

Ward Report – September 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.

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,

Here we are coming into the autumn, where did the summer go? Hope you have coped with the summer which many have found difficult to endure. Hopefully, the message provided with this ward report will provide you with information and details on where to report issues. This ward report is directly community support focused and provides practical advice, as August is particularly a 'light' month for Council related work. To enable this report I consult with many sources including information provided by other councillors. The first results of the 2021 national census are due soon and what it tells us about how Herefordshire is changing and for the first time how many veterans we have in Herefordshire; with last year's census form directly asking for this information.

Please forward this update to any residents in the ward who you think may be interested and copy me in. As ever if you think I can be of help please do not hesitate to contact me. Stay safe and keep well everybody.

Barry

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

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delivery or befriending (this includes those who are self-isolating).

Call: 01432 260027

E-mail: talkcommunityhelpline@herefordshire.gov.uk

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

Budget

Although we are not yet six months into the financial year the budget for 2023/24 must be considered. The extra strains in Children services and the challenge of adult social remain huge pressures in Herefordshire together with inflation. Initial papers indicate budget pressures of 21 million, including 12 million in children care services, but the council has 106 million reserves most of which is earmarked against risks.

Phosphates

The new Phosphate credits system is due to be underway now with developers applying to the council to buy credits from them to allow them to build new homes. Additionally, the Council's purchase of land adjacent to sewage works for wetlands to absorb the phosphate over the years this will allow building providing `nutrient neutrality`.

The credit applies to all of the River Lugg catchment area and not the specific drainage land of the individual wetland. With the Government's recent announcement on forcing Water Companies to increase their investment in upgrading public sewers, any phosphate gains should also be brought into the calculations.

Herefordshire Art Week - h.Art September 3-11th 2022



The annual h.Art exhibition in our county, is here, a nine day art trail open to all. Artists, craft makers and creative businesses are opening their private studios across the county, and galleries are putting on events. There are also one-off exhibitions in a beautiful mix of interesting venues including in Old Gore ward.

You will already have seen many of the signs up for this annual county exhibition of local artists. This year there are 130 venues in Herefordshire and just over the borders which you can go and view to see the talents of local people. Including paintings, ceramics, sculpture, glass, jewellery and much more. Take your time to feel inspired and uplifted by the creative people of Herefordshire please visit and support the artists involved.

Please visit www.h-art.org.uk for details for pick up the free booklet from local outlets.

[Explore | Herefordshire Art Week \(h-art.org.uk\)](http://www.h-art.org.uk)

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Support for Ukraine Community Network Event



On Thursday 8 September, there's a networking information event for community hubs, groups and parish councils helping to support Ukrainian guests and host families in Herefordshire.

Information will be provided on the **Herefordshire Ukrainian Community Integration Fund** launching this month. Bids will be invited from a wide range of organisations to benefit Ukrainian guests and their hosts to help promote their wellbeing and integration into life in Herefordshire.

The Herefordshire Council team will be providing information on how you can apply, as well as ideas and examples of what the bids could be used for. To book a space please visit the [Eventbrite website](#).

Date: Thursday 8 September 2022

Time: 6pm-8pm

Location: Saxon Hall, Hoarwithy Road, Hereford HR2 6HE

2021 census population results for Herefordshire (Info from colleague)

Apart from 1941 an annual census has taken place in this country since 1811 and the preliminary results of the 2021 census and estimates were published a few weeks ago. The population of Herefordshire has risen to 187,100 a rise of 3,600 people which is an increase of 2% on 2011. However that is a slower rate than England and Wales which saw on average an increase of 6.6%.

With approximately 86 people per square metre, Herefordshire has the fourth lowest population density out of all the counties in England (equivalent to two football pitches per person).

- The number of children under 15 has decreased by 4.3% over the last ten years compared to a national increase of 5%.
- The number of people age range 15 to 64 has declined by 4.1% compared to 13.6% increase nationally
- The number of over 65 year olds and over on the other hand has increased by 24.1% in the last ten years compared to 20.1% nationally.
- There are 4,500 more households in the county than in 2011 – up by 5.7% compared to a national increase of 6.1%.

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- Herefordshire has a higher proportion of residents in their early fifties and above and lower proportions of young people. There are more females and males reflecting the national pattern with 97 men to every 100 women (96 in England & Wales).

This information starts to clearly paint a picture of the future pressures on our public services – particularly local health and care, and some of the challenges ahead for our local economy, housing market and education system.

Broadband

The completion of the delivery of superfast broadband access to my ward has been held up but work is going on to provide alternatives to the traditional cable by providing a grant for a low level satellite antennae. Properties that remain unreached by the Community Grant scheme will also be eligible to apply for the Digital Household Grant. **The Digital Household Grant (DHG)** is funding the installation of interim solutions for those properties with less than 30Mbs broadband in Herefordshire affected by the transition to the Government's Project Gigabit scheme. Most of the 268 properties that have applied to the DHG will realistically benefit from speeds of between 10 and 45Mbps. A low earth orbit satellite solution will be explored for properties where there is no 4G service available.

Also: Business Grant: Businesses can now register for a grant to part-fund the installation of fibre or alternative faster broadband connections via the postcode checker at www.fastershire.com. The Business grants allocate up to £20k per eligible premise with a 20% contribution from the business

And: Support to Parish Councils and Talk Community Hubs: Fastershire can help Parish Councils and Talk Community Hubs use the internet to engage better with the community, do more things digitally, or resolve a particular digital or online problem. Whether it is help with a website, advice on setting up or managing social media, sharing information/documents/diaries online, or managing email distribution, our expert can help with a free 'digital visit', in person or through a video call.

For more information, please get in touch with jennie.morgan@herefordshire.gov.uk

Last free Talk Community thank you at Hereford Leisure Centre



Talk Community are holding the final free community thank you event at Hereford Leisure Centre on Sunday 11 September 2022.

This event, run in partnership with HALO Leisure, will be offering free fitness activities such as martial arts taster sessions, gymnastics,

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all day gym access, group exercise classes and squash as well as kid friendly activities such as soft play and face painting!

We have just released the timetable on the [Talk Community website](#), so make sure not to miss out!

Energy saving talk from Keep Herefordshire Warm

Are you a householder in Herefordshire? Perhaps you are on a low income? Do you want to find out about energy use in the home, how smart meters work and can help you manage energy and bills? Join Keep Herefordshire Warm for this introductory talk.

Would you like to get some great tips to help get control of energy usage in the home?



If you know someone that needs help with their home energy, fuel bills, keeping warm or assistance with energy efficiency measures, they can get in touch with the Keep Herefordshire

Warm advice line. Keep Herefordshire Warm offer free energy advice and support households to access funding and grants.

Call: 0800 677 1432, Monday - Friday 9am to 5pm.

Online training provided - With the cost of energy bills likely to rise again in October, Keep Herefordshire warm are running another **free online training** for Herefordshire based organisations/services. This training is aimed at frontline workers, volunteers, community workers, **and councillors etc.** who support communities and households who may be at risk of fuel poverty.

Join the training 'Introduction to Energy Use in the Home and Fuel Poverty Awareness CPD' on one of the following dates:

- Wednesday 21 September 10am-12pm
- Wednesday 12 October 10am-12pm
- Thursday 10 November 10am-12pm
- Thursday 8 December 10am-12pm

The two hour training session is certified by the CPD Certification Service and will count towards any CPD goals of staff/volunteers.

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Find out more and sign up via the [Eventbrite website](#).

Have you got Money on Your Mind



There's been a lot in the news recently about the rising cost of living, fuel and energy prices – and we're all noticing the difference when we fill up our cars or the shopping trolley.

If you're finding it difficult to cope with money or debt problems, it can leave you feeling stressed and anxious. It's important to remember you're not alone, as there's lots of local and national support available.

If you or your family or friends are finding it difficult to cope with

Visit [Money on your Mind](#) from Talk Community for help and advice.

Council to provide financial support to vulnerable residents

Pensioners on low incomes will soon get some financial support to help them manage their bills during the cost of living crisis.

[Help on its way for hardest-hit – Herefordshire Council](#)

Cost of living payments – Government information available



Countries around the world are facing rising goods and energy prices, inflation and cost of living pressures after the pandemic and Putin's invasion of Ukraine.

We know people are worried so the government is offering help for households. See what cost of living support you could be eligible for you and your family

[Help for Households - Get government cost of living support](#)

Domestic Abuse

Herefordshire Council will be spending around £360,000 to help people who have, or are, experiencing domestic abuse. Some of the money will go towards safe accommodation for those who need it.

[Domestic abuse support announced – Herefordshire Council](#)

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Age UK computer courses

Did you know that 40% of people aged 75 and over do not currently access the internet?

Many older people also lack the confidence to make use of laptops, tablets or mobile phones.

During the Covid pandemic, more organisations including banks, councils, utility suppliers, retailers and government are making it difficult to get information or carry out routine tasks without going online. Social media can be a great way to keep in touch with friends and family, yet also requires confidence to use them for the first time.



Why get online?

- Increase your confidence to access the range of services and products online.
- Enable you to reconnect with family and friends digitally.
- Increase your independence by giving you the ability to order groceries or reduce fuel costs by switching online.
- Allows you to access games and videos you enjoy and access the government and health services you need.

There are lots of different ways you can access [digital support](#) across the two counties including Computer Cafes, 6 week courses and 1-2-1 support.

Call Age UK Herefordshire & Worcestershire on **0800 008 6077** to find out more.

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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.

Rosson-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/>

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

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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.

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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.

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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

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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](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)

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

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](https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/info/200196/roads/206/highway-claims) please use

Council tax reduction or exemption

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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