

Ward Report from your local County Councillor Cllr Barry Durkin

Old Gore Ward – Herefordshire Council

Recent election

Firstly can I thank the 629 electors of the Old Gore parishes who took the time to support me on 2nd May, it is a great pleasure and privilege to represent the communities and to continue to work for you all in the future. I am no longer the cabinet member for Transport and Regulatory Services due to the administration change.

There has been a change to the administration of the Council to an Independent, Its our County, Green coalition with Cllr Sebastian Bowen from Bircher ward being elected as Chairman and David Hitchiner from Madley as Council leader.

Only 24 out of 53 of the elected councillors were on the previous council. While the faces change, challenges remain the same and those of you who are watching the panorama programmes on Somerset County Council social care will have a good grasp of what faces all local authorities with responsibilities to vulnerable adults and children.

Of my seven parishes in my ward, one did not return a parish council, Brockhampton with Fawley. This means that the now lack of local parishioner representation must be dealt with. It has fallen to me, as ward member, to address this and to get the parish council running again.

Leader announces Cabinet Members

Councillor David Hitchiner, Leader of Herefordshire Council, has today announced his Cabinet member appointments and the portfolios they will be responsible for.

The Leader will continue to direct the council's corporate policy and strategy and have overall budget responsibility.

Cabinet members are:

Councillor Felicity Norman (Deputy Leader): Children and Families

Councillor Gemma Davies: Contracts and Assets

Councillor Pauline Crockett: Health and Wellbeing

Councillor John Harrington: Infrastructure

Councillor Trish Marsh: Economy and Communications

Councillor Ange Tyler: Transport and Regulatory Services

Councillor Liz Harvey: Finance and Corporate Services

Residential septic tanks - information

In another ward there was a resident enquiry regarding the rules on septic tanks. I am advised that in 2015 the Environment Agency (EA) issued new rulings on discharges from septic tanks directly to surface water not being allowed. If you have a septic tank that discharges directly to surface water you will need to replace or upgrade your treatment system by 1 January 2020. Where properties with septic tanks that discharge directly to surface water are sold before 1 January 2020, responsibility for the replacement or upgrade of the existing treatment system should be addressed between the buyer and seller as a condition of sale.

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If the Environment Agency finds evidence that your septic tank discharging to surface water is causing pollution, you will need to replace or upgrade your system earlier than 1 January 2020. You will usually have to do this within 1 year, although this will be agreed on a case-by-case basis. There are also increased controls for the protection of ground waters etc. referred to as designated protected areas which require a permit which can be refused if the discharge is considered inappropriate.

The enforcement of these requirements rests with the EA, not the Local Authority therefore your concerns, if you have any, concerns or queries it would better be directed to them. The legal frameworks to require owners of problematic septic tanks have been available for many years with powers available to the EA under the rules for the protection of Controlled Waters. My advice is not to panic but be aware of the situation and check any discharge into the system. The publicity of this is very poor and to date the EA do not seem to be prioritising private residents.

New funding to tackle litter in the county

The Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (MHCLG) recently announced a new High Street Community Clean-Up Fund, including an allocation of £33,489 to support community litter groups in Herefordshire.

However, the catch was that the additional money had to be spent in the 2018/19 financial year, which ended on Sunday 31 March. Notwithstanding the teams at Herefordshire Council completed the task and the full amount was awarded.

https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/news/article/814/new_funding_to_help_in_the_battle_against_litter

To find out more about the support available to litter pickers in Herefordshire, visit www.herefordshire.gov.uk/stopthedrop

Road works – in ward

There are a number of road works being carried out in Old Gore Ward. Please see the planned works below.

Works planned for the week commencing Monday, 3 June are as follows:

C1250	Welsh Newton, Trewen	U70239	Linton Ridge, Linton
U71201	Tuck Mill, Llangrove	U70006	Perrystone Hill Welsh Court Road, Old Gore
C1259	Goodrich Cross, Goodrich	C1301	Noggin, Much Marcle
U70402	The Knapp, Goodrich	U67413	Butchers Arms, Woolhope
U71015	Glewstone to Pencraig, Glenstone	U67410	Bent Orchard, Woolhope
U71202	Marstow	C1293	Park Coppice, Woolhope
U71204	Goodrich Stopgates, Marstow	U67424	Putley Court, Putley
C1280	Aston Crews	U66208	Alders End, Tarrington
U70410	Cherry Orchard, Walford	U67003	Rhea Lane, Ledbury
U73200	Sharman Road, Coughton	C1171	Burtens Farm to The Withers, Wellington Heath
U70413	Hom Green	U66405	South End Lane, Ham Green
U70228	Cothars Lane, Gorsley Common	U66406	South Hyde Lane, Ham Green

Travellers Sites Development Plan (DPD)

The Travelers' Sites Development Plan (DPD) is currently being examined by a government appointed Planning Inspector. Hearing sessions were held in May 2018 and March 2019. As a result of discussions at these hearing sessions, the Inspector has issued proposed Main Modifications to the DPD. These main modifications are proposed in order to make the Traveller sites DPD 'sound'.

These main modifications are open for public consultation between 1 May 2019 to 12 June 2019. They can be found, together with the representation forms, online at:

https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/info/200185/local_plan/796/travellers_sites_document_examination/6

Representations can only be made on the Main Modifications and not other parts of the DPD. A schedule of additional modifications has also been prepared for information purposes only. The additional modifications are minor changes including factual updates and corrections. Therefore these are published for information only.

Regards



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Parishes Information

Brockhampton with Fawley

There is no parish council operating in Brockhampton with Fawley. This is being addressed. (Please see above item for information)

Upton Bishop

A long standing planning refusal and continuing to occupy contrary to permission and excessive noise (dogs barking) issues has been resolved with the site being vacated of the animals. The matter relating to enforcement of contrary occupation continues with our legal department.

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The parish clerk at Upton Bishop has resigned and the parish council is now without a 'resident' parish clerk. If anybody wishes to become the parish clerk please contact the chairman.

General Information

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

Please report any problems on highways or footpaths using the links below or phone 01432 261800.

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.

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

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.