**Ledbury Town Council meeting Thursday 1st December 2021**

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

Since the last full LTC Council meeting on 30th September 2021 I have attended a number of Herefordshire Council related meetings.

Much of my work is involved as chair of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee. I chaired meetings of the Committee on 12th October and 23rd November. Issues scrutinised include the provision of children service centres in Herefordshire (with particular reference to the Bromyard centre and how that compares to the rest of Herefordshire), and the annual IRO (Independent Reviewing Officers) report.

As part of this work I attended a very useful and informative Scrutiny Management Essentials course held at Warwick University by the LGA (Local Government Association) who are also helping the committee draw up a new member induction and training plan that is much needed.

The Government-advised non-statutory Improvement Plan to address children’s services failings which have led to court judgements against the council, was approved and published by Cabinet on 28th October

Councillor members have had strategic briefings on the Improvement Plan, new proposals for future waste management and for council governance.

We have also been advised that the Gigaclear broadband installation work has had to be revisited and a new programme put in place because of the collapse of the ability of the company doing the work to complete it within contract prices. This is very disappointing and will lead to delays in the projected Herefordshire-wide implementation hoped for. However, the council has a plan to limit these delays as much as possible.

In my role as the designated member for Herefordshire Council to the Lower Severn Internal Drainage Board, I attended a full board meeting on 3rd November.

I represented the Chair of the Council at the Remembrance Service on Sunday 14th November.

The next full meeting of Herefordshire Council is on 8th December.

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