

ANNUAL MEETING	25 JUNE 2020	AGENDA ITEM: 14(b)
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Report Prepared by Councillor Dean Whattler

Environmental & Leisure Committee - End of Year Report.

The English expression that purports to be a translation of a traditional Chinese curse:- "*May you live in interesting times*" is a fitting description of the situation we find ourselves in today.

We started our (Council) year well in April, with a good summer, only to be followed by months of winter flooding, and then by the Coronavirus in the new year.

This year has seen all councillors and committees happily working together constructively, notwithstanding lively debates.

During the start of the year time was spent updating and putting in place the necessary Council procedures and regulations as well as attending to the everyday matters of the council. The new procedures put in place by the Clerk have enable meetings to be conducted efficiently, enabling a full agenda often to be completed in time.

Inspections were made of the areas that the Environmental & Leisure Committee is responsible for and planning improvements. Unfortunately, many projects were delayed or had to be put on hold until the situation improves. When the rain finally ceased and the ground dried the cemetery caretaker was able to restore the gardens, and it is planned that new benches will be installed when we are able. Topple testing of the gravestones and monuments has been undertaken to ensure that they are safe.

Work is now finally underway to repair and restore the War Memorial and the drainage around it to prevent future water damage. This work will take a few weeks to complete.

John Masefield School and Ledbury Primary School children have produced paintings to be reproduced on the new shelter on the Recreation Ground, and an artist has been commissioned to undertake the work as soon as this is allowed.

Requests to replace the damaged and dangerous litter and dog bins with new ones, which are the responsibility of Hereford CC have fallen on deaf ears. It is planned that these will now be replaced by Ledbury Council on a rolling basis, subject to available finances.

Similarly no headway has been achieved with respect to requests to HCC to improve and repair steps accessing the Town Trail or repair paths on the Recreation Ground and the River Walk and the supports to the iron bridge, on the pubic footpath, across the River Leadon. This is still an ongoing concern.