

Ward Report – for August 2020

From your local County Councillor - Barry Durkin

Old Gore Ward

Brampton Abbots, Brockhampton with Much Fawley, How Caple, Kings Caple, Much Marcle, Upton Bishop and Woolhope.

Dear Parish Councillors and Residents

As we come out of lockdown let's hope we can retain the already developed support network of friends and neighbours looking after their immediate community of streets, hamlets and hamlets of houses including the use of Whatsapp and telephone contacts.

A big continuing thank you to everyone for looking out for your neighbours and the huge amount of random acts of kindness that are being done in our communities. If you can offer some support, are in need or know someone who is in need please feed into the support network.

Development of the planning process

The Government has announced new rules relating to the planning system in England. The aim is to reduce pressure to build on Greenfield sites and deliver more homes that fit the character of their local area, without the red tape, by no longer requesting a full planning application when wishing to demolish or rebuild unused buildings as homes or commercial and retail properties.

The laws are expected to provide much-needed new homes and revitalise town centres across England. As well as reforming the seven-decade-old planning system to deliver more high-quality, well-designed homes it is said that it will cut out bureaucracy whilst protecting high standards with developers still adhering to the building regulations.

This document provides some information relating to this reform

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/907647/MHCLG-Planning-Consultation.pdf

The consultation is ongoing from 6th August 2020 and ends 23.45 Thursday 29th October 2020 and if you want to respond to the consultation you are able to follow the link at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/planning-for-the-future>

Illicit tobacco seller of illegal tobacco has been banned

A seller of illegal tobacco has been banned from Hereford and Worcester following a successful investigation by Herefordshire Council Trading Standards Service.

Tarik Abdullah Dosky, 54, was sentenced at Worcester Crown Court on Friday 7 August 2020 following the investigation into the sale of illegal tobacco in the region. Dosky was arrested in November 2019 during a Multi-Agency Targeted Enforcement Strategy (MATES)

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Operation led by Trading Standards, with West Mercia Police and Herefordshire and Worcestershire Fire and Rescue Service.

Dosky, who has a history of selling illegal tobacco, pleaded guilty to nine offences at a previous hearing, which included selling counterfeit tobacco products to undercover Trading Standards Officers. His Honour Judge James Burbidge QC handed Dosky a 10 month prison sentence (suspended for two years), an exclusion order banning him from entering any part of Hereford and Worcester for two years, a four month curfew and ordered him to pay £250 costs.

Previously on 29 May 2020, a separate Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA) case, also led by Herefordshire Trading Standards, saw investigators recover £14,376.00 from Dosky's bank account which had been frozen following confiscation proceedings.

Herefordshire pupils prepare to head back to school safely

Herefordshire Council welcomes the return of children and young people into schools, colleges and early years settings this September. Schools, colleges and early years settings will have new safety measures in place this September

The Council has launched 'Back to School Safely' campaign for Herefordshire schools, colleges and early years settings, in line with the Government's national campaign. The campaign aims to reassure children, families and school staff that safety measures are in place ready for their return.

The government is expecting every child to go back to school in September. Returning to school is extremely important for all children because education is a fundamental part of their development.

We're encouraging parents and carers to talk to their child about how school or college will be different in September to help to ease their anxiety. We've created a special [Back to school page on our website](#), which provides information on the safety measures that will be in place in schools, what to do if a child experiences COVID-19 symptoms and details of the support available for children and young people's mental wellbeing.

We are including a copy of the 'Back To School Safely' press release that was issued today with this email for your information.

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Additional [information for parents and carers about children returning to school](#) can be viewed on the Government website as part of their #backtoschoolsafely campaign, which will be regularly updated. You can also follow #backtoschoolsafely on social media for the latest updates.

The latest advice on Herefordshire's school transport can found on [our school transport pages](#).



085 - Herefordshire
pupils prepare to hear

Statement from Herefordshire Council on A-Level Results

The cabinet member for Children and Families made the following statement

“We want all children and young people in Herefordshire to have a great start in life and are proud of all the effort, dedication and work they, and their teachers, have put into their education. The COVID-19 pandemic has placed huge challenges before them and the cancellation of examinations this year has caused extra anxiety at an already difficult time.

Whilst many children will be content with the A-level grades they have received and are able to take the next step in their lives as they hoped, others are not so fortunate and it is clear that the system implemented by national government, and changed at short notice, is deeply flawed. Our children should not be treated unfairly because of this.

We are especially concerned that the results appear to disproportionately favour students who studied at private schools, particularly in relation to the very top grades. The disproportionate impact of a deeply flawed algorithm on pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds is unacceptable. We support the calls for the Equalities Commission to undertake a review into the impact of the results on those from more disadvantaged backgrounds.

We know some are finding it difficult to make sense of what has taken place. Your school or college is the first place to get advice and support and they may be dealing with a large number of queries, but we are sure they will offer advice within the national picture that is still evolving. We support all those who appeal against the grades they have been awarded. We call on national government to enable students to appeal directly if they so wish.”

Making more space to move around Hereford safely – The Council are listening

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As the shops re-opened, people returned to work and visitor numbers increased, temporary measures were introduced in Hereford and the market towns to give pedestrians and cyclists the space they need to maintain social distancing and travel safely.

<https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/news/article/1025/making-more-space-to-move-around-hereford-safely-we-re-listening>

Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of Herefordshire marks VJ Day 75th anniversary

On 15 August, the county marked the end of the Second World War and peace in Japan 75 years ago. Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of Herefordshire, The Dowager Countess of Darnley, leads the tribute to commemorate those who served and sacrificed in the Far East on behalf of Herefordshire.

<https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/news/article/1022/her-majesty-s-lord-lieutenant-of-herefordshire-marks-vj-day-75th-anniversary>

Your chance to become a foster carer



PLEASE SUPPORT OUR LOCAL BUSINESS

Many of our local business are supporting our community with supplying delivery of groceries, take away food and other items.

They are too many to list here in case I miss someone but they will be on your local websites. Please support them. If this crisis teaches us anything it is the importance of local community and a local economy.

Please continue to be scam aware by telephone, email, Facebook & on doorstep

I have been informing all of the various schemes that are in play for scammers to get your money. West Mercia Police have issued a warning to members of the public that criminals are using the COVID-19 pandemic to scam people out of money. The police are urging people not to click the online bait and become a victim. Also, the police, HMRC or banks

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will never ask anyone to transfer money or move it to a safe account, so please ignore these requests. There have been reports in Herefordshire of doorsteps salesmen claiming to be from the NHS!

You can read the latest news about the coronavirus scams in detail on the [West Mercia Police website](#).

Covid 19 - Government announced easing of lockdown measures

Venues such as casinos, bowling alleys, and skating rinks remained closed until 15 August. Indoor performances will also not resume, pilots of larger gatherings in sports venues and conference centres will not take place, and wedding receptions of up to 30 people will not be permitted.

Face coverings will be also be mandatory in more indoor settings, such as cinemas, and people attending places of worship will also be among those required to wear face coverings. Rules for face coverings will become enforceable in law from 8 August.

Changes to shielding – started 1st August

For all the latest guidance on the changes and help available, please visit <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19>

Extension of self-isolation period

The UK Chief Medical Officers yesterday (30 July) made a statement confirming that the self-isolation period has been extended from 7 to 10 days for those who have coronavirus symptoms or a positive test result. Read the new guidelines at <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/statement-from-the-uk-chief-medical-officers-on-extension-of-self-isolation-period-30-july-2020>

NHS Test and Trace launches campaign

NHS Test and Trace has been launched a new campaign to encourage everyone to get a free test as soon as they develop symptoms, alongside a new business plan to expand testing capacity and prepare the nation for winter.

The campaign will encourage people to get a free test as soon as they develop mild symptoms and will make them aware of the need to respond to the service if contacted.

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More information can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/nhs-test-and-trace-launches-campaign-to-encourage-everyone-with-symptoms-to-get-a-free-test>

Key public messages

Please make positive and sensible choices and be responsible. By doing this you will save lives, protect the NHS and keep yourself and your family safe.

- Please make positive and sensible choices and be responsible, by doing this you will save lives, protect the NHS and keep yourself and your family safe.
- Please continue to limit who you have contact with as much as possible.
- Please take personal responsibility and take sensible steps to maintain social distancing if you do go out.
- Being outdoors reduces the risk of infection, but it doesn't eradicate it. Please maintain social distancing.
- We are fortunate to have some beautiful places within our county and many people will be glad they now have the option to make the most of them over the coming weeks. If you travel somewhere and it's busy, please be sensible and go elsewhere or return at a different time. Keep in mind the purpose of the regulations and the ongoing national effort to protect the NHS and save lives.
- There is different legislation and guidance in place in Wales, please respect it.
- Some people might not display symptoms so social distancing and hand washing remains vital.
- You can wear a face covering when out, to protect other people when you may be asymptomatic.
- If you are displaying symptoms of coronavirus, it is vital that you self-isolate for seven days and order a test immediately. If you test positive for coronavirus, you must share information promptly about your recent contacts through the NHS test and trace service to help alert other people who may need to self-isolate. If you have had close recent contact with someone who has coronavirus, you must self-isolate if the NHS test and trace service advises you to do so. If someone you live with is feeling unwell or displaying symptoms, please self-isolate for 10 days.
- Facilities such as waste & recycling centres, outdoor sports clubs, and outdoor retail outlets such as garden centres are now starting to reopen. Please follow

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the social distancing instructions and directions regarding entry and queuing, be aware that they might be busy, and try to avoid peak times.

- All waste and recycling centres are open. Please only visit if it is absolutely necessary and be prepared, if required, to pre book and to prepare for queues.
- West Mercia Police will continue to engage with the public, explaining and encouraging people in relation to the guidance and social distancing, and will only take enforcement action where it is absolutely necessary - when there are clear breaches of the restrictions, predominantly people gathering in large groups.
- Please be responsible and continue to work with us. We all still find ourselves in very challenging circumstances and we appreciate that the public has responded so positively to the extraordinary restrictions placed upon them. Remember that if you need our help we are here for you.
- The NHS are still available and services continue. Please do not delay in seeking medical attention, should you need it.
- If you are self-isolating and don't have support, contact Talk Community on 01432 260027 or via the council website.

Thank you all

As the local County Councillor for the all the parishes in Old Gore I wanted on behalf of the local community and myself to thank you all for your ongoing commitment and care to the residents of our parishes, particularly during the last five months.

This is an extraordinary time that we are living through bringing daily challenges to us all; but you are at the front line and have experience at first hand the consequences. But for your diligence and dedication a serious situation could have accelerated with significant impact into our local community. We are very grateful that your professionalism and disciplines ensured not only the welfare of the rest of your residents, but also the rest of us.

I hope, not too far in the future that a time will come when I can visit to express my thanks in person, but in the meantime please accept the sincere thanks of myself and the community I represent in your ongoing work and in what you have achieved.

Thank you again for your continued commitment. Stay safe and well.

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As ever if you think I can be of help please do not hesitate to contact me.



Barry Durkin

Old Gore Ward

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Useful Information

Talk Community

Email: Talkcommunitycovidresponse@herefordshire.gov.uk

Telephone: 01432 260027

Information from Parishes

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.

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

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

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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 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

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., [@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

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 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.

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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.