

Essential work has begun on Lydbrook Black Bridge

Herefordshire Council is working with Gloucestershire County Council to ensure the long term sustainability of Lydbrook Bridge.

Built in 1875 Lydbrook Rail Bridge (known locally as Stowfield Viaduct or the Black Bridge) is a former railway structure which spans the River Wye. The rail line was closed in 1964 and the bridge deck was refurbished to form a walkway. The bridge was closed in 2016 due to safety concerns.

Bridge work begun on Monday 4 June to make sure that river traffic and walkers continue to be safe when passing underneath. So that the work can be carried out safely more than 1000 pieces of scaffolding, and 1000 scaffolding boards, will be put up first which should take about five weeks.

Next, all the timber parts of the bridge, and the parapets, will be removed along with any loose parts which could fall onto the footpath or into the river. The waste from the bridge will be recycled. The columns, main beams and the transverse beams will remain in place. Whilst the scaffolding is being erected and removed, buoys will be used to safely direct boats and other river users under the bridge.

Pedestrians on the Herefordshire side of the riverbank will not be able to walk under the bridge and will be guided around with a short diversion.

Construction vehicles will be accessing the bridge from the Gloucestershire side via the yellow access gate next to Lydbrook Football club. Walkers are asked to be mindful of the increased number of vehicles using this track.

The safety work is expected to continue until October.

As the work progresses, updates will be available on the Lydbrook Bridge webpage - <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/roads-parking-and-rights-of-way/major-projects/lydbrook-bridge/>

HARC celebrates its 60th year.

The Herefordshire Archive and records Centre celebrates its sixtieth year of operation and are opening their doors.

<https://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/extranet/documents/s50057560/HARC%2060%20YEARS%20A5%20INVITATION%20HFD3078.pdf>

Free Beginners' Computer Workshops

Fastershire is offering monthly computer workshops for beginners at Kington, Ledbury, Leominster and Ross-on-Wye Libraries, covering topics such as 'How to use your Tablet', 'Introduction to Email' and 'How to use your Smartphone'.

Please help spread the word by sharing with any groups, organisations or individuals who may be interested. The attached posters promote the workshops taking place during June and

July.

They are also advertised on the Events section of the Council website and on the Fastershire webpage <http://www.fastershire.com/faster-homes/events>

Please advertise as widely as possible.

June –

<https://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/extranet/documents/s50057516/Beginners%20Computer%20Workshops%20-%20Libraries%20-%20June.pdf>

July –

<https://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/extranet/documents/s50057517/Beginners%20Computer%20Workshops%20-%20Libraries%20-%20July.pdf>

Draft statement of accounts published

Herefordshire Council has today published its draft statement of accounts for public inspection. The statements confirm that the council spent within its budget for 2017/18 and has set aside reserves for future years.

The detailed performance for the year will be reported to Cabinet in June. The statements of accounts provide an understanding of the financial position of the council and demonstrate that the financial position is sound and secure.

The council's 2017/18 net revenue budget of £145m was matched with equivalent net spend, after transfers to and from specific reserves. Council reserves are proportionately comparable to similar councils and providing resilience as we face the challenges ahead.

Capital investment for 2017/18 totalled £49.2 and included investment in the highways network (£13.7m), Hereford City Transport Package (£6.1m), Colwall Primary School (£4.1m) and Hereford Enterprise Zone (£1.8m). No new long-term borrowing was required to be undertaken.

Every day the council helps to protect around 2,500 vulnerable adults and 1,000 children and young people (including 300 children in our care).

Our recent achievements include:

Working with external partners to produce a business case which secured £23m of government funding to establish a new university in Hereford, of which the Council is the accountable body, and

During the year the council realised the majority of the sale of its smallholding estate and the Council has approved that these funds (in excess of £40m) will be reinvested in regeneration projects throughout the County.

The external auditors, Grant Thornton, will commence their audit work to supply their opinion on whether the draft financial statements present a true and fair view of the financial position

of the council, its expenditure and income and whether they have been prepared properly in accordance with accounting practice. This work is scheduled to conclude in July.

The public are invited to view the accounts from 1 June 2018 to 12 July 2018 inclusive, where you may question the auditor about the accounts, or make an objection to the accounts. A guide to your rights can be found at <https://www.nao.org.uk/code-audit-practice/wp-content/uploads/sites/29/2015/03/Council-accounts-a-guide-to-your-rights.pdf>

Herefordshire Council's broadband delivery project,

Fastershire, has won the top prize at the national Connected Britain awards in London.

The Connected Britain Awards aim to recognise the innovation and achievement of those companies who are at the forefront of Britain's digital transformation. The project took the night's top prize, the Superfast award, beating other Broadband Delivery UK (BDUK) initiatives, Digital Scotland, Connecting Cambridgeshire and Superfast Dorset, but also a number of high profile private companies.

Fastershire is the broadband delivery project jointly created with Gloucestershire County Council, to provide access to faster broadband in areas of commercial market failure. Over 85% of the county's homes and businesses are now able to access superfast broadband speeds, compared to only 0.6% of properties in 2012, according to the figures issued by Think Broadband, the UK's largest independent broadband information website.

In particular though, the award recognised the progress made in the county towards full fibre provision. The county already boasts three times the national average full fibre connections and by 2020, over half of all rural broadband connections in Herefordshire will be fibre to the premise. This will make it one of the best connected places in the UK.

Councillor David Harlow, Herefordshire Council cabinet member for economy and communication, said, "We're immensely proud that Fastershire has received national recognition as so much has already been achieved. I appreciate that for those residents waiting for phase 2 to start in their area that this award may not come as any comfort. However, this award demonstrates that broadband coverage is a national issue and importantly provides industry acknowledgement of Fastershire and the Council's proactive response compared to others areas."

Phase 2 of the project's rollout has already started in some areas of the county and will increase superfast coverage to 98% over the next two years. Phase 2 of the Fastershire rollout sees BT continuing to deliver for Fastershire in Hereford, while in rural areas Gigaclear will build a new full fibre network and provide access to ultrafast broadband.

For the remaining hardest to reach properties, Fastershire is using a mix of solutions, including bespoke grants to local businesses, and the soon to be announced significant property clusters as well as possible contract extensions with BT and Gigaclear for any remaining properties.

To find out if your property can already access faster broadband or where your property sits in the Fastershire rollout, visit www.fastershire.com and use the [address checker](#).

Bag it – Bin it Campaign launched today to promote responsible dog ownership.



A new campaign aiming to tackle the problem of dog mess has been launched on 8 June by Herefordshire Council and its community partners.

A range of council representatives and its community partners including schools, vets, pet owners, Hereford Community Clean Up group and West Mercia Police, gathered on Great Western Way, Hereford, to mark the launch of the campaign, with the aim of encouraging owners to pick up after their dogs.

A new Public Space Protection Order for dog control came into effect in March 2018. Council enforcement officers travel to locations throughout the county taking action against the minority of dog owners who do not keep their dogs under control or clean up after their pets.

People can now report dog mess themselves via the Herefordshire Council website. By providing as much information as possible, this will help us focus Enforcement appropriately, targeting problem areas.

Bag it, Bin it is just one element of Herefordshire Council's wider campaign to encourage responsible dog ownership, including:

- Getting dogs and other pets microchipped
- Making sure dogs have a collar and ID tag
- Keeping dogs on a lead in public places
- Ensure dogs and other pets have regular check-ups with a vet
- Addressing noise pollution by minimising dog barking

Bag it, Bin it is part of Herefordshire Council's Stop the Drop campaign – a council drive to keep Herefordshire litter-free, clean and beautiful. Hereford marked the beginning of the campaign, but it will be rolled out to other communities across the county in the coming weeks.

The most remarkable feature of the new campaign is the brand new signage to encourage owners to clean up after their dogs, which features illustrations designed by two pupils of Holmer School, Hereford.

Herefordshire is set to bask with temperatures that will hit the mid to high 20°Cs.

Although this is great news for sun-lovers, such heat can be dangerous, and health warnings are in place for Tuesday and Wednesday. It is important to know how you can protect yourself, so here are the top ten tips to help you enjoy the fine weather safely:

- Look out for others; check up on friends, relatives and neighbours and anyone who may be less able to look after themselves or have underlying health conditions.
- Identify the coolest room in the house so you know where to go to keep cool.
- Shut windows and pull down the shades when it is hotter outside. You can open the windows for ventilation when it is cooler. Keep rooms cool by using shades or reflective material outside the windows. If this isn't possible, use light-coloured curtains and keep them closed (metallic blinds and dark curtains can make the room hotter).
- Avoid the heat: stay out of the sun between 11am and 3pm (the hottest part of the day).
- If you have to go outside in the heat apply sun screen, wear loose, cool clothing, a hat and sunglasses. Remember to walk in the shade and take water with you.
- Drink cold drinks regularly, such as water and diluted fruit juice. Avoid excess alcohol, caffeine (tea, coffee and cola) or drinks high in sugar.
- Never leave anyone in a closed, parked vehicle, especially infants, young children or animals.
- Have cool baths or showers, and splash yourself with cool water.
- Listen to alerts on the radio, TV and social media about keeping cool.
- Plan ahead to make sure you have enough supplies, such as food, water and any medications you need.

Please do not forget to check on the elderly and those in need



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Report it

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 call through to the call handling team on 01432 261800.

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.

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

General Data Protection Regulations Statement

The General Data Protection Act places obligations and responsibilities on any company, organisation and individual who hold and process personnel 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.