

Ward Report – August 2022
From your local County Councillor - Barry Durkin

Old Gore Ward

Brampton Abbotts, Brockhampton with Much Fawley, How Caple, Kings Caple, Much Marcle, Upton Bishop and Woolhope.

Dear Parish Councillors and Residents, welcome to this edition of my ward report I hope you find it interesting and there is a 'useful information' section at the end.



Dear resident,

Hope you have coped with the recent heat which many have found difficult to endure and while the cooler weather is welcome we are desperately in need of rain. My apologies for not submitting a ward report last month, this was because I was away over the end of June and first part of July. Hopefully, the message provided with this ward report will provide you with information and details on where to report issues. To enable this report I consult with many sources including information provided by other councillors.

Covid-19 update

There is still local and national Covid-19 information and support available.

Local information: [Herefordshire Council website](#)

Local vaccinations: [Herefordshire and Worcestershire Clinical Commissioning Group website](#)

National guidance: [Government website](#)

Urgent medication supplies: [NHS website](#) / call NHS 111

Talk Community helpline: The helpline is still available to help residents, who don't have support from family, friends or their local community, with food supplies, medication delivery or befriending (this includes those who are self-isolating).

Call: 01432 260027

E-mail: talkcommunityhelpline@herefordshire.gov.uk

Online: [Coronavirus - Talk Community support](#)

Ukraine refugees

Herefordshire is currently hosting 387 individuals from Ukraine in the County.

Out of Hours Noise Team

Ward Report – August 2022
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.

Herefordshire Council Environment Team are running the Out of Hours Noise Team every Friday and Saturday night up and until the August bank holiday weekend.

In the past the public have been asked to telephone in but the out of hours call centre recently appointed by the council requires this to be in the format of an email or online web notification. So they can be reached by emailing ethelpline@herefordshire.gov.uk or completing the online 'Contact us' form: www.herefordshire.gov.uk/council/contact-us. During the evening the officers will receive the notification to assess and action the service request.

The link to the web site / 14th July news release is at [Be noise aware this summer – Herefordshire Council](#)

I can't see it on the actual website for general noise so will ask that this is updated for the period of August.

Changes to FOI Team contact details



The FOI Team has recently moved to become part of the wider Information Governance team. The contact details for FOI / EIR requests have also been changed and the team can now be contacted at foi@herefordshire.gov.uk or on 01432 260112.

If you have any queries about an FOI request you've been asked to provide a response for, officers will be happy to help further, using the email address above.

Government grants

Government grants keep being offered to local authorities and Herefordshire Council has plans requested 8 million towards refurbishing the Museum in Hereford and a new library in Maylods. Commendable as the projects are I am not sure the annual revenue implications including business rates that will be payable have been costed.

The Council has put in three bids of 44 million to the national Levelling up fund for projects in Leominster, Ledbury and Ross. Also a further application of 7.6 million to support business growth and development. The UK Shared Prosperity Fund has been established to help address geographical disparities in economic performance and circumstances. In March, government allocated funding to Herefordshire, subject to submitting an Investment Plan on 1 August.

[Council investment plan seeks to secure government funding – Herefordshire Council](#)

Ward Report – August 2022
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.

Brookfield school

The Council has accepted a grant over 4 million from the Government which is 70% of the total cost for improvements to Brookfield school which is Herefordshire specialist provision for children with acute needs. Herefordshire Council has agreed at today's meeting to re-allocate additional funding towards improvement works at Brookfield Special School, Hereford, as part of a joint funded project with the Department for Education (DfE).

[Council agrees additional funding towards Brookfield Special School improvements project – Herefordshire Council](#)

Council reaches out to vulnerable residents and support to help worst hit

Residents who are struggling financially are being advised to visit the Herefordshire Council-run [Money on your Mind \(MOYM\)](#) webpages via Talk Community for advice. This includes help for those who are struggling to pay their bills, as well as general money-management advice and where to find cheaper deals for utility services.

[Help available as prices soar – Herefordshire Council](#)

Children's care services

There continues to be concerns regarding children's care services in the County and some questions were asked by members of the public at the full council meeting on last Friday. Despite huge funding being diverted there still remains issues of staff capacity. There are currently 370 children in the local look after care system and removed from their families and the Council are currently receiving an inspection on the service.

Traffic measures

In July 2020, Government announced plans to improve cycling and walking uptake across the country in Gear change. As part of this strategy, the Department for Transport (DfT) have begun the process to enable new regulations to provide for Local Authorities to enforce moving traffic contraventions.

Following a decision on 22 July, Herefordshire Council will submit an application to the Department for Transport (DfT) for new moving traffic enforcement (MTE) powers. If successful, the new powers would be in place by the end of 2022, and would enable the council to carry out some enforcement of specified moving traffic offences, helping to improve safety and congestion, and encourage active travel.

Ward Report – August 2022
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.

Enforcement will be provided through approved camera devices that can detect traffic offences, where a trained Civil Enforcement Officer will then administer a Penalty Charge Notice when appropriate. Enforcement for the most serious offences will still be retained by the police.

[Council applies for new traffic enforcement measures to improve safety – Herefordshire Council](#)

One Public Estate Programme



Herefordshire Council is the lead body for the One Public Estate (OPE) partnership in Herefordshire. Partners include Wye Valley Trust, West Mercia Police, Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue Service, NHS Herefordshire and Worcestershire (formerly known as Herefordshire and Worcestershire Clinical Commissioning Group), Taurus Healthcare and the Herefordshire & Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust.

OPE is an established national programme delivered in partnership by the Office of Government Property (OGP) within the Cabinet Office and the Local Government Association (LGA). It provides practical and technical support and funding to councils to deliver ambitious property-focused programmes in collaboration with central government and other public sector partners.

At its heart, the programme is about getting more from our collective assets - whether that's catalysing major service transformation such as health and social care integration and benefits reform; unlocking land for new homes and commercial space; or creating new opportunities to save on running costs or generate income. This is encompassed in three core objectives:

- Creating economic growth (new homes and jobs);
- Delivering more integrated, customer-focused services; and
- Generating efficiencies, through capital receipts and reduced running costs;

Herefordshire's OPE Partnership has shown the value of working together across the public sector and taking a strategic approach to asset management. Since the initial successful bid in Wave 5 2016/17, we've successfully bid in four further rounds and secured a grant value of just over £2.8 million.

The partnership reports into the One Herefordshire Partnership Board. For further details see our [new website pages](#)

Ward Report – August 2022
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.

Phosphates

Progress has been made in achieving certainty with regard to being able to trade phosphate credits with those wishing to build in the north of the country where there is a currently a moratorium in the area defined as the Lugg Catchment.

The Council has bought and is buying land adjacent to water sewerage treatment plants and will block off the discharge pipes and instead make the outfall go through reed beds which will strip all the phosphate out before it enters natural watercourses. Whilst using reed beds to absorb phosphate and other nutrients is not new, being able to calculate the reduction accurately is.

We now have QC's advice that Council's calculator and mechanism for trading is sound and will satisfy Natural England's concerns. This month we will formally take a decision on to press go and trading can start. This is only a mitigation mechanism to allow house building in an area where the moratorium, which remains in place, was preventing all development. The cost of the credits will be added to our funding from the Marches Local Enterprise Partnership and New Homes Bonus and will ensure our wetlands are maintained for 80 years.

Lengthsman Grant

The general lengthsman grant (as opposed to the specific drainage grant) was delayed going through governance but has now completed the process and BBLP will shortly contact parish councils (as they did with the drainage grant) to let them know the process and criteria to bid. This grant funding will be match funding based, with a small base per parish council, that have registered their lengthsman with the Council, calculated on highways length (including footpaths).

The more funding that parish councils are able to and wish to put towards particular, mainly road and ditch, projects in their wards the more match funding they may get from Herefordshire Council. This grant fund will be £250000 total pot spread across the county per year for 5 years guaranteed. We don't expect parishes to tackle major projects with this funding, that remains the responsibility of the Council and our contractor, BBLP, but it will allow minor projects that may have missed out historically on funding because of the ranking matrix approach, we have had to increasingly adhere to since austerity bit, to be tackled.

Become a Youth Trustee (and gain some amazing experience!)

Rural Media are currently recruiting Youth Trustees to join their Board.

Youth Trustees will not be expected to "represent" all young people, but your lived experience as someone aged between 16 and 25 will bring a new perspective to the Board and Rural Media.

The role is open to anyone aged between 16 and 25. No qualifications or special experience is needed, just a passion for the Rural Media mission and a willingness to get stuck in.

Ward Report – August 2022
From your local County Councillor - Barry Durkin

Old Gore Ward

Brampton Abbotts, Brockhampton with Much Fawley, How Caple, Kings Caple, Much Marcle, Upton Bishop and Woolhope.

If you would like more information before applying, please contact their Youth Trustee Mentor Jane Dagers on 07984746488. You can also WhatsApp Rural Media Development Producer Lauren Rogers on 07729920681 or email any questions to info@ruralmedia.co.uk.

[Download the Youth Trustee Recruitment Pack here to find out how to apply.](#)

Qwell – digital mental health service in Herefordshire



Need to talk? Qwell offers free and confidential digital counselling and emotional support for all adults aged 19 and over.

The service is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year via computer, tablet or smartphone. There are no waiting lists or referrals needed, which will enable people to quickly and easily access support, at a time that is convenient for them.

There are one to one counselling support sessions available at certain times, with fully qualified wellbeing practitioners, alongside an extensive range of self-care and psychoeducational materials, peer to peer support, helpful articles and personal tools, such as an online journal.

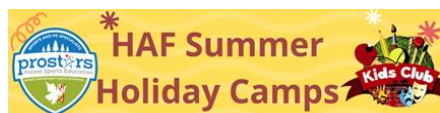
[Visit the Qwell website](#) to find out more and sign up.

Electoral Services – supporting the democratic process:

The Annual Canvass is now in progress! Herefordshire Council has a statutory requirement to contact all households in the county to check their details for the Electoral Register.

Correspondence will go out from early July so when you receive yours please read it carefully to see if a response is required and follow the instructions. You can view the annual canvass FAQs on our website. Please can you help any of our residents that might need assistance with completing their response if you come across them in the course of your work? Electoral Services can be contacted on 01432 260107 or canvass@herefordshire.gov.uk with any issues.

HAF Summer Holiday Camps



Bookings are still open for Here for Herefordshire Holidays – the scheme that provides free activities and meals to thousands of children and young people during

the summer break.

Herefordshire Council's Talk Community is working in partnership with local providers and holiday clubs to deliver a range of exciting indoor and outdoor activities throughout the summer holidays for children and young people in Herefordshire eligible for benefit-related free school meals.

Ward Report – August 2022

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.

One example of the fantastic activities on offer are Prostars, a sports and P.E specialist company who are offering three different weeks of activities including a Wet & Wild Week in August! Eligible families can now book through the booking system, available from the [Talk Community website](#).

Our COMMUNITY SUPPORT OFFICERS

Meet your safer neighbourhood team

We are a dedicated group of police officers and police community support officers (PCSOs) who work with local communities and partner organisations to keep our residents, businesses and visitors safe and to prevent crime and tackle anti-social behaviour in your locality.

Officers can be contacted on the below numbers concerning community issues. To report a crime in progress call 999 and for non emergencies, report online at www.westmercia.police.uk/report. If you are unable to report online, you can contact us via the 101 non-emergency number.

Ross-on-Wye
rossonwye.snt@westmercia.police.uk

 Inspector James Ashton	 Sergeant Julie Watson	 PC Daniel Underwood 07773 049892	
 PCSO David Alexander 07773 049929	 PCSO Simon Hall 07967 302401	 PCSO Claire Kelly 07866 215011	 PCSO Kirsten Kysow 07773 034152

Whilst the information is considered to be true and correct at the date of publication, changes in circumstances after the time of publication may impact on the accuracy of the information (February 2022).

 www.westmercia.police.uk
westmerciapolice @WMerciaPolice @westmerciapolice

Report a crime to Police 101



When you sign up to our 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. Sign up below:

<https://link.edgepilot.com/s/bb21d405/UARq0VNajkqv1vLf0zKSJQ?u=http://www.neighbourhoodmatters.co.uk/>

Ward Report – August 2022
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.

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

Barry

Barry Durkin

Old Gore Ward

Mob. 07792 882054

Email. bdurkin@herefordshire.gov.uk

General Data Protection Act

The General Data Protection Act places obligations and responsibilities on any company, organisation and individual who holds and process personnel information. The new General data protection regulations (GDPR) that supersedes the Data Protection act came into force on the 25th May 2018. 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. **In seeking to maintain legal compliance I am requesting that if anyone is unhappy with me holding your email please contact me to advise and I will remove you from the list.** Otherwise I will retain your email contact and continue to send you monthly updates and occasional key information in my capacity as an elected Herefordshire Councillor.

Ward Report – August 2022
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.

Useful Information – Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Flooding: emergency contact details – please share with your networks

Environment Agency: 0800 80 70 60 (24-hours) or visit www.gov.uk/report-an-environmental-incident

Flood alerts: Floodline 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.

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.wutilities.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/

Severn Trent water: [0800 783 4444](tel:08007834444) www.stwater.co.uk/in-my-area/check-my-area/

Report a flooded road or highway obstruction- Balfour Beatty Living Places: **01432 26180**

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

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. Please [report it here](#) or contact TalkCommunityEnquiries@herefordshire.gov.uk.

Covid19

The Latest local Covid data and information www.herefordshire.gov.uk/coronavirus-3

National Covid guidance is available on the Government website www.gov.uk/coronavirus

Talk Community

Email: Talkcommunitycovidresponse@herefordshire.gov.uk

Telephone: 01432 260027

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.

Ward Report – August 2022
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.

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](tel: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.

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](#)

Report fly 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 flytipping form](#).

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

Ward Report – August 2022
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.](#)

Parishes Councils have their own inbox 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., and [@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-claims> please use

Council tax reduction or exemption

Ward Report – August 2022
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.

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