**Ledbury Town Council meeting Monday 11th April 2022**

**Cllr Phillip Howells – Ledbury West Ward Councillor’s report**

Apologies for a delayed report – spent the last two weeks suffering from COVID and ongoing symptoms.

Since the last full LTC Council meeting on 3rd February 2022 I have attended a number of Herefordshire Council related meetings.

There have been two full meetings of Herefordshire Council since our last meeting:

* 11th February, where a budget proposing a 2.99% council tax increase was passed
* 4th March, where a motion supporting efforts to help the Ukranian conflict were passed and also a motion for Herefordshire to introduce good design awards to encourage better development standards, which I seconded, was also passed.

Chaired two meetings of the HC Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee on 22nd February (during which we scrutinised an update on delivering children’s services improvement under the non-statutory government monitored improvement plan) and 4th March (dedicated to a review of mental health services support and delivery for our young people - both when at school and when outside school).

Attended at Thorn Business Park on 3rd March, with the Clerk, a BBLP ward/town councillor and clerks’ briefing on the new Market Towns Maintenance Fund of £350k in the 22/23 year and £250k the following year (to be discussed at today’s meeting).

On 5th April attended (with the clerk) the BBLP bi-monthly Ledbury-issues-dedicated Zoom meeting with the BBLP locality team. Matters raised included:

* Being on the cusp of a new financial year the locality annual budget has not been signed off yet
* There will be some major schemes affecting Ledbury which have not been published yet, but will be advised as soon as known and in particular of any key works that might cause disruption
* Despite the major changes of matters such as TROs and PRoWs being taken from BBLP and back into being managed by council officers, it was confirmed that our Locality Steward is still the first point of contact for local matters
* Problems residents have with tree cutting back (a particular issue in west ward) and the current BBLP advice were discussed and the Stakeholder Manager agreed to update councillors and the council on the correct procedure as soon as possible
* Another big West Ward issue is regular removal of life belts from their correct locations along the River Leadon in the Riverside Park; it was later confirmed that these are checked monthly, but any problems should be reported asap since this is a critical health and safety matter.

On 6th April attended the Ward Councillors Local Plan consultation on policy options (by Zoom - repeated for parish councillors the next evening).

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**Cllr Phillip Howells – Deputy Mayor report**

Events attended by the Deputy Mayor on behalf of the Mayor since the last meeting:

17th February 2022 – Marches Family Network AGM in Leominster

24th February 2022 – County Food Trust charity launch in Herefordshire at Eastnor Castle

5th March 2022 – World Book day events in Ledbury town centre

9th March 2022 – Tree planting by Hereford City Mayor in Holmer cemetery

11th March 2022 – Ledbury Big Breakfast and town walkabout including visit to the foodbank by the railway station with the High Sheriff of Herefordshire and the Chairman of Herefordshire Council

12th March 2022 – Turned up for the second Ledbury Big Breakfast day to accompany the MP Sir Bill Wiggin on a town walkabout, but he refused to go around the town with me

18th March 2022 – Stromstad Twining Association Quiz evening

25th March 2022 – Worcester Mayor Charity Brass Band concert