

Ward Report – June 2023
From your Local Community Champion – Ward 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 Residents

It's been a very active past month with the Coronation and our local elections, Annual Parish meetings, and a visit by a Cabinet Minister to Eardisland, Hereford!

May I thank those of you who turned out and supported me to be re-elected as your County Councillor? It is a great pleasure and privilege to represent the communities I have known properly since 2008, and I will continue to do my best to support the wellbeing of all parishioners, businesses and our environment.

Result from the County Council elections, on 4th May, gave no overall control of the administration of the council to any single group with 21 Conservatives, 12 Liberal Democrats, 9 Greens, 1 Labour and 10 Independents in four different groups or individuals. After a couple of weeks of discussions it was clear groups were not inclined to form coalitions. So the Conservatives have formed a minority administration with one of the Independents. This will be challenging given some of the problems that need to be dealt with – in particular Children's services, the Phosphate issue and Highways.

At the Annual Council Meeting where the new Leader Jonathan Lester was voted in and committee Chairmanships agreed. I was latterly, on 25th May, I was promoted to Cabinet Member for Roads and Regulatory Services. I am very honoured to be selected to the post, and look forward to carrying out my duties and making some positive contributions, while still looking after my ward.

Barry

Leader of Council appoints cabinet

The Leader of the Council Jonathan Lester has appointed his cabinet for this administration.
[Leader announces Cabinet members – Herefordshire Council](#)

Herefordshire Council's Leader, Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson elected and committee chairpersons appointed
[Annual Council adopts changes for 2023/24 municipal year – Herefordshire Council](#)

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Councillor Peter Jinman



As a matter of respect and to mark the sad passing of Councillor Peter Jinman OBE, I'd like to reflect and recognise Peter's huge contribution in his council life although his private life was very extensive and full.

Peter had served as a Herefordshire Councillor since September 2017 in the Golden Valley South ward. Peter held many other notable positions in public office; as a Cabinet support member, vice-Chairperson of the Health, Care and Wellbeing scrutiny committee. In addition to his work with his local communities.

Peter died in the early hours of Thursday morning surrounded by his loving wife Gill and family members. Our council flags will fly at half-mast until his funeral as a mark of respect. R.I.P.

New Parish Councils Sign In

Following the elections on 4th May the new Parish Councils have begun their term of office with some co options having to be done. This tier of government closest to the people is still in place in this ward and across the County. It should not be forgotten that parish councillors work hard for their communities sometimes in tough circumstances. They make decisions based on the needs of the community and it is important that they are supported by the community by attending parish council meetings and giving you, the residents, your opinion.

Secretary of State Visit to Herefordshire

Thérèse Coffey, the Secretary of State for the department of Environment and Rural Affairs, visited Herefordshire last Tuesday principally to discuss the concerns of the River Wye, and the lack of progress in working on schemes to improve river quality and overcome the phosphate problem. Her discussions were with Herefordshire Council, local MPs and stakeholders as well the Welsh Government.

[Secretary of State for the Environment Visits Herefordshire – Herefordshire Council](#)

Supporting Ukraine

Last week marked the anniversary of the Russian invasion of the Ukraine, and local voluntary work continues to get aid to their communities. I know that within our parishes many families have welcome Ukrainian people into their home and continue to support them at this most difficult of time. We can continue to support this work by contacting the details below.

Local teams continues to organise supplies - details can be found on

<https://www.facebook.com/drivingsuppliestoukraine/>

Local information website: <https://www.talkcommunitydirectory.org/ukraine>

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Council public health team wins award

The council's public health team won the hotly-contested 'local authority project of the year award' for its work on sustainable food.

Held in Birmingham on Saturday 20 May, the awards are made up of 11 categories, each of which celebrates the work of the region's public sector community. Five authorities were shortlisted in the 'local authority project of the year award'.

Herefordshire Council's team beat competition from Birmingham, Dudley, Shropshire and Worcestershire to clinch first prize.

The council's team identified opportunities as well as challenges in maintaining and delivering sustainable food across its sparsely populated rural county. While it can be more difficult to access food in Herefordshire than in urban areas, its rurality offers more opportunities for food production. Relatively speaking, the county's food travels more miles before being sold by retailers. Unsurprisingly, this adds to the cost of food on shop shelves, which is often referred to as a 'rural premium'.

As part of the project, Herefordshire Council's team continue to work with [Herefordshire Food Alliance](#) to support a sustainable food county, focusing on six key system areas. They include encouraging more people to buy local food. As well as reducing food miles, this also supports the county's high proportion of farms (agriculture makes up 24 per cent of Herefordshire's businesses).

What is carers' week – starting 5th June?

Carers' Week is an annual campaign to raise awareness of caring, highlight the challenges unpaid carers face and recognise the contribution they make to families and communities throughout the UK. It also helps people who don't think of themselves as having caring responsibilities to identify as carers and access much-needed support.



The campaign is brought to life by thousands of individuals and organisations who come together to provide support for carers, run activities, highlight the vital role carers play in our communities and draw attention to just how important caring is.

Join the council's Marie Gallagher and many others who have shown their support for unpaid carers by adding their names to the [Carers Week campaign page](#).

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The annual campaign is designed to raise awareness of caring, highlight challenges faced by unpaid carers and recognise their contributions. It also supports people who don't think of themselves as carers.

There are a number of events taking place in Herefordshire during Carers Week (5-11 June), organised by our partner, [Tu Vida](#):

Mon 5 June 12.30 to 2pm - Afternoon tea at The Living Room, Hereford

Mon 5 June 2 to 3pm - Silvertime legal - Online

Tues 6 June 7 to 8pm - Pub quiz - Online

Weds 7 June 2 to 3.30pm - Afternoon tea at Lion café, Kington

Fri 9 June 10.30 to 12.30pm - Community drop-in at Hereford Hospital (no need to book)

For more details and to ask if you can go along to support the events, visit [Tu Vida's Herefordshire activities page](#), call **01432 663 057**, or email herefordshire@crossroadstogether.org.uk.

Carers Week is supported by [Herefordshire Cares](#). And please remember to show you care by supporting [Carers Week 'I Care' page](#).

COVID-19 vaccine offer ends - 30 June



People who have not yet come forward for their COVID-19 vaccine are being encouraged to get them before the offer ends on 30 June.

The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation has advised that the risk of serious illness with COVID-19 continues to be

disproportionately greater in those from older age groups, residents in care homes for older adults, and persons with certain underlying health conditions.

The Department of Health and Social Care has published a set of [social media materials](#) designed to increase awareness of the COVID-19 spring booster offer among eligible cohorts. The resources include 'Top up your immunity this spring' graphics, with information on eligibility for the COVID-19 spring booster and materials alerting that the offer of a first and second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine.

Many people will no longer be eligible for these doses after 30 June. The social media resources are designed to encourage people to come forward to get both doses before this date.

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Our Community Support Officers

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.

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

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 non-emergency 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.



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 2023)



The [Neighbourhood Matters](#) messaging service enables residents, businesses and community groups to keep in touch with our local West Mercia Police teams and learn more about what they are doing in your community. **It's free to sign up!**

You can choose to receive updates on crimes and the latest information about on-going incidents. You can also hear about positive police action as well as good news stories, and you can also play an active part in helping with public appeals.

To find out more and sign up, visit the [Neighbourhood Matters website](#).

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/>

Old Gore Parish Councils

Nil to report at present

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

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General Data Protection Act

The General Data Protection Act places obligations and responsibilities on any company, organisation and individual who holds and process personal 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 I 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.wvutilities.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:01432261800).

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

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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