

Ledbury South July 2023 Ward Report – Cllr Stef Simmons

Apologies:

Due to annual leave with my family I won't be in attendance at the LTC full council meeting on 4th July. Please accept the following ward report in my absence and I will be happy to discuss any elements if required on my return.

1. Herefordshire Council Update

- At Full Council on Friday 28th July Ward Members unanimously voted to reaffirm their commitment to address the climate and ecological emergency, and to the pathway to Net Zero in the County by 2030. Support was provided for Hereford Athletics Track renewal. Questions were also asked of the Leader regarding the pause on Maylords library plans.
- The Council are restarting the summer out of hours noise hotline. Given some of the concerns raised locally this may be of use and will be open 9pm - 2am every Friday and Saturday evening (including Sunday bank holiday August), from July until the beginning of September. To access the service, residents should call 01432 261761, email ethelpline@herefordshire.gov.uk or complete the online form that can be found on the [Council website](#).
- For those homes in Ledbury/surrounding area not connected to Gas mains the Council is working in partnership with Severn Wye Energy Agency to offer the Home Upgrade Grant, part of a £7 million government scheme, to pay for much needed energy-saving home improvements. This is open to anyone with household income below £31,000 per year or on means tested benefits. To apply for the Home Upgrade Grant, call the Severn Wye team on 0800 170 1432.
- Current and new councillor trainings and briefings are still being held each week to ensure we are abreast of current activities within the Directorates. Latest included Public Realm contract operation, and Talk Community Hub activities.
- My work on the Planning Committee continues, the committee unanimously rejected application for a McDonalds drive thru off the A40 at Ross on Wye. I have also been scrutinising all local planning applications, holding discussions with planning and enforcement officers regarding historic applications to understand planning conditions and obligations to be delivered.

2. Ward Casework – examples of recent help provided to residents

- Resolved Severn Trent flooding/sewerage issue in Fairfields Rd (prior to Hereford Times article) and within 7 days of being notified by residents of the historic problem.
- Reporting of various footpath and road defects and potholes including weekly discussion with Locality Steward, progressing priority of Biddulph Way, St Martin's Way, New Street and A438 repairs.
- Further discussion with Co-Op manager regarding car park exit safety and reinstatement of white lines/improved visibility of pedestrians with hedge cut back.
- Discussions with residents regarding odour nuisance around bottom of New Street/Ross Road roundabout. EHO notified, further investigations ongoing to locate source.
- Assistance with progression of Marches Energy Fund application for local voluntary group.

- Discussion with resident regarding potential on street EV charge point, and application to the LEVI fund run by Herefordshire Council to provide infrastructure in line with County wide Net Zero progress.

3. Events and meetings attended since last ward report

- Meeting with S106 delivery officer to discuss funds received from developers around Ledbury, also notice of new 'wish list' of projects for forthcoming Core Strategy review.
- Eastnor and Donnington Parish Council – discussion on potential for speed reduction measures on A438 through the village (village gates).
- Ledbury Rugby Football Club discussion of road safety concerns (reduction in speed limit) and future project plans.
- Ledbury Swifts Football Club meeting on current plan for move to new site, future aspirations for the site.
- Meeting with area Highways Engineers regarding potential Ledbury Traffic Regulation Orders to be delivered under Stronger Towns Fund.
- As Vice Chair I represented Herefordshire Council at the Scouts Jamboree 'ShireJam 2023' on 8th July.
- As Ward Member for Ledbury South and as Vice Chair of Herefordshire council attended the 70th Anniversary commemoration of the end of the Korean War in the Walled Garden Ledbury.

4. Upcoming meetings/visits scheduled

- Headteacher Eastnor Primary School
- One Public Estates director re s106 health services money and associated project.
- Highways s106 delivery team to determine s106 money projects to be delivered in Ledbury South.
- I will be chairing upcoming August Licencing sub-committee in place of chair and vice chair.

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 or phone 07792881706
- Please send any written correspondence to:
 - Cllr Stef Simmons
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