



September 2024 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

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. This report is prepared from information from Herefordshire Council and other councillor sources so that I may provide a comprehensive review of the County activities.

Unfortunately the summer sunshine has turned back to rain and although the forecast for the week ahead looks to be greatly improving nothing is guaranteed so please do be careful when travelling as heavy showers often lead to slippery road surfaces. Excess rain also leads to muddy fields and with farmers needing to enter and exit fields at the moment it is not uncommon to see mud on the roads. The vast majority of farmers are very diligent and clear up any mud very quickly but where you do spot a problem please let me or the locality steward know so the matter may be appropriately dealt with.



The long established h.Art week exhibition of local artists work begins on 7th Sept till 15th Sept. It gives everyone the opportunity to see the work of individual artists in their homes or local locations against the background of the Herefordshire's beautiful landscape.

Herefordshire exams results

Last month continue to be at and above the national average. The A level success pass rate was 97.1% particularly helped by Hereford Six Form, which continues its outstanding achievement of being one of the most successful non selection six forms in England for well over the past 20 years. At GCSE 68.5% of our young people achieved grade 4 or above. Performance in science was strong with Herefordshire out performing nationally in physics, biology and chemistry.

House Building - Herefordshire

Some important news from the new government on increasing house building. The Government expects Herefordshire to increase its house building by 80% from a projected 773 per year over the next 20 years to 1,375.

Herefordshire currently has 82,800 homes (of which 2700 are in Hereford City) and will have to build an extra 27,500 over the next 20 years to meet the Government's new target. Given an aging population the problem we will have is building more homes suitable for elderly and enough houses affordable for those working given the restraints on our housing market. The initial impact this announcement has is on our emerging Core Strategy which was due to be advanced next year. This is bound to impact on the timetable and require more consultation on where and what these extra homes should go and be.

New Waste Collection



This week sees the start of the new waste collection contract which was re-awarded to the existing contractors. My understanding is there is virtually no change to collections so please continue to put out your bins out as normal. There will be a roll out of some new collection vehicles including two electric ones for the City.

Highways



Last month saw extensive resurfacing and surfacing dressing works across the county. The works were part of an 8 million pound capital budget spend which was part of the 2024/25 budget and follow the commitment given by the administration group of the council in last year's local elections to spend more on our highways. There will continue to be many surfacing and dressings across the County so look out for diversions.

I had received some comments about the surface dressing on the unclassified highways that have been resurfaced in the last couple of years and the money should be spent on doing other poorer highways. However in order to achieve the best value for money it is good practice to surface dress the resurfaced C and U roads to ensure you get the maximum life out of them.

Hereford Register Office

Hereford Register Office will soon be moving to 8 St Owen Street, Hereford, HR1 2PJ. The exact date of the move is to be confirmed, but is anticipated to be in the second half of September 2024. The move will allow the library to relocate temporarily to Hereford Town Hall.

All appointments to register a birth, death or stillbirth, as well as to give notice of marriage or civil partnership, will move to the new register office.

If you have a marriage or civil partnership ceremony scheduled at the Register Office (a statutory ceremony), your ceremony will move to the new register office. We will notify all affected customers once we have a confirmed date.

If you have a marriage, civil partnership or citizenship ceremony scheduled in the Oak Room at Hereford Town Hall, this will be unaffected and will take place in the Oak Room as planned.

If you need to contact the Register Office, you can:

- Visit our website www.herefordshire.gov.uk/births-deaths-marriages
- Email: registrars@herefordshire.gov.uk
- Phone: 01432 260565
- Access to the new office at 8 St Owen St will be through the side door – take the path from St Owen Street down the side of the Town Hall towards the rear car park.

Fastershire project

While the overwhelming majority of residents and businesses have access to full fibre connection as a result of the Fastershire project, there are still many properties that are not connected. The Arrow ward forms part of the larger North Herefordshire Project Gigabit procurement lot, and the council understands that the government intends to launch the procurement of that contract shortly which will help tighten the loopholes in access we have. I will keep you informed.

Herefordshire Hoard

Herefordshire Museum Service has been awarded a prestigious grant from the Esmée Fairbairn Collections Fund for its innovative project, 'Revealing Our Roots: Unearthing Common Ground.'

[Grant for innovative project to bring Herefordshire Hoard to life](#)

Financial support for households with high energy intensive medical equipment



The Household Support Fund is continuing to support those that are hardest hit by the cost of living crisis.

If you or someone you live with uses specialist medical equipment and have high energy costs due to this, you could be eligible for up to £250 towards your energy bills.

The fund can be used to support children and adults who rely on high energy consuming medical equipment to meet their health needs. The equipment includes ventilators, dialysis machines, oxygen concentrators or feeding pumps.

To apply, individuals can make a self-referral or be referred by a professional body. For more information or to apply please visit the [Household Support Fund Page](#).

Workplace Medical Tests

The government has today announced details of its national Workplace Cardiovascular Disease Health Checks pilot programme.

Local Policing

Sheep Worrying

Sadly we have to report that there was an incident whereby 2 dogs have entered a field near to Warren Lane, Lea and attacked a ewe. This happened at approximately 18:45 on Friday 30th August. One of the dogs is described as ginger coloured, medium size and long legged. The dogs were seen headed towards the Lea but no owner present.

If anyone has any information that they would like to share in relation to this incident then please contact Ross on Wye Safer Neighbourhood Team by responding to this message or emailing rossonwye.snt@westmercia.police.uk (quoting reference 426 of the 30th of August.)

Victim Advice Line

If you or someone you know has been affected by crime then the Victim Advice Line is here to help.

What is the Victim Advice Line?

The Victim Advice Line is a free and confidential service offering advice, practical help and emotional support to people affected by crime, regardless how long ago it happened or whether it has been reported to the police.

We understand that crime affects everybody differently. You'll have your own Care Coordinator who will work with you to understand exactly what help and support you need.

What support can the Victim Advice Line offer?

We offer a range of emotional and practical help and support. Some of the services we can offer include:

Emotional support

- Someone to talk to about how the crime has affected you
- Safety planning advice
- Coping skills

Making sure your voice is heard

- Ensuring you know your rights as a victim
- Helping you to access the most appropriate support for your needs
- Liaising with others on your behalf

Practical help

- Simple safety and security equipment

- Help with completing forms
- Assistance with applying for financial grants

Advice and guidance on areas such as:

- Home security
- Crime prevention
- Restorative justice
- The criminal justice process

How to get in touch

You can get in touch with us in the way which is most comfortable for you.

Phone: 0800 952 3000

Email: info@victimadviceline.org.uk

Live chat: victimadviceline.org.uk

We're open from 8am -8pm Monday to Friday and 9am – 5pm on Saturdays

Internet Security – for you

Thanks to the internet it's easy to share about what you're doing, how you're feeling, your opinions, likes, dislikes, passions and interests. As well as information and updates about yourself, family and friends, keeping everyone up to date about your life.

But what if what you share doesn't have the effect you intended it to because it's oversharing? Like your home being burgled because you posted your family holiday pics. Or your identity being stolen if a criminal pieces together the personal details in your profile. The attached leaflet provides tips and advice on making sure you don't overshare online.

Separately, a recent survey also revealed that we're too polite when it comes to scam callers - all the information can be seen here, along with some short animations providing advice on how to handle scam callers:

[New nationwide poll reveals Brits as 'too polite' when it comes to scammers \(getsafeonline.org\)](https://getsafeonline.org)

The advice - if you receive a telephone call from someone you're not expecting simply say 'I'm not interested, thank you' and hang up.

As ever if I can be of any help please don't hesitate to contact

A stylized, cursive signature in blue ink that reads "Barry".

bdurkin@herefordshire.gov.uk

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

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

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

Welsh Water: 0800 052 0130 (Water emergencies) or 0800 085 3968 (Sewer emergencies) or visit www.contact.dwrcymru.com/

Severn Trent water: 0800 783 4444 www.stwater.co.uk/in-my-area/check-my-area/

Report a flooded road or highway obstruction- Balfour Beatty Living Places: **01432 2618000**

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.

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. 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.

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 fly tipping form](#).

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](#)

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

Parishes Councils have their own inbox for emails which 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](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_claimspleaseuse

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