

Ward Councillor Report: June 2023

Master's House Landscaping

The work is planned to commence 10th July.

Viaduct Housing Development

No further information.

McCarthy & Stone Development of 'Masefield's Meadow'

This application has now been approved for redirection to Committee. No date has yet been set for its hearing. Please can the Town Council appoint someone to make representation at the committee meeting.

Frith Wood Access

The unauthorised signage naming Herefordshire Council has now been removed.

Parking Problems and Traffic Regulation Orders

The first round of consultation on draft design options is underway with residents and businesses in the immediate vicinity of each scheme. Wider public consultation will be undertaken once comments from immediate neighbours has been considered.

Gully and Drain Clearance

I am concerned that the continuation of this hot weather will come with increased risk of flash flooding when heavy rainfall events occur. I have made a number of posts on social media encouraging local residents to check gullies and drains in their streets and to report blockages for clearance. I have also received reports from residents that BBLP are refusing to clear drains, saying these are a low priority. I am following this up with officers, as I can't quite believe that drainage infrastructure at known flooding locations is not a priority to keep clear at this time of year.

Household Support

Grants, advice and assistance continue to be available for households facing hardship. 100% discount on Council Tax continues for qualifying households and £1.7m has been allocated to continue support in a variety of ways during 2023. The Talk Community website has a range of helpful links as a starting point for reference: <https://www.talkcommunity.org/money-on-your-mind/>

Consultations

The following live consultations are available for comment:

- Consultation on proposal to create an Early Years Assessment Base (EYAB) for children with complex learning difficulties:
<https://consultations.herefordshire.gov.uk/consultations/article/100/consultation-on-proposal-to-create-an-early-years-assessment-base-eyab-for-children-with-complex-learning-difficulties>
- Consultation on the Minerals and Waste Local Plan (MWLP) Main Modifications:
<https://consultations.herefordshire.gov.uk/consultations/article/101/consultation-on-the-minerals-and-waste-local-plan-mwlp-main-modifications>

Pause and Review on Hereford Library location

Cabinet have taken the decision to review whether Maylords Orchard is the best location for the Stronger Towns project to provide a 21st century Library and Learning Resource Centre for the city. This major investment will be a hub for the entire library network of the county and will support and strengthen service provision to all users.

The review is jeopardising the delivery timeline for the project and any alternative location will be less central and less accessible than the one currently proposed. The plan is for the review to be completed by the end of July 2023. It is unclear whether that is also the timeframe within which cabinet will consider its findings.

County Council initiatives

There is now a minority Conservative-led administration in charge in Herefordshire. No Leader's Report was produced in May, and nothing has yet been produced in June. Hopefully Talk Community and Talk Parish initiatives will continue. I encourage councillors and particularly committee chairs to sign up for automatic alerts on issues of interest via the council's website:

<https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKHEREF/subscriber/new>

Councillor Liz Harvey

IOC & Independents for Herefordshire – Ledbury North Ward Member – 28 June 2023