

Ledbury Town Council meeting Thursday 4th August 2022

Cllr Phillip Howells – Ledbury West Ward Councillor's report

Quite a lot being going on since the last full LTC Council meeting on 9th June 2022. I have attended a number of Herefordshire Council related meetings.

One full meeting of Herefordshire Council held on 29th July. Key decisions were approved on investing in the Hereford Museum to modernise it to help attract more tourists to the county and a major investment in a special school educating SEND (special educational needs) children of which there are 1,000 in Herefordshire alone. SEND education is the poor neighbour of the system and substantially underfunded.

At the latest Children and Young People Scrutiny meeting I chaired on 26th July we reviewed the provision of services for children with autism and also the progress being made on the DofE supervised non-statutory Improvement Plan which is now in the second year of an intense two-year programme.

The plan is not going great at the moment with significant parent complaints following the Panorama programme, some 300 parents/families have joined a 'Common Bond' group set up for families to bare their grievances with the council's children's services performance and two well attended demonstrations have been held at Leominster and Hereford. As a result of a whistle blower on failings and allegations of wrong doing, the council is undergoing an unexpected Ofsted inspection, so it's a tough time for Councillors and Officers.

Other Ward Councillor related activities in the month:

- 21st June – we had the Ledbury Business Summit at The Feathers with councillors and local business owners meeting the council leader, CEO and senior officers to discuss a range of economic matters affecting the town
- 28th June – had a 'place shaping' consultation on possible housing plans for Ledbury emerging from the development of the new local plan
- 4th July – had a meeting with the Clerk with a Herefordshire officer on the implications for providing traffic gates in Parkway and discussed other traffic management issues that the town's TMWP has been reviewing
- 20th July – had a Market Towns Maintenance Fund update meeting with BBLP, discussing St Katherines landscaping, Top Cross repairs, Woodleigh Road bridge being one way again, road resurfacing and yellow lines/TROs
- Followed up on several cases raised by residents

On 2nd August I will have attended the latest BBLP Ward councillors bi-monthly Ledbury-issues-dedicated Zoom meeting with the BBLP locality team and will be able to provide a verbal update for the council meeting.

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Mayor report - Cllr Phillip Howells

Full details of the Mayor's programme to date for 2022/23 are in the attached spreadsheet

Mayoral engagements since the last council meeting on 9th June (26 events)

10/06/2022	Pay respects to the funeral cortege for former Cllr Dee Knight
14/06/2022	Mayors' meeting
14/06/2022	Commemoration for 40th Anniversary of the end of the Falklands War
17/06/2022	Meeting with Assistant PCC Paul Middleborough
17/06/2022	Renaming of flower beds with Ledbury in Bloom
20/06/2022	Armed Forces Flag Raising Ceremony Hereford
20/06/2022	Armed Forces Day Flag Raising in Ledbury
20/06/2022	Blooms and Beasties Photo Competition (Ledbury in Bloom)
20/06/2022	Mayor making Ross-on-Wye
23/06/2022	Music in Quiet Places Concert
25/06/2022	Armed Forces day events in Ross on Wye
02/07/2022	Stromstad Twinning Assoc 20th Anniv celebrations
02/07/2022	Stromstad Twinning Assoc 20th Anniv celebrations
02/07/2022	Ledbury Choral Society
03/07/2022	Stromstad Twinning Assoc 20th Anniv celebrations
07/07/2022	Twelfth Night - Tewkesbury
10/07/2022	Ledbury Celebration Day
10/07/2022	Romanian Orthodox Church
10/07/2022	Educational visit to Ledbury by 6 Palestinian boys
10/07/2022	100th Anniversary Violette Szabo from Rosemary Rigby

11/07/2022	Ledbury In Bloom - Judging Day
12/07/2022	Mayors' meeting
16/07/2022	Ledbury in Bloom Prize Presentation
17/07/2022	Evesham Town Council Civic Service
21/07/2022	High Sheriff 'At Home' Invitation
23/07/2022	Opening Service of the Hereford Three Choirs Festival 2022

A full programme of Ledbury Mayor activities has recently been put together with the office – details to follow, but some provisional dates and ideas already likely include:

Themed coffee mornings:

12th October – after the fair

6th December – Xmas and mince pies

14th February – Valentine's Day

4th April – Easter and Hot x buns

Civic Celebration – Sunday 4th December

Santa Dash/Reindeer Dash – to coincide with Xmas lights on day

Mayor's Mile - Spring

Mayor's walk on Herefordshire Way - Spring

Visit to HMS Ledbury

Christmas themed Quiz night - December

Race night – February?

Drag night – April?

Disability access event

All in aid of the Mayor's Charity for the Year – Strong Young Minds

Mayor's Consort – Hilary Jones

Mayor's Chaplain – to be confirmed