

Ward Councillor Report: February-March 2022

Master's House

Trees and Planting: The cedar trees have been felled and two field maples planted to replace them before the replanting window closed. The replacement trees have kindly been funded by the Town Council's Welcome Back Fund grant so that puts a bit more money back in the landscaping 'pot' for other works. The Town Council has also taken receipt of the useable green timber from the cedars and this will be stored awaiting agreement on the best uses for it in town or within the landscaping project itself. Officers have been asked to provide permission to cultivate licences so that local gardening groups can be consulted regarding what help is available to deliver the agreed planting scheme with the assistance of volunteers.

Decorative Features: The Friends of the Master's House have kindly reiterated their offer to contribute to the cost of getting the Ground Map of the original hospital setting lifted, re-engraved and relocated, and discussions are ongoing about the best location for the stones within the south side bedding area. Discussions are also ongoing regarding the siting of the steel sculpture/art work commissioned some time back as part of the follow-on interpretation project originally championed by The Friends.

What lies beneath: Severn Trent have been 'encouraged' to return to complete the tricky works to the brick lined sections of the sewer system in the square area and our project team are making sure the company are progressing their plans for this work so it is completed ahead of the landscaping commencing.

Oh, the cost of it all: Speller-Metcalf have been really helpful in assisting with sizing the cost problem and in highlighting some potential problems to navigate around relating to levels and water run-off which need to be worked through to ensure that the revised design scheme works in the real world. Additional funds of around £55,000 have hopefully now been secured by the council's property team to ensure that the skyrocketing cost of building materials doesn't put the landscaping in the square at further risk.

Design – the devil in the detail: The small tweaks to the revised design which have been suggested to retain car parking spaces to the north side of the building, to increase the planting to the west, truncate the planting to the south and ensure appropriate lighting and power points are installed in the square area are being finalised so that detailed engineering design work can be commissioned. The space necessary to enable a disabled ramp access route from the public square to The Feathers courtyard is proposed to be retained within a slight extension to the square area, but it is not planned to include such an access in the phase 1 works.

Discussions are underway amongst the planners, project team and the owners of The Barn regarding how best to manage the sympathetic interface of the landscaping within the curtilage of The Barn with that of the public square. The project team are working to a timetable which has the **landscaping work commencing on site shortly after schools go back in September** so as to minimise disruption in the car park over the main tourist season for the town.

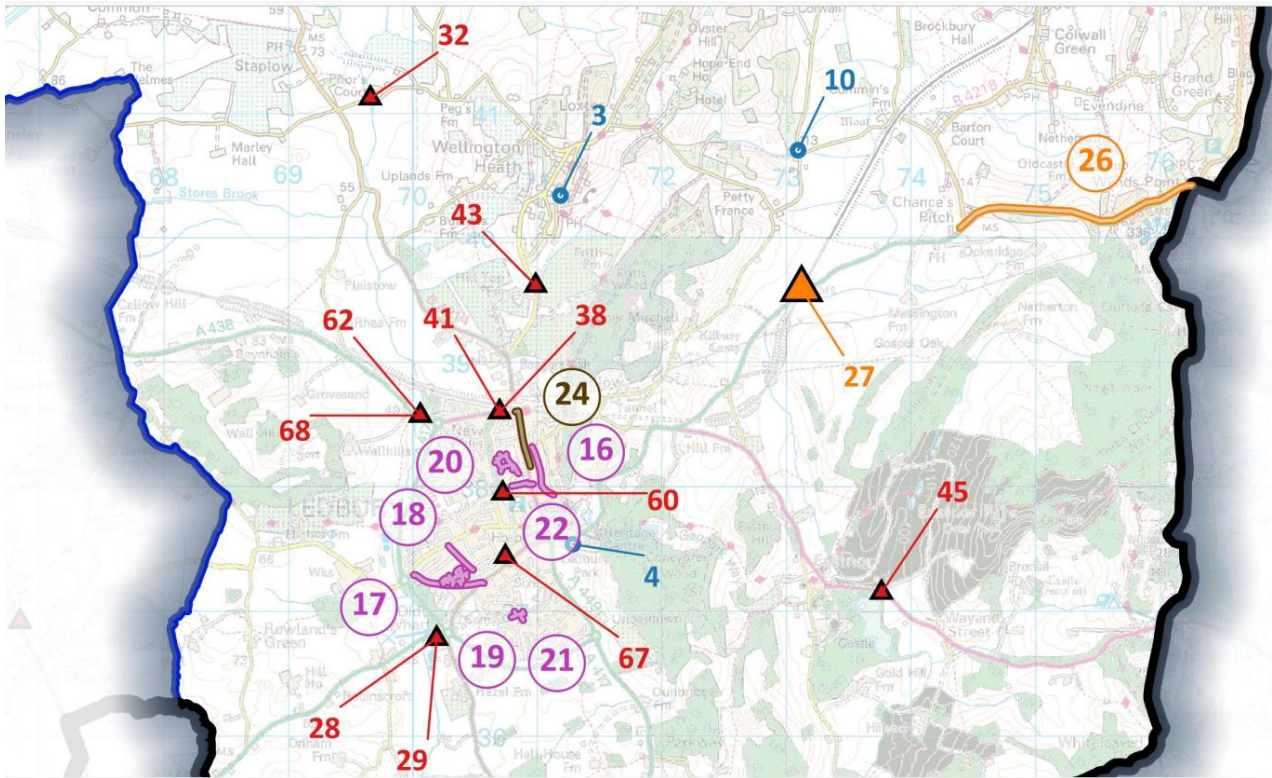
What's missing: Priority has been given to getting the main square area completed, which means that the paving of the grit paths will have to form part of a council capital bid to undertake the complementary works to the car park unless the landscaping works come in well under budget. The possibility of a disabled access can be considered as part of the design works for the car park in discussion with the property team for Coaching Inns Group.

Core Strategy Update

The General Policy Options for are now being consulted upon – see consultation section for the link details. A workshop and briefing was held for parish councils on the evening of 7 April with the session being recorded for those unable to attend and **a repeat session is being offered TOMORROW at 10:00.**

Public Realm Annual Plan 2022-23

Please see below the (hopefully) final draft map of the **for public realm works in the Ledbury** area for the BBLP 2022/23 Annual Plan. Please note in particular programme 24 showing the planned resurfacing of The Homend from Tesco traffic lights to the station junction (At last - Hooray!!!), and significant footpath work (in purple) in Churchill and Robinson's Meadows, Homend Crescent and Belle Orchard.



Market Town Investment Plans

Investment plans for each of the market towns were approved by Cabinet on 31 March, with plans in Ledbury to open up the new employment land on Little Marcle Road seen as one of the early projects to be taken forward. Further partnership work is needed with the Town Council and local stakeholders to develop plans and to identify sources of funding to progress other projects in the Ledbury strategy. Link to the Ledbury plan below.

<https://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/documents/s50099414/Appendix%203%20Ledbury%20MTIP.pdf>

Consultations

Local Plan General Policy Options: The Local Plan 2021- 2041 will set out the planning framework for the county and will cover issues such as housing provision, the economy, retail and town centres, infrastructure provision and the environment. It will also set out policies by which planning applications will be determined, in addition to allocation land for housing, employment and other uses.

The plan update has now reached the stage where consideration needs to be given to any policies that are to be included in the Local Plan. The policies will be key in determining planning applications and so it is important that this consultation provides the opportunity for everyone to have their say early in the process of plan making. The responses received during this consultation, together with a number of evidence base studies, will help form the draft Local Plan.. **The consultation closing date is Monday 16 May 2022.**

<https://consultations.herefordshire.gov.uk/consultations/article/75/local-plan-policy-options-consultation>

Signs of Safety Survey: The Council wants to hear from residents about how well social care partners are working together with people to improve the safety, wellbeing and outcomes for Children and Young People in Herefordshire. The Council wants to learn how it can improve the ways that it supports young people to build on their family strengths to create strong working relationships, to support the findings of solutions to the difficulties that Children and Young People may experience.

Please spread the word and encourage anyone with personal experiences to spend a few minutes to share them by completing the short survey. All responses are anonymous and confidential. **The survey will close on 29 April 2022.**

<https://consultations.herefordshire.gov.uk/consultations/article/74/signs-of-safety-survey>

Moving Traffic Offences: In July 2020, the government announced plans to improve cycling and walking uptake in Gear change - a bold vision for cycling and walking (https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/904146/gear-change-a-bold-vision-for-cycling-and-walking.pdf). As part of this strategy, the Department for Transport is changing the way moving traffic contraventions are enforced. Currently, only London and Welsh local authorities have powers to enforce these restrictions by the issue of a penalty charge notice.

The new regulations will be coming into effect in summer 2022, as a result, a number of new contraventions will become enforceable by councils rather than the police. These new powers will enable enforcement of the following restrictions by camera:

- One way streets
- Banned turns
- No Entry
- Pedestrian zones
- Yellow boxed junctions
- Cycle and bus routes
- Restricted Access & weight limits
- Keep clear and 'No Stopping' areas

Herefordshire Council has indicated its intention to the Department for Transport to adopt these powers in order to promote a safe environment for all road users and to allow traffic to flow freely. Based on previous complaints and travel data, the Council has identified a number of locations that may benefit from this type of enforcement which includes the weight limit in Knapp Lane **but NOT** the no right turn for heavy vehicles into The High Street. **The consultation closes 15 April.**

<https://consultations.herefordshire.gov.uk/consultations/article/71/moving-traffic-offences-consultation>

County Council initiatives

I refer councillors to the Herefordshire Council Leader's monthly newsletter for March and April, and to the Talk Community newsletter which is also circulated monthly. These provide 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

Independents for Herefordshire – Ledbury North Ward Member – 11 April 2022