

# Ward Report – For January 2020

## From your local County Councillor - Barry Durkin

### Old Gore Ward – Herefordshire Council

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#### City bypass and southern link road

Herefordshire Council cabinet have approved setting aside £360,000 of reserve funding to pay for the review into the plans for a city bypass and southern link road. The funding will be moved from the council's financial resilience earmarked reserve to meet the review costs of the Hereford Transport and South Wye Transport packages.

Transport and infrastructure cabinet member, John Harrington, decided to pause and review both schemes after Herefordshire Independent, Green Party and Its Our County councillors formed coalition administration last year.

Councillor Harrington confirmed the review programme of the Hereford Transport and South Wye transport packages earlier this month. Officers will now be authorised to complete the work within a total budget of £451,000. The reviews have a deadline of July 31, 2020.

#### Southern Link Road and proposed western bypass

There is the continued prevarication of the Council's administration for the southern link road and western bypass. The latest announcement, following the virtual suspension of working on the two projects last July, is to have a consultation on options reporting back in July.

Not surprisingly the funding allocated via the local Marches Enterprise partnership has been pulled on the assessment that Herefordshire Council will not be starting these projects in the next 12 months. The Marches LEP are to start the business of 'clawing back' an initial £3.8m given to Herefordshire Council to enable the project. I suspect the administration will blame the Marches LEP for pulling the funds but let's be clear the administration's would appear to be employing delaying actions is a deliberate attempt to crash the projects with no valid alternatives worked up.

This time of year the council sets its budget for the forthcoming year. The Government settlement was more generous than anticipated including a grant for the extra cost of delivering rural services of 5.1 million. Herefordshire Council finances are in a strong position.

#### Fastershire – Latest News 3rd January 2020

Over 90% of Herefordshire homes and businesses can access superfast broadband and speeds of 30mpbs or above according to new figures released by Think Broadband, the UK's largest independent broadband information website.

<https://www.fastershire.com/news/article/136/2020/01/03/herefordshire-passes-90-percent-superfast-coverage>  
[Herefordshire passes 90 percent superfast coverage](#)

#### County phosphate issue

Water pollution has forced Herefordshire Council to put planning applications on hold across a large part of the county. Phosphate levels in the River Lugg catchment area are so high

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that the local authority has placed new development proposals on hold until it finds a way forward.

The Lugg catchment area in Herefordshire spreads from the Welsh border near Kington as far east as Bromyard and from the northern outskirts of Hereford to almost as far north as Orleton.

Several years ago, the council launched a nutrient management plan to minimise the amount of pollution in the county's rivers. But Natural England now says it isn't doing enough to address the problem

There is currently in place a suspension of all residential and many business growth applications in North Herefordshire due to the phosphate problem. The situation looks like continuing for most if not all this year with serious implications for many local businesses and residents.

#### **River Wye and Lugg Natural Flood Management Project**

Below is the January's update on the River Wye and Lugg Natural Flood Management Project. A Defra funded partnership project which is working with landowners, farmers and communities within seven catchment areas, looking at the ways we can work together to reduce flood risk to downstream communities.

<https://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/Extranet/documents/s50074493/River%20Wye%20and%20Lugg%20NFM%20Project%20Newsletter%20-%20January%202020.pdf>

#### **Council agrees budget setting and Council Tax rates for 2020/21**

Herefordshire Council's Cabinet has today (30 January 2020) agreed the proposed 2020/21 budget which will now be put forward for recommendation to Full Council on 14 February 2020.

[https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/news/article/933/council\\_agrees\\_budget\\_setting\\_and\\_council\\_tax\\_rates\\_for\\_202021](https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/news/article/933/council_agrees_budget_setting_and_council_tax_rates_for_202021)

#### **County Plan and funding programme**

Herefordshire Council's Cabinet has agreed the proposed 'County Plan 2020-2024' and associated Capital Programme, Medium Term Financial Strategy and Treasury Management Plan. These strategic policy documents will now be put forward for recommendation to Full Council on 14 February 2020.

[https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/news/article/934/cabinet\\_agrees\\_four-year\\_county\\_plan\\_and\\_funding\\_programme](https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/news/article/934/cabinet_agrees_four-year_county_plan_and_funding_programme)

#### **Novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) - what you need to know**

A coronavirus is a type of virus. As a group, coronaviruses are common across the world.

Typical symptoms of coronavirus include fever and a cough that may progress to a severe pneumonia causing shortness of breath and breathing difficulties.

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Generally, coronavirus can cause more severe symptoms in people with weakened immune systems, older people, and those with long term conditions like diabetes, cancer and chronic lung disease.

#### What is the current risk level to the UK?

Two patients in England, who are members of the same family, have tested positive for novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV). The patients are receiving specialist NHS care, and we are using tried and tested infection control procedures to prevent further spread of the virus.

It is reported that the NHS is extremely well-prepared and used to managing infections and we are already working rapidly to identify any contacts the patients had, to prevent further spread. Public Health England have been preparing for UK cases of novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) and have robust infection control measures in place to respond immediately.

#### What's the current travel advice?

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) advise against all travel to Hubei Province and now advise against all but essential travel to the rest of mainland China (not including Hong Kong and Macao).

<https://publichealthmatters.blog.gov.uk/2020/01/23/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-what-you-need-to-know/>

Regards

*Barry*

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#### Parishes Information

Nil

#### 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>

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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.

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://myaccount.herefordshire.gov.uk/report-a-public-right-of-way-problem>

To report defects (potholes, fly tipping, blocked gullies, etc.) online:

[https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/info/200196/roads/190/report\\_problems\\_on\\_the\\_road](https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/info/200196/roads/190/report_problems_on_the_road)

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 on 01432 261800, 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.

If you wish to email into the business, the best email address for Parishes have their own inbox [herefordshireparishes@bblivingplaces.com](mailto:herefordshireparishes@bblivingplaces.com) and both of these email inboxes 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](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](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](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](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](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](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](http://www.roadworks.org)

Please do follow BBLP on Twitter for up to date information about road closures, ongoing work etc., [@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\\_claimsplease\\_use](https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/info/200196/roads/206/highway_claimsplease_use)

#### 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](https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/info/200146/council_tax/39/council_tax_reduction)

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### **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.