

Ward Report – For September 2019

From your local County Councillor Cllr Barry Durkin

Old Gore Ward – Herefordshire Council

Herefordshire Public Green Spaces Community Grant Scheme?

This grant supports Herefordshire Council's aim to dispose of non-strategic assets. This small and limited fund will support Town and Parish Councils in Herefordshire to have an opportunity to demonstrate that they have the ability to maintain and enhance a green space with the view to a long term asset transfer. The scheme supports projects that have community involvement and impact. Where a lengthsman scheme is in place this grant will aim to provide a complementary opportunity.

Types of projects that could be supported:

- Equipment to maintain green spaces
- Appropriate protective equipment and equipment maintenance tools
- Pay for contracted services to maintain green assets

Who can apply?

Town and Parish Councils are the only organisations who are able to apply. For further information or guidance please contact Spencer Grogan, Parks & Leisure Commissioning Manager on 01432 260397 or email Spencer.Grogan@herefordshire.gov.uk.

How will I know if our project is eligible?

Each project should:

- Take place and benefit people in Herefordshire
- Demonstrate good value for money
- Involve the community
- Improve or maintain public green spaces (excludes verges along the trunk roads and motorways in the county (A40/M50/A49 apart from the stretch of the A49 in Hereford from Holmer to Grafton)
- Clearly demonstrate how safety risk will be assessed and mitigated
- Clearly demonstrate how the project will be maintained and be sustainable in the future

Climate Change

Herefordshire Council has committed to take a major step to minimise the council's impact on the environment.

At the cabinet meeting held on Thursday 26 September, elected members agreed to:

- Accelerate a reduction of emissions and aspire to become carbon neutral by 2030/31.
- Deliver an updated carbon management plan and associated action plan for Council emissions by April 2020.
- Work with strategic partners, residents and local organisations to develop a revised countywide CO2 reduction strategy aspiring for carbon neutrality by 2030.
- Use 100% renewably sourced energy where this provides the best carbon reduction return on investment.

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https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/news/article/875/council_acts_on_climate_emergency

Stop smoking for 28 days and you're five times more likely to quit for good

Herefordshire Council is encouraging those who'd like to stop smoking to take the Stoptober challenge, which begins on 1 October.

To date, Stoptober has supported over 1.9 million people on their journey to quit so far. Research shows that if a smoker can make it to 28 days smokefree, they are five times more likely to quit for good.

Stopping smoking is the best thing you can do for your health and the health of those around you. Become part of the movement and join thousands this Stoptober who are determined to become smokefree.

https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/news/article/871/support_is_available_to_help_you_quit_smoking_this_stoptober

BBLP Newsletter Survey

In the next couple of weeks you will receive a survey from Balfour Beatty Living Places asking for your views on this weekly briefing. The purpose of the survey is to ensure that the information we share with you is relevant, useful and interesting and to understand what improvements, if any, you would like to see to it in the future.

The survey is being conducted across the county and we will look at feedback, as a whole, before making any changes. There is no intention to cease this communication, only to consider if improvements can be made to it.

If you could spare a few minutes to open and respond to the survey when you receive it, via email, I would be very grateful. It will be conducted using 'Survey Monkey' and will mention BBLP in the email title.

Smartwater

The Police and Crime Commissioner is looking to address burglary/theft issues within towns/villages/rural areas. There is an offer of support by way of introducing the We Don't Buy Crime initiative which is having very positive effects on crime figures in the West Mercia area.

There are approx. 70 villages and towns on board already with the scheme which not only acts to protect belongings but prevent burglaries, convict criminals and brings communities together to fight this form of crime and reduce fear.

What is Smartwater?

A Water based solution with a unique forensic code. It's made invisible to the naked eye but can be seen under UV light. Only a small amount needs to be applied to an item and left to dry and then the property is marked. Each bottle is unique which enables the police/Smartwater to identify the owner of property and therefore return it if stolen, link it to any associated crime and prosecute offenders.

West Mercia Police officers now have a UV light to detect the presence of

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Smartwater when arresting or stopping and searching suspects. Second hand stores are also being offered UV lights which they can use to establish whether property is marked and possibly stolen.

What is a ‘We Don’t Buy Crime’ area?

We Don’t Buy Crime towns and villages are where every residential property has the opportunity to mark their possessions free of charge. When 70% of a target area has been registered, street signage is displayed (as in the image below). It has been identified that a 70% saturation rate is the appropriate coverage of an area to deliver deductions. The purpose of the initiative is to let potential offenders know that if they commit crime they are likely to get caught and will not have the opportunity to profit.

County’s highways network

Herefordshire Council is seeking views on a draft plan that will map out the future of the county’s highways network. It is your chance to have an input into this draft plan.

The Network Management Plan is a strategy that governs how the council manages our highways network and ensures that residents, visitors, businesses and local communities get the best out of this important asset.

The plan is being updated and is proposed to cover the period 2019 – 2034 alongside our Local Transport Plan.

Our objective is that the updated Network Management Plan will help to:

- Encourage economic growth
- Provide a good quality highway network for all users
- Promote healthy lifestyles, particularly through active travel
- Make journeys safer and easier
- Ensure access to services for those living in rural areas

https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/news/article/870/share_your_views_on_the_future_of_our_highways_network

Partners unite to raise awareness of Herefordshire’s ‘inclusive’ sexual health services

Herefordshire’s sexual health services are available to all residents, regardless of age, ethnicity, gender or sexuality

Representatives from Herefordshire Council and Solutions 4 Health are supporting sexual health week to raise awareness of Herefordshire’s ‘inclusive’ sexual health services.

Solutions 4 Health have been providing Herefordshire’s integrated sexual health services on behalf of the council since April this year. The free and confidential services are offered to all residents, regardless of age, ethnicity, gender or sexuality.

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The services are available through the clinic at 15 St Owen Street, Hereford, and online and include information and advice on all types of contraception and testing and treatment for sexually transmitted infections (STIs).

https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/news/article/869/partners_unite_to_raise_awareness_of_herefordshire_s_inclusive_sexual_health_services

Blue Badge Administration – Herefordshire Council – briefing September 2019

Blue Badges help people to more readily access services and other facilities and in doing so increases independence. Their use is also shown to improve the health and wellbeing of individual badge holders and, where relevant, also that of their carer.

A total of 8,207 people in Herefordshire currently hold and use a Blue Badge and approximately 300 badges per month are granted to Herefordshire residents who have a disability that severely impacts their mobility.

<http://hc-modgov:9070/documents/s50069775/Blue%20Badge%20Administration%20briefing%20September%202019.pdf>

Regards



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Parishes Information

General Information

Defect Reporting

As always please continue to make use and encourage the use of established reporting methods for any highways defect;

- Telephone our customer services on [01432 261 800](tel:01432261800).
- Online using the telephone app – for potholes, dog poo and Public Rights of Way (PROW)

Please note that Herefordshire Council strongly encourages Balfour Beatty to promote all service requests and queries should be logged via the HC website at <https://myaccount.herefordshire.gov.uk/report-a-pothole> or <https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/transport-and-highways/maintenance/potholes>

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.

Did you know...?

You can follow our Twitter feed @HfdsStreets for [24/7](#) updates for all things highways; or.

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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

For any PROW (Public Rights of Way) maps or problems, you can report these via the following link on the Herefordshire Council's website:

https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/info/200136/travel_and_transport/248/public_rights_of_way_map

You can search for PROW information on the map using: - Footpath references, Postcodes, Addresses and Grid References e.g. 354000 254000

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

Report fly tipping it will be dealt with in a much quicker time frame by either calling the Contact Centre above or by logging the fly tipping via the council website on the links below as your enquiry

https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/info/200226/report_a_problem/98/fly_tipping

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

General Data Protection Regulations Statement

The General Data Protection Act places obligations and responsibilities on any company, organisation and individual who hold and process personal information, and it comes into force on the 25th May 2018; superseding the Data Protection Act 1998. 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. I can give you all the reassurance that I do not and will not share those email addresses with any third party.

In seeking legal compliance as a data controller I am requesting that if anyone is unhappy with my holding their email contact that you please advise me so that I am able to remove you from the list.

Otherwise I will retain your email contact and continue to send you monthly updates, emails as required and occasional key information.