

LEDBURY TOWN COUNCIL NEWSLETTER SPRING EDITION



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MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR, COUNCILLOR D VESMA

I was saddened to hear of the former Town Crier, Clive Gunn's recent passing. With his involvement in Ledbury in Bloom, Clive was a central figure in preserving the town's reputation as a beautiful place for tourists and locals alike. We should all be reminded of the importance of volunteering and how impactful someone can be when they offer their time to the community. Indeed, the results of Ledbury in Bloom's work play an important role in how we all see the town. When combined with sports, culture, youth provision, faith based undertakings, civic and all of the other volunteer-led activities in Ledbury you have a recipe for pride. If we can foster this pride in citizens at an early age, then I firmly believe that our young people will be far less likely to engage in anti-social and disruptive behaviour. As we look forward to the start of our post Covid-19 recovery, whenever that shall be, there is room for cautious optimism. At a recent meeting of the Herefordshire mayors, I raised the fact that too often 'pride' can become 'rivalry' amongst the market towns. I am encouraging the towns to work together in a coordinated way to promote each other's recovery, and to keep the economic benefits of tourism within the county.

I hope that you will see promotions for community events in the other towns in future editions of this newsletter and on Facebook, and for our events in theirs.

Lastly, I want to wish Mr Frey, who has been appointed as our new Town Crier the very best of luck. Whilst he has remarkably big boots to fill, he has the whole of Ledbury's ear and good wishes.

Message from the Chair of Economic Development & Planning

Councillor Bannister reports that during the last year, Ledbury has been faced with a succession of large planning applications many of them speculative, from a range of big developers.



- A speculative application was made by Bovis to build 140 homes south of the bypass near to the Barratt Homes development and requiring yet another round-about on Leadon Way. This has been approved by HC, we await further details on this development.
- Deeley's speculative application to build a Lidl supermarket, a Nursery and a Medical centre on land south of Leadon Way adjacent to the Barratt Homes development has been refused by HC, strongly supported by LTC objections. Detailed studies of the trade diversion affecting the town centre and near town centre stores showed very significant impact on footfall which would be very detrimental to the town centre and conservation area. LTC's own research revealed that with two discount supermarkets in Ledbury the town would be over-supplied with discounters by more than a factor of 3 compared to the national average.
- Development applications which have been approved and supported by LTC include 93 affordable homes on land behind the Full Pitcher Pub, and a 64 bed Care Home off Martins Way
- Very recent is an application for the demolition of the old auction rooms on Market Street and the construction of 31 apartments with associated parking and infrastructure in the heart of the conservation area.

Message from the Chair of Environment and Leisure

As we step into 2021 with some uncertainty, I am positive that together the council and residents can make a big difference to the town this year.



Councillor Knight, Chair of Environment and Leisure Committee is very excited to share with you the councils plans to transform the Skatepark and replace some play equipment at the Recreation Ground. Councillor Knight also announces that the council will be providing play equipment that is disability friendly. All families should have the opportunity to enjoy the amenities that Ledbury has to offer, let us work together to make them better for all.

Although we feel like writing off last year, it is important to remember the good things the Council achieved, including opening the Chapel before Christmas for those who have lost loved ones to light a candle in memory, the Council providing over 100 presents to local children in need over the Christmas period, and we adopted a Climate Emergency Declaration along with many other Parish Councils.

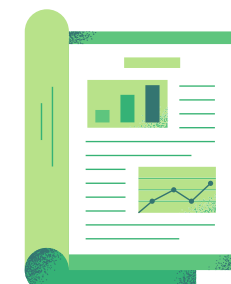
WAR MEMORIAL UPDATE

At a recent meeting of Full Council, Members agreed to obtaining further quotes for the replacement of the slabs around the War Memorial. The Council is also aware of the damage to the vases and the need to seal and clean the War Memorial, which will be discussed in the next Environment and Leisure Committee in March. for more updates please see our webiste.

Thank you to those who have taken time to provide advice and information on this matter.

Message from the Chair of Finance, Policy and General Puposes

Councillor Eakin reports that After much deliberation, the Council has passed a budget of £571,081 for the incoming financial year, equating to an increase of £1.36 per month for each Band D household.



This budget is the product of a rigorous process of debate and consideration by both the FPGP Committee and the Council at large, and I would like to thank my fellow councillors, and our wonderful staff, for all the work they put into making it happen. Their efforts led to a great deal of fat being cut from earlier drafts of the budget, allowing us to increase the precept by as little as feasibly possible, while still expanding our staff, and thereby our services to the people of Ledbury.

LEDBURY TOWN COUNCIL VACANCIES

Ledbury Town Council are seeking individuals to join their team in the following positions:

- Deputy Clerk
- Community Development Officer
- Accounts/Burial Clerk
- Towns Operative

For more information please visit page 4 of the Newsletter. Alternatively visit our website for more information:

<https://bit.ly/2P8G8hD>

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL MARKET

The Charter Market, run by the Town Council, is a twice-weekly retail market held in the Ledbury High Street and under the Market House. The market is held every Tuesday and Saturday, except on a Tuesday in October due to the annual Mop Fair).

The historical market has run since 1584 in Ledbury and comprises of approximately 12 stalls. We offer one stall free to charities.



The market offers a wide range of produce including food (meat, fish, fruit and vegetables, cheese, bread, cakes) and clothes, shoes, bags, jewellery, watches, Flowers, and plants.

Covid -19 lockdown

Following queries from members of NABMA and the NMTF, we interpret the regulations and the guidance to mean the following product categories are understood to be essential goods:

- Food and grocery – including confectionery and off-sales alcohol; cafes and hot food stalls must be takeaway only
- Household goods – including cleaning products, sanitary products, and baby products NOT clothing, homewares and home furnishings
- Hardware supplies – including repair services and batteries for household items
- Bicycles – including parts and repair services
- Pet supplies
- Newsagents
- Plants – including shrubs, and horticultural items NOT flowers
- Face coverings

Similar to safety measures currently being carried out at local supermarkets, there will be restricted social distancing guidelines to help people shop as safely as possible. Shoppers are encouraged to use contactless payment and not cash at those stalls where this is possible.

Ledbury Charter Market is operating on a Tuesday and Saturday as normal to give residents access to essential items in a safe outdoor shopping experience. This will include food items, pet food, hardware, and plants. When visiting, please continue to shop safely and adhere to social distancing guidelines. The market is open every Tuesday from 8am until 5pm and Saturday from 8am until 5pm (depending on footfall) in Ledbury High Street and under the Market House. The Town Council will announce when the government guidelines return to normal trading and when our usual traders can return.

How to apply

If you are thinking of having a stall with us, please contact us for an application form, seasonal and regular traders and charities welcome.

Market stall enquires to the Town Council Offices. Telephone 01531 632306 or Email reception@ledburytowncouncil.gov.uk. Your details will then be logged and someone will contact you to discuss your application.

Please note submission of an application does not guarantee a pitch. The Council will review all applications to ensure suitability and a mix of goods.



Ledbury Town Council NDP

In the December Newsletter we advised that during early Spring we would be completing all the evidence gathering and writing up the supporting documents to draft the first version of the revised NDP. Work on getting a first draft completed by the end of March is now well advanced. A number of volunteers have helped with gathering information, taking photographs and writing up 'topic guides' on development issues such as employment, green spaces, medical and football facilities. Active consultation is taking place with potentially impacted organisations, local community groups, and businesses, with several hundred letters delivered asking them for contributions they would like the NDP to reflect.

It's not too late for anyone to suggest ideas please send your contributions to the Town Clerk by email to clerk@ledburytowncouncil.gov.uk or in writing to the Town Council offices letterbox.

During March you will be able to see content added to the NDP pages on the Council website in readiness for a round of public consultations on the draft NDP document, expected to take place during April and May, so you can familiarise yourself with the way the plan is shaping up in advance. But don't worry, even if you have not been able to contribute to the draft plan, there will be plenty of opportunity and a well-advertised consultation programme with a questionnaire to complete, for anyone wishing to add their thoughts before the final draft of the new plan is produced from all the feedback. Watch out for more information on the Council website, on our Facebook page, in the press and via leaflets.

Councillor Phillip Howells
Chair of the NDP

Love food hate waste



Reducing food waste is a simple way to reduce your carbon footprint and can save you money!

Love food hate waste has lots of helpful resources www.lovefoodhatewaste.com.

There's lots of interesting information available from Friends of the Earth <https://friendsoftheearth.uk/food-waste>.



Cooking
Connection
Community

CLIMATE CHANGE WORKING PARTY UPDATE



We've been meeting regularly via Zoom to gather and share Information and develop an action plan. We've had a presentation from Herefordshire Council on waste management and one from Garden Organic on promoting waste reduction. We're looking at ways to reduce the use of single use plastics and will be preparing recommendations on this to put to the Environment and Leisure Committee.

We've also had a meeting with Herefordshire Green Network (HGN). The Town Council have joined the network so that we can share information on 'green issues' within the county and benefit from the workshops they run.

We've asked the Town Council to consider getting a 'License to cultivate' from Herefordshire Council so that volunteers can carry out some conservation work on the Town Trail. Sustainable Ledbury has volunteers who are keen to do this work and hope to be able to make a start once the license is agreed and current restrictions are lifted.

The Council would like to reduce its 'carbon footprint'. A good start is to be able to measure the current footprint. We're looking to work with organisations like HGN and the Centre for Alternative Technology to identify ways to do this. And talking of footprints, we're starting to look at Ledbury's footpaths. Are they all clearly identified? Are we in danger of losing any of them? Could we do with some more 'circular' routes? We're working with the Neighbourhood Development Plan Working Group on this and we're aiming to get involved with two national projects, 'Slow Ways' and 'Forgotten Paths'.

If you're interested in what we're doing, watch out for details of our meetings which are open to the public. You'd be very welcome to join us.

Nina Shields
Chairman CCWP

LEDBURY CEMETERY UPDATES

FRIENDS OF LEDBURY CEMETERY

For many years, the Council have encouraged members of the public to join working parties including the Cemetery working party. However, this year Members of the Environment and Leisure Committee have proposed something a little different. Chair of this committee, Councillor Knight, suggested that the Council create a 'friends of the cemetery' group which will allow residents and some interested councillors, to meet in their own time to discuss cemetery matters. The Council will support the Friends of Ledbury Cemetery group with their ideas and take to council meetings on their behalf.



LEDBURY CHAPEL- VOTIVE FOR MOTHERS DAY



Ledbury Town Council were pleased to have opened the chapel for residents of Ledbury to light a candle for their loved ones before Christmas. Although it was emotional for many, the event was well received and residents asked whether the chapel could be opened regularly. The Council understand how important the chapel is to many, especially in these uncertain times and have agreed to open the chapel for Mothers Day, lockdown permitting. More information will be updated on the Town Council's Facebook and Website once advice has been given by the Government.

WELCOME LEDBURY'S TOWN CRIER



"Oyez, oyez, oyez!"

Ledbury Town Council are pleased to welcome Mr Fray as Ledbury's newest Town Crier. The Town Crier's responsibility is to announce latest news or events to the residents of Ledbury.

The Town Crier can be traced back at least to medieval times: two Criers appear in the Bayeux Tapestry, which depicts the invasion of England by William of Normandy and the Battle of Hastings in 1066.

Oyez' (pronounced 'oh yay') comes from the French ouïr ('to listen') and means "Hear ye". The town crier would begin his cry with these words, accompanied by the ringing of a large hand bell to attract attention. It was the job of the Crier to inform the townspeople of the latest news, proclamations, bylaws and any other important information, as at this time most folk were illiterate and could not read. The cry would then end with the words, 'God save the King' or 'God save the Queen'.

Town criers were protected by law. Anything they did was done in the name of the monarch, therefore to harm a town crier was an act of treason. This was a necessary safeguard as the town criers often had to announce unwelcome news such as tax increases!

Did you know, when a group of town criers get together, for example for a competition, it is known as a 'a bellow of criers'?

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED AT THE BUTCHER ROW HOUSE MUSEUM



Are you interested in the History of Ledbury?

Butcher Row House Museum has a fantastic opportunity to join their team as a volunteer. There is an opening for volunteers to help with viewings of the museum, all training given, and no experience needed!

Butcher Row House Museum features many items of local interest including reproduction helmets and breastplates that would have been worn in the Battle of Ledbury in 1645 and a small collection of musical instruments ranging from a 'hurdy-gurdy' to a Tibetan pipe fashioned from a thigh bone.

This is a great opportunity for those who love to meet new people and jump into the history of our wonderful market town.

For more information please contact:
Andy Tector : Email chair@ledburycivicsociety.org

Ledbury Food Bank - Here to Help



If you are struggling to feed yourself or your family we are here to help.

Ledbury Food bank is open every Wednesday and Friday between 10.00 and 12.00 at St Katherine's Hall. You do not need to be referred to us, just turn up and we will do the rest.

If you need to contact us please call us (during our opening hours) on 07581283092 or email us at food@ledburyfoodbank.org

CLOCK CHIMES AND TUNES ARE HEARD ONCE AGAIN FROM THE CHURCH TOWER IN LEDBURY

There have not been too many signs of a return to normality in Ledbury this year so far, but the sound of the clock and carillon chimes coming once again from the tower of the Parish Church, punctuating each day, are a very welcome reminder of better times past and to come. The reinstallation of the 22 hammers that strike the outside of the bells to ring the quarter hours, chime the hours and play a hymn tune four times each day marks the end of a three year project to repair and restore the bells, and to make substantial improvements to the inside of the tower.



As soon as it is possible, the bellringers will be itching to show the people of Ledbury the much improved interior of the 13th century tower which they feel will and should be one of the principal tourist attractions of the town. The focus now, following the raising of £280,000 for the work on bells and tower, is to raise just a little more to enable the full implementation of an education programme which will be based on a new exhibition space at the bottom of the tower and teaching people to ring the bells using the latest available technology. A new training bell (a safe way to take the first steps in learning to ring) is already installed and waiting for the first students!

To find out exactly how the bells work follow this link (https://youtu.be/CMPXW6_HsYw)



The bells cannot be rung all together until the government and the bellringers' Central Council feel that it is safe. One bell, however, can be rung before the Sunday morning service. The ringers are also responding to a national call to prayer by the Archbishops and will be ringing a bell each evening at 6.00 pm for the next few weeks.

As well as the free tower open days that will take place on Saturdays from time to time, the ringers are offering a specially tailored package for a group of four people that will introduce them to all aspects of the theory and practice of bellringing, and its history. It will include a visit to the parapet at the top of the tower, a ringing lesson (theory and practice), seeing the clock and carillon in action and many other elements including refreshments. It would make a great birthday present or a way of celebrating other special family occasions. The cost is £75.00 for a group for a 90 minute experience. All money raised will support the education programme in the tower. If you are interested in finding out more, please contact Tim Keyes, the Tower Captain. (01531 579021)

DO YOU HAVE A PASSION FOR LEDBURY?

Ledbury Town Council would like to invite candidates to be considered, via co-option, to fill the current 8 Councillor vacancies.

The vacancies are in the following Wards (although as the Council is grouped, councillors represent the whole community).

- Ledbury West – 3 vacancies
- Ledbury South – 4 vacancies
- Ledbury North – 1 vacancies

If you are interested in applying and would like more information please contact the Town Clerk at the address below. The closing date for applications is 12.00 noon on Friday, 19 March 2021, following which you will be invited to attend an Extraordinary meeting of Full Council on Tuesday, 6 April 2021.

Mrs A Price Town Clerk Ledbury Town Council Church Street, Ledbury HR8 1DH
Email: clerk@ledburytowncouncil.gov.uk OR Tel: 01531 632306/07734966926

ARE YOU USING OR NEEDING A CAR ONLY 2 OR 3 TIMES A WEEK? THEN YOU CAN HALVE YOUR COSTS, MOST MEMBERS SAVE MUCH MORE

A CAR WITHOUT HASSLE, NO TAX, INSURANCE, DEPRECIATION, OR REPAIR BILLS

A CLUB RUN BY VOLUNTEER MEMBERS FOR MEMBERS

malvern-hills-carclubs.org.uk
01684 540284



LEDBURY TOWN COUNCIL WORDSEARCH

Wordsearch - Spring 2021

G	L	O	W	T	M	E	Z	V	I	A	S	Act
O	O	N	S	G	N	I	T	E	E	M	E	Agenda
V	C	V	R	S	T	I	O	N	Q	W	T	Cemetery
S	A	M	E	H	P	R	O	X	Y	U	U	Clerk
I	L	P	P	R	E	C	E	P	T	S	N	Council
P	A	A	A	D	N	B	C	A	C	T	I	Election
K	R	F	A	R	P	M	T	L	V	O	M	Government
C	F	S	M	B	K	A	E	Q	T	F	W	Ledbury
O	L	E	D	B	U	R	Y	N	A	F	A	Local
A	T	L	P	U	K	R	E	X	T	I	T	Meetings
R	A	E	G	F	F	I	C	O	X	C	H	Minutes
Y	X	C	O	U	N	C	I	L	O	E	V	Office
C	L	T	I	N	G	T	N	M	E	V	O	Park
C	F	I	C	E	D	A	D	N	E	G	A	Precept
O	N	O	C	E	M	E	T	E	R	Y	O	Proxy
L	E	N	B	U	H	X	N	M	L	I	J	Tax

Answers can be found on the last page.

Ledbury Town Council Vacancies

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

Job Description Salary: £22,627-£25,295 (Subject to experience)
Full time, permanent - 37 hours per week Monday - Friday with some evenings and weekends

Purpose of the Role:

- To provide a range of services and support the local third sector organisations, Communities and Volunteers
- To promote the Council, its facilities, events and services in line with approved strategies

Experience & Knowledge:

- At least one-years' experience in local government or a similar role
- Project Management Skills
- Experience in obtaining effective grant funding
- Good Knowledge of the third sector

Qualification requirements:

- Educated to degree level

DEPUTY TOWN CLERK

Job Description Salary: £28,672 - £32,234
Full time, permanent - 37 hours per week Monday - Friday with some evenings and weekends

Purpose of the Role:

- To provide support and deputise for the Town Clerk/RFO and will be accountable for the Operations Team
- To proactively assist in the development, promotion and implementation of the Council's policies, strategic plans and services
- To ensure that the management and administration of the Council's statutory functions, financial affairs, and projects are carried out effectively and that business continuity is maintained

Experience & Knowledge:

- At least 2-years working in local government or a similar environment
- Budget management and financial planning
- Project Management skills
- Knowledge of local government legal and regulatory requirements

Experience of staff management

- Qualification requirements:
- Must be educated to A level or equivalent HND or degree and/or professional qualification CiLCA Qualified

For more information, the job description and person specification and application pack on any of the above positions please:

Visit our website at: www.ledburytowncouncil.gov.uk

or Contact the Town Clerk at: <https://bit.ly/2P8G8hD>

clerk@ledburytowncouncil.gov.uk or on: 01531632306

ACCOUNTS/BURIAL CLERK

Job Description Salary: £22,627-£24,491
(Pro rata) Part time, permanent - 25 hours per week Monday - Friday with some evenings

Purpose of the Role:

- To assist the Town Clerk/RFO in managing the Council's accounts workflow
- To prepare accounting reports and trac accounts payable using the Council's electronic accounts system
- To undertake all aspects of cemetery administration to ensure the smooth operation of the cemetery and associated services

Experience & Knowledge:

- At least two-years' experience in an accountancy role
- Knowledge of financial accounting software systems
- Knowledge of RBS Omega System
- Experience of finances in local government setting

Qualification requirements:

- Educated at GCSE Level 3 or above in English and Maths or equivalent
- Relevant professional qualification (i.e. AAT or ACCA)

TOWN MAINTENANCE OPERATIVE

Salary: £19,312-£19,698
Full time, permanent - 37 hours per week Monday - Friday with some evenings

Purpose of the Role:

- To provide maintenance in and around the Town Centre, Council buildings and other facilities

Experience & Knowledge:

- Previous experience as a maintenance worker
- Experience with hand and electric tools
- Basic knowledge of minor repairs and maintenance

Qualification requirements:

- Good standard of education to GCSE grade c or above Certification of apprenticeship or evidence of qualifications appropriate to the role

Answers

G	L	O	W	T	M	E	Z	V	I	A	S
O	Q	N	S	G	N	I	T	E	E	M	E
V	C	V	R	S	T	I	O	N	Q	W	T
S	A	M	E	H	P	R	O	X	Y	U	U
I	L	P	P	R	E	C	E	P	T	S	N
P	A	A	A	D	N	B	C	A	C	T	I
K	R	F	A	R	P	M	T	L	V	O	M
C	F	S	M	B	K	A	E	Q	T	F	W
O	L	E	D	B	U	R	Y	N	A	F	A
A	T	L	P	U	K	R	E	X	T	I	T
R	A	E	G	F	F	I	C	O	X	C	H
Y	X	C	O	U	N	C	I	L	O	E	V
C	L	T	I	N	G	T	N	M	E	V	O
C	F	I	C	E	D	A	D	N	E	G	A
O	N	O	C	E	M	E	T	E	R	Y	O
L	E	N	B	U	H	X	N	M	L	I	J