either, where their premises were flooded. This problems we need to address initially at parish level to help to

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provide assistance in such awful circumstances. BBLP do not keep a store of sand bags for these issues but they do have responsibility for the ditches and drains adjacent to the highway etc. that will provide relief to the excessive rain and weather. There needs to be more education, persuasion and if necessary enforcement of instances where the requirements of riparian responsibilities for landowners.

Budget Consultation

Herefordshire Council has launched an online budget consultation running from now till Friday 8th January. The budget assumes a total Council Tax increase of 4.99%. This would be made from an increase of 1.99% to core Council Tax which would contribute £2.2 million towards council services. A social care precept of 3% would contribute a further £3.2 million to be used on social care services.

Have your say by **midnight Friday 8 January 2021**. The received feedback will be considered by full Council on **12 February 2021**.

[https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/news/article/1074/have-your-say-council-launches-2021-22-budget-consultation and
www.herefordshire.gov.uk/budgetconsultation](https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/news/article/1074/have-your-say-council-launches-2021-22-budget-consultation-and-www.herefordshire.gov.uk/budgetconsultation)

Achieving Social Value for goods and services

Herefordshire Council is developing the way it buys goods and services to maximise the benefit to local people and communities, the local economy and the environment.

<https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/news/article/1070/achieving-social-value>

Cyber Quarter – Midlands Centre for Cyber Security

Conceived and commenced under the Conservative Administration, in c. 2017, in conjunction with the Local Enterprise Partnership, construction is now complete on the £9 million state-of-the-art Cyber Quarter – Midlands Centre for Cyber Security in Rotherwas.

[**Building completion heralds new era of cyber innovation in the Midlands**](#)

Keep Herefordshire Warm

This service is available to access and give advice on domestic heating

The Freephone number is 0800 677 1432 and the advice line is open from Monday to Friday, 9.00 to 17.00.

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There is also a dedicated webpage which may be of help, but I would definitely advise giving them a call.

<https://keepherefordshirewarm.co.uk/grants-and-funding/>

Locality Steward – One LS dedicated across the county.

The Council are proposed to amend the provision of Locality Stewards by having an dedicated LS for PROW across Herefordshire. Information is available from the council website and here in the form of a briefing note.

<https://peterstowparishcouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Parish-Briefing-Note-PROW-Steward-2.pdf>

Your chance to become a foster carer



PLEASE SUPPORT OUR LOCAL BUSINESS

Many of our local business are supporting our community with supplying delivery of groceries, take away food and other items.

They are too many to list here in case I miss someone but they will be on your local websites. Please support them. If this crisis teaches us anything it is the importance of local community and a local economy.

Changes to current Covid status – commencing 4th January 2021

As you may be aware this evening the Prime Minister at 8pm introduced a new lock down for the United Kingdom that to “Stay at Home”. There will be instructions published on Gov.UK under Corona virus shortly. As the local County Councillor for the all the parishes in Old Gore I wanted on behalf of the local community and myself to thank you all for your ongoing commitment and care to the residents of our parishes, particularly during the last many months and forward into spring 2021.

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There will be an expectation of further information and advice coming from the Council, however as a current information stream I offer <https://www.itv.com/news>
Once again thank you again for your continued commitment to your community, with which I shall help as far as I am able. Please stay safe and well.

As ever if you think I can be of help please do not hesitate to contact me.



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Useful Information

Talk Community

Email: Talkcommunitycovidresponse@herefordshire.gov.uk
Telephone: 01432 260027

Information from Parishes

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:

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<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

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 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

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

Toolkits:

Community commissioning

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

Traffic Regulation Orders

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

Another useful site:

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., [@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_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

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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.