

# Ward Councillor Report: March 2021

## Council Tax and Parish Precept

Council Tax letters will be being posted this month. The county council has produced a leaflet explaining what the council tax levied by the county council is spent on, which can be accessed on the website at the following link and can be downloaded as a pdf. It also explains what support and discounts are available to people experiencing financial difficulties.

<https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/downloads/file/21942/your-council-tax-explained-2021-22>

## Planning

**Viaduct Site** (625 homes and 3ha employment land. Herefordshire Council planning application No: P171532 [https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/info/200142/planning\\_services/planning\\_application\\_search/details?id=171532](https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/info/200142/planning_services/planning_application_search/details?id=171532)). The decision of the Secretary of State on this appeal was issued on 15 March. The SoS endorsed the recommendation of the inspector which was to allow the appeal.

This is extremely disappointing news for Ledbury. Everyone who lives here knows full-well the damaging impact that the traffic from this site will inevitably have upon the local road network as a consequence of planners not requiring Bloor Homes and the Landowners (Lucy Phillips; James, Anthony and Christopher Hawkins; Robert and Andrew Lane) to provide site access, as originally planned, under the viaduct to connect to the strategic road network at the Hereford Road roundabout.

However, the Inspector accepted that the challenge made by the Town Council was reasonable by dismissing all claims for costs made by Bloor, save the time spent responding to the safety points raised by the Town Council's transport consultants relating to the pedestrian and cycling access to the site via the old canal tunnels running through the embankment at Ballard Close.

The priority now is to ensure that the detailed layout of the development retains the option for a second vehicle access under the viaduct to be provided at some point in the future, and also to ensure that the water management issues on site and flood risk to the site are understood and mitigated.

Local people may be interested in the Heads of Terms/Section 106 Agreement for this development which has been agreed by the inspector/SoS as part of the appeal and comprises the following contributions by Bloor to the provision of local infrastructure:

- 40% Affordable Housing on the site in the following mix and number:
  - 93 Social Rent
  - 32 Affordable Rent
  - 125 Intermediate Housing
- £1m contribution towards the reinstatement of the canal section through the site
- Contribution towards additional classrooms, toilets, storage and circulation space at Ledbury Primary School; and a new 10 classroom block, 4 new classrooms, 2 new science laboratories, improved art and sport facilities at John Masefield High School of:
  - £2,413 per open market 2 bedroom unit
  - £4,297 per open market 3 bedroom unit
  - £7,560 per open market 4/5 bedroom unit
- £330,305 towards hospital services
- £167,924 towards additional GP facilities for Ledbury Healthcare Partnership

- £22,414 towards the cost of monitoring compliance
- 5,700 m2 of public open space
- 11,500m2 of children’s play area of which 3,500m2 is installed play equipment
- £80 per dwelling towards cost of waste and recycling bins
- £630 per open market unit towards improved outdoor sports facilities (630 x 375 = £236,250)
- £455,000 towards the following transport improvements:
  - Widening of the footbridge over Orchard Lane
  - Improved crossing facilities where Town Trail crosses Bridge Street
  - Refurbishment of Town Trail between Orchard Lane and Bridge Street
  - Refurbishment of Town Trail south of Bridge Street

## Car Parking

Following the consultation held back in the summer of 2020, Herefordshire Council has now published its proposed car parking charges for implementation shortly. The proposals for all areas are set out below:

	Hereford (Inc. Bank Holidays)	Ledbury (Exc. Bank Holidays)	Leominster (Inc. Bank Holidays)	Ross (Inc. Bank Holidays)	Kington (Exc. Bank Holidays)
	Mon - Sun (8am - 8pm)	Mon - Sat (8am - 6pm)		Mon - Sat (8am - 6pm)	
<b>Zone3 Work and Stay</b>	Per hour - £1.00 All day - £5.00	Per hour - £1.00 All day - £2.50	Per hour - £1.00 All day - £3.00	Per hour - £1.00 All day - £2.50 (Wilton Road £1.00 all day)	FREE
<b>Zone2 Visit</b>	Per hour - £1.40 All day - £7.00	1 hour - 50p 2 hours - £1.50 3 hours - £2.50 All day - £3.50 (Bye Street 3 hour max.)	Per hour - 70p All day - £3.50	Per hour .....£1.00 All day .....£5.00	Per hour .....£0.50 All day .....£2.00
<b>Zone 1 Central</b>	Per hour - £1.60 (On Street P&D: £1.00 for 30 mins, £2.00 for 1 hours; £4.00 for 2 hours)	Per hour - £1.20 All day - £6.00	Per hour - £1.00 (2 hour max.)	30 minutes - 60p Per hour - £1.20 (3 hour max.)	N/A
<b>Free Parking</b>	<b>Sundays</b> ✓ On street parking ✓ Pay 3 hours park all day <b>Evenings</b> ✓ After 6pm on street ✓ After 8pm in car parks Christmas (agreed annually)	<b>Sundays</b> ✓ All car parks <b>Evenings</b> ✓ After 6pm everyday Christmas (agreed annually)	<b>Sundays</b> ✓ All car parks <b>Evenings</b> ✓ After 6pm everyday Christmas (agreed annually)	<b>Sundays</b> ✓ All car parks <b>Evenings</b> ✓ After 6pm everyday Christmas (agreed annually)	<b>Sundays</b> ✓ All car parks <b>Evenings</b> ✓ After 6pm everyday Christmas (agreed annually)

In Ledbury the car parks are proposed for zoning as follows: Zone 1 - St Katherine’s (130 spaces), Zone 2 – Lawnside and Bye Street (58 & 72 spaces), Zone 3 – Bridge Street (52 spaces). Following input from the Town Council the cheap 1hr tariff for Zone 2 car parks is retained and the charge to stay for an hour in Lawnside drops by 20p. Bye Street remains short stay to maximise the number of parking spaces available for shorter visits. The concession to have free parking all day on Bank Holidays and Sundays is retained as is free parking at Christmas – date to be agreed annually.

The biggest increase is in all day parking in St Katherine’s, which is currently £4 and rises by 50% to £6. Meaning under the new tariff that visitors would need to be wanting to stay for more than 5hrs to get a ticket that lets them stay all day, whereas before it was more than 3hrs.

The main anomaly is in the change made to the Bridge Street tariff. Presently it is £1.50 for 4 hrs or £2 all day. Even so, usage of the car park is patchy. The request to retain this tariff and encourage use of the significant season ticket discount (which enables commuters to park all year for ~80p per day) has been rejected. Worse, it appears that an hourly tariff is being proposed for this edge of centre car park that is higher for each of the first 2 hours than the Zone 2 car parks. I have also suggested just a flat all-day rate for this car park, which has also been rejected. The consequences of the proposed tariff are that Bridge Street is only sensibly used for all day parking, but that there is a 25% increase for that over current charges.

## Consultations

**Review of the home to school transport policy 26 Feb – 23 April 2021:** The Herefordshire home to school transport policy has been reviewed and a number of minor changes have been made. These are:

- Section 2 - updating the description of nearest school and the description of how distance is calculated
- Section 2.2 - updating the description of how home address will be determined
- Section 3.6 – addition of wording regarding provision of transport to ‘faith’ schools
- Section 4 – updating wording on travel between home and bus stops
- Section 5 – updating wording on travel between home and pick up points

This is now a public consultation on the updated version of the policy.

<https://consultations.herefordshire.gov.uk/consultations/article/53/home-to-school-transport-policy-consultation>

**Budget 2021-22:** The results of this public consultation which informed the setting of the county council’s budget and council tax for 2021 are now available.

<https://consultations.herefordshire.gov.uk/consultations/article/53/home-to-school-transport-policy-consultation>

## Streetworks & Public Realm

The following works have been conducted in Ledbury North ward (inc Wellington Heath Parish) by the BBLP Locality Steward:

- 1 gully cleansed in Beggars Ash
- 4 litter bins replaced in Bye Street and Hereford Road
- 10 litter bins replaced in Bridge Street, Old Railway Line Town Walk, Orchard Lane and the A417 Ledbury bypass
- Wellington Heath FP Officer consulted regarding a number of footpaths
- B4214 in Staplow attended following an Enquiry regarding the road surface.
- signage left abandoned in Bradlow following resurfacing works recovered
- gully defect raised in Hereford Road, Ledbury
- PROW access on LR 9 inspected on behalf of the Enforcement Officer
- Monthly Driven Inspections of both U and C class roads carried out over a 2 day period and raised approx. 52 carriageway defects
- Monthly Driven Inspections of both A and B class roads carried out over a 2 day period and raised approx. 21 carriageway defects
- Several pothole defects raised on the C1167 towards Petty France

- Developers and Sub-Contractors in Wellington Heath who were carrying out works on a PROW without the proper authority/permissions were spoken to and the matter was referred to the PROW team and the Street Works team at Balfours to follow up
- Flood boards collected from Bromyard road
- overflowing bin in The Homend emptied
- gully cleansed in Cut Throat Lane
- 10 new litter bins provided in The Homend, Bye Street, The High Street and Homend Crescent
- Church Road visited to complete works to the vegetation at the Walled Garden
- Emergency in The Homend attended following a report from a member of the public that they had deliberately placed a sandbag in the middle of the carriageway regardless of the consequences
- Followed up on an Enquiry regarding a footway in The Langlands, Ledbury
- blocked culvert defect raised in Bridge Street, Ledbury
- Raised a number of carriageway defects in Lawnside
- 5 gullies cleansed in Bye Street, Church Street and the C1167 from the A449 to Red Cottages
- Monthly Walked Inspection of Ledbury Town carried out and raised 24 carriageway defects
- Monthly Inspection of Playgrounds in Ledbury carried out
- gully defect raised in Bye Street, Ledbury
- complaint from a resident on Queens Way, Ledbury followed up regarding the use of vehicles and noted that the area did not form part of the Highway of the extent
- job raised for the white lining team to remove the double yellow lines from a parking bay in Belle Orchard, Ledbury
- pothole defects identified in Newbury Park, Ledbury
- site visit carried out for a proposed scaffolding erection at the Spar Shop in Ledbury High Street
- 5.56m<sup>2</sup> of 10mm Wearing Course carriageway repairs carried out on the B4214 Bromyard Road, Hollow Lane, Hereford Road and The Homend
- 3 fingerposts and chevrons installed on PROWs WH3 and WH5
- 2 Incidents of Fly Tipping recovered a) B4214 Bromyard Road – Cans/bottles b) Newbury Park – Sandbag
- 2 gullies cleansed on the C1171 The Burtons

### **County Council initiatives**

I also attach the Herefordshire Council Leader's monthly newsletter for March which provides more information on developments and initiatives many of which are relevant to Ledbury and its residents.

If councillors would like further information on any of the above initiatives, please contact me.

*Councillor Liz Harvey*

It's Our County – Ledbury North Ward Member – 26 March 2021