

## Ledbury South November 2023 Ward Report – Cllr Stef Simmons

### **1. Apologies**

I am unable to attend Full Council this month however please feel free to contact me with any questions or further information on any items in my report. I also wanted to say how sorry I was to not be able to attend the Act of Remembrance at the restored memorial due to Vice Chair duties in Hereford. I understand from my fellow councillors that it was an extremely well organised and moving parade and service. My congratulations to all those involved in ensuring the Memorial and poppy display were ready for the weekend's commemorations and the hard work of those organising and taking part on the Sunday.

### **2. Herefordshire Council Update.**

- Cabinet instigated a review of Talk Community (service to support community and voluntary groups in Herefordshire) ostensibly to look at value for money and effectiveness of delivery across the County and to see where savings can be made to fund other priorities (Southern Link Road). This impacted a range of projects in Ledbury bidding for Superhubs funding.
- Next Full Council meeting scheduled for 8<sup>th</sup> December. Resubmission of revised budget following it being pulled from agenda/vote at the 13<sup>th</sup> October Full Council in response to opposition: *"The changes from the October meeting are: a new line has been added for a Community Capital Grants Scheme of £2.0m to support the valuable work our community organisations support the council with. This is funded by reducing the £12.3m previously proposed for the Southern Link Road by a corresponding £2.0m to £10.3m. Appendix A has been updated for the revised changes and appendix C includes these amendments into the revised capital programme to be recommended to Council"*.
- Councillors, members of the public and voluntary organisations are able to ask questions of both cabinet and full council on the agenda submitted and this is encouraged.
- My work on the Planning and Regulatory Committee continues. I have been scrutinising all local planning applications, holding discussions with planning and enforcement officers, s106 and highways officers. This includes new Vistry site.
- Recent decision taken by Planning Committee to refuse consent for the proposed McCarthy Stone retirement complex at The Knapp. Intention to Appeal with a request for a 4 day Public Inquiry has been lodged.

### **3. Ward Casework – examples of recent help provided to residents**

- Reporting of various footpath and road defects and potholes including Biddulph Way, New Street, A438 and Parkway
- Helping residents with housing concerns
- Helping resolve concerns with Dwr Cymru Welsh Water works on Southend (residents parking and traffic lights problems) and proposed and postponed road closure at Top Cross
- Addressing concerns about Vistry development commencement and highways
- Conditional call in of planning application to planning committee due to public interest

#### **4. Events and meetings attended since last ward report**

- Ledbury litter pick supported by HMS Ledbury personnel
- Further discussions with S106 delivery officers to discuss funds received from developers around Ledbury and new 'wish list' of projects for forthcoming Core Strategy review
- Meeting with LEAF on youth services
- Attended briefing on revised waste contract proposals
- Presented to Ledbury Health Partnership PPG on Herefordshire Council support for projects to help health service delivery
- Climate change adaptation plan workshop
- Site meeting with Vistry on works commenced
- Site meeting with Highways officer on Leadon Way re revised speed limit proposals and installation of new Toucan crossing at bottom of New Street to connect to Ross road
- Meeting with Highways engineer on s106 projects, Eastnor possible Traffic Regulation Order to reduce speed limit, request for highways improvements in Parkway, Eastnor and Ross Road
- Support for review of signage and weight limits across Ledbury - due to contract and report asap
- As Vice Chair I represented Herefordshire Council at the Hereford Act of Remembrance and Rural Media's Youth Voice event
- Attended opening of the Ledbury Mop Fair and launch of Pot and Page as a community hub

#### **5. Contact details**

- I am holding a Ward Surgery monthly at Ledbury Rugby Club on Tuesdays 6:30 – 7:30pm by appointment, or can visit if mobility an issue.
- I am contactable via email [stef.simmons@herefordshire.gov.uk](mailto:stef.simmons@herefordshire.gov.uk) or phone 07792881706
- Please send any written correspondence to:  
Cllr Stef Simmons  
C/O Herefordshire Council  
Plough Lane  
Hereford  
HR4 0LE

## **November 2023 Report from Cllr Justine Peberdy – Ward Councillor Ledbury West**

It was an honour to lay a wreath on behalf of HCC at the Remembrance Day service. I thought the event was very well organised and the War Memorial looked fantastic.

Stef and I met with Greg Speller (S106 Senior Project Manager) to give our support to the signage & weight limit review.

The meeting of the LHP PPG (Ledbury Health Partnership Patient Participation Group) on 25 October was well attended. We heard from Stef about S106 money available for health service provision, and from GP Partner Dr Sam Cockyane and Physician Associate Matt Hagley about patient assessment.

On the New Mills footway foliage is blocking the lighting and making the path very dark. The undergrowth and leaf mulch are narrowing the path, and in places it's no longer wide enough for safe use of both cyclists and pedestrians. Residents have raised this with me, (and also gratitude for the work that Steve Maunde has managed so far). I have reported this through the council website but am concerned that it's unlikely to be high priority. Any suggestions about other avenues gratefully received!

My recent newsletter invited feedback about 20mph limits, and prompted a flurry of divided opinion, but I'm pleased that the majority appear to be in favour. Those against it often suggest that without enforcement we won't see an improvement.

At my first meeting of the Local Access Forum I was made aware of the urgency of registering PROWS that are not already on the Definitive Map before the deadline of 2031. Council officers reported that it can take up to a year and cost about £20,000 to process each application, so there is consternation about how this is achievable.

Over the coming months I will be part of a cross-party working group (along with Liz) looking at the Public Realm Services Future Operating Model. Herefordshire Council's contract with Balfour Beatty has been extended for two years in accordance with the contract terms and data showing that (not very challenging) performance thresholds had been achieved. Value for money is a concern, so the council is proposing changes, including bringing some services back in-house.

I use the 232 bus from Much Marcle to Ledbury regularly. I know from my fellow Daffodil Line travellers that it is a valued and important service. I hope the Town Council will do all it can to support it into its second year of operation.

[justine.peberdy@herefordshire.gov.uk](mailto:justine.peberdy@herefordshire.gov.uk)