

May Ward Report – Old Gore Ward

Parishes of: Brampton Abbots with Sollers Hope and Yatton, Brockhampton with Much Fawley, Foy (East), Foy (West), How Caple, Kings Caple, Much Marcle, Upton Bishop and Woolhope

From your local County Councillor: Barry Durkin

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Dear Residents

The May Fair has arrived at Hereford and Leominster and it is hoped that there will be much enjoyment, especially for the children, that attend the event. Work has started on improvements to Leominster High town and will be continue after the May Fair and include attractive surfacing, improved paving, wider pavements and raised tables at the major junctions making it safer and more accessible for pedestrians. The paving in Corn Square will be refurbished and the road and parking area will be resurfaced.

An important announcement from the Government last month on the future of the River Wye. A nine point plan over ten years with 35 million pounds to improving the quality of the river. Full and extensive details can be found

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/river-wye-action-plan/river-wye-action-plan>

All developments of over 10 houses have to make section 106 contributions to offset the impact of the development and provide affordable housing. This is a national ruling and normally will specify 30% affordable houses plus a criteria for splitting the lump sum. It can be appealed against and the District Valuer can rule on the funding required. Funding must be used for capital expenditure rather than on going revenue issues.

Balfour Beatty (BBLP) Contract

Two weeks ago the Council's cabinet took the decision for an early termination of the Highway contract with Balfour Beatty, which has been maintaining roads and open spaces for the council since 2013.

The contract requires a two year notice to be given; so for the next two years the contract remains in place until 2026 but the council will be working on a new operational model with a mixture of in house and out sourced delivery of services "because the current contract does not allow the council to deliver its longer term requirements and aspirations". Equally important is to skill up the council commissioning side to tighten the monitoring and delivery of the contract. The council added: "A new contract will commence on 1 June 2026. This gives a two year period for a redesign, procurement and planned mobilisation of the new service. This work is underway and we will share further details of this as we progress. The council are committed to continuing to work closely with BBLP for the duration of our contract to ensure high quality services for local residents, and a smooth transition to the new arrangements.

Herefordshire Tourism

Recently there was a local annual tourism conference held in Hereford to hear of the work of the Herefordshire County Bid team who promote tourism in our county. All tourism

business with a rateable value over £12,000 pay a supplementary rate which is ringed fenced for the Herefordshire Bid team to use to fund tourism promotion and support.



Herefordshire Council works with the team managing the various government grants for rural enterprise, rural tourism, cultural development and Community infrastructure. Recently the Bid team have been awarded Local Visitor Economic Partnership status which means it collaborates with Visit England on initiative in the sector.

They run many promotions – currently Blossom County and oversee promotion of our County in Magazines and newspapers, social media and placement of articles. They commission data which records, via our mobile phones, all visitors to our City and market towns using the information to drive strategy and targeting. Additionally to offer training, development and support for businesses and their staff.

Two projects I find interesting are the promotion of Herefordshire for its dark skies at night and our County as locations for Film and TV companies. It is estimated the visitor economy is worth approximately 550 million to Herefordshire, employing the equivalent of 6,500 full time employees.

Picture above: Jo Hilditch co-chair; Diane Mansell Chief officer; Nicola Said Regional Director Visit England; Glenn Jones co-chair.

Highways - Spending on roads

The council have allocated £38.388m toward the maintenance of highways for this financial year. This figure being made up from the usual allocation of funding from council's capital and revenue budget and grants received from the government.

Meanwhile in Hereford City a government grant of 541K will be used to upgrade traffic signals. Improvements will replace in-road vehicle detection with more modern and reliable above ground options which will be more efficient. The improvements will allow interaction and coordination among the major City routes including the A49 which is controlled by the Highways Agency.

Local Transport Plan

Herefordshire Council is in the early stages of developing a new Local Transport Plan (LTP) for the county. The LTP will set out what, where and how the Council intends to invest in transport in Herefordshire with the aim of boosting the economy, preserving our environment, and fostering social inclusion.

From March 25th to May 21st 2024, you can share your views for improving transport in the county. The feedback received will help to shape the detail of the plan before we undertake wider public consultation later in the year. To have your say, and to learn more about the LTP, [visit the Herefordshire Council website and complete the survey](#) (it only takes 10 mins)!

Campaign for fitness

[May is walking month](#). We've launched a campaign with our neighbours in Worcestershire County Council to promote the benefits of walking and encourage people to walk more. Walking in the fresh air is great for your body and mind and can help to boost your mood. All of our council offices have walking routes nearby.

Police and Crime Commissioner - election



Following the Police and Crime Commissioner elections yesterday, John Campion was re-elected. You can see the results for Herefordshire on and how close the count was on the council's [website](#).

Community and voluntary groups

There is some exciting news for community and voluntary groups in Herefordshire! The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) and Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF) community grant schemes are now open, they offer funding for projects that aim to make a difference in local neighbourhoods. Split into the community infrastructure grant and the community capacity building grants, and with the objective of bolstering community life and addressing local needs, these funds provide a vital resource for groups dedicated to enhancing wellbeing and fostering community engagement.

Find out how your group can access funding by [visiting the Talk Community website](#).

Report potholes and concerns

PLEASE - Report problems on the road as all defects on the network need reporting

www.herefordshire.gov.uk/roads-1/report-problems-road

Check on progress of a defect

[Pothole and road defect progress map – Herefordshire Council](#)

Report a serious pothole, flooded road or highway obstruction- Balfour Beatty Living Places:
- 01432 261800

Footpaths issues –

- PROW - PROW@herefordshire.gov.uk
- PROW No – 01432 383 550

Report fly tipping

It will be dealt with in a much quicker time frame by either calling the Contact Centre on 01432 261800 or by logging the fly tipping via the council website on the link below
https://link.edgepilot.com/s/f452e836/Hy5YWk_SgEGkleekL2ROFO?u=https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/info/200226/report-a-problem/98/fly-tipping

Planning –

Can I remind you all that the consultation on the next Planning strategy for the period 2021-2041 and the Council's transport plan are currently underway until May 20th. Details found on the council website.

Be Aware In the Countryside



Advertisement to please keep your dog under control when near sheep and particularly lambs is being put out. We have had an awful incident in a northern ward where sheep were frightened by a dog and broke through fences in panic causing huge distress and injury. Also watch out for Ewes on their backs with legs in the air- just walk across and pull them back on their feet.

Edgar Street Football stadium



Herefordshire Council has agreed a long term lease with Hereford Football Club to secure their home till 2070. This will allow the club to develop on and off field and strengthen its integrity within the football association rules. Work will begin with the demolition of the Blackfairs end and rebuild a new stand with additional income features.

Pictured are C.EX Hfds Council Paul Walker, Hfd FC Chair Chris Ammonds and Cabinet member Harry Bramer.



Home Energy Savers

May I remind you again that if you are thinking about doing some changes, improvements or renovations to your home this summer? Want to bring down your heating bills but not sure which improvements would be best for your home? Home Energy Savers can help! Get set for next winter with Home Energy Savers

This new support scheme will deliver a free home survey and a comprehensive improvement plan for your home. You can then chose which measures to install that suit your budget.

The free survey is provided with no obligation to proceed, but if you do wish to upgrade the energy efficiency of your home, there is also funding that will contribute towards the overall cost. The initiative is available across Herefordshire and is targeting households with an income above £36,000 per annum. These households are usually not eligible for other support schemes. Call the YES team at Keep

Herefordshire Warm on Freephone number
0800 677 1432 available Mon - Fri 9am - 5pm or visit
<https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/housing-3/home-energy/3>

As ever if you think I can help please do not hesitate to contact me?

Stay safe and keep well everybody

Kind Regards

Barry

Police and Community Safety



Sign up to police 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/>

Report a crime Police 101 Ext 61216

The new General data protection regulations (GDPR) that supersede the Data Protection act, came into force on the 25th May 2018 and places obligations and responsibilities on any company, organisation and individual who holds and process personnel information. I make this statement that I hold a list of emails of local people that I have built up over the years which I retain and use. In seeking legal compliance I am requesting that if anyone is unhappy with me holding your email contact please advise me 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