

LEDBURY TOWN COUNCIL NEWSLETTER SPRING EDITION



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THE MAYORS UPDATE

The Mayor has many formal invites on a regular basis and the new year since the last newsletter has been no exception. I try to accept as many as possible, whether it be a local community event, a formal Herefordshire County occasion, or an invite to join other councils, in and outside Herefordshire, at their civic service or in their own charity activities. It is demanding, but a real privilege to represent the town at all these so varied venues and very rewarding.

Joining Herefordshire's High Sheriff, Sarah Rohan, with lead organiser Griff Holliday at Ledbury's Big Breakfast was a brilliant celebration of what Ledbury has to offer in culinary excellence, but a visit to the Ledbury Food bank on the day was an education in the wide range of services they now offer to those needing help and a stark reminder of how fortunate most of us are not to need it.

In quick succession I was delighted to accept an invitation to join The Friends of Ledbury Church at their Burns Night Supper, attended the Herefordshire's Armed Forces Covenant Partnership (which the council signed up to in 2019) Annual Review for 2022 and Breakfast Networking Event, and then hosted a Mayor's Valentine's Day Coffee Morning beautifully organised with suitable decor for the occasion by our dedicated council office staff. We were honoured to have the presence of one of our local Deputy Lieutenants, Nat Hone, and the Chair of Herefordshire Council, Cllr Sebastian Bowen, to meet and talk with residents who shared coffee and appropriately decorated cakes.

More recently, I was honoured to open the new Roger Oates Design Showroom in Tinsmiths Alley and then humbled to receive an amazing cheque of £850 towards the Mayor's 2023 charity, Strong Young Minds, from Ledbury Community Choir as the proceeds from their Christmas concert.

There is never a dull moment to being the Mayor of our special and lovely town.

Cllr Phillip Howells, Mayor of Ledbury

Community Speed Watch is coming to Ledbury.

Ledbury Town Council have voted to support a local Community Speed Watch scheme in Ledbury.

Community Speed Watch (CSW) schemes are coordinated by the police but managed and run by volunteers in the community. The scheme enables local people to take an active role in road safety and make our community safer.

The aim of CSW is to encourage motorists to drive at a safe and appropriate speed, reduce speed in areas of concern such as near schools, re-educate drivers about the dangers of speeding and address concerns from local residents about cars speeding through their neighbourhood.

At specified safe locations, volunteers monitor the speed of passing vehicles with a handheld speed detection device. Offending vehicles' details are recorded on a log sheet, the make/model and registration number of the vehicle and the speed recorded by the handheld device. Log sheets are submitted to West Mercia Police and warning letters are sent to the registered keepers with advice on safer driving.

Before a scheme can be established Ledbury, we will need to recruit a Co-ordinator and at least six volunteers. Schemes are open to anyone aged 17 or over. Volunteers will only be accepted onto a scheme once appropriate checks have been carried out.

If you would like any further information at this early stage, please email Councillor Mal Hughes on mhughes@ledburytowncouncil.gov.uk

Cllr Mal Hughes
Police Liaison Councillor





LEDBURY
TOWN COUNCIL

2023 ELECTIONS

PRE-ELECTION INFORMATION

Ledbury Town Council would like to advise that the “pre-election period” in Herefordshire will start on 6 March and end on the day of the elections, 4 May 2023. During this time the Council are required to follow strict guidelines as to what they can and cannot do in respect of announcements and activities of the Council. Therefore, we would like to advise that the Council will not be able to respond to any comments on social media posts and/or direct emails that could be deemed political.

More information on what the council can and cannot do during this period can be found here:
<https://www.local.gov.uk/our-support/guidance-and-resources/pre-election-period>
<https://www.local.gov.uk/our-support/guidance-and-resources/pre-election-period>

Officers will of course endeavour to continue to respond on non-political matters in the usual way.

The
Electoral
Commission



Herefordshire
Council

You now need
photo ID to
vote at a
polling station

No ID? You can apply for free voter ID
Find out more at

electoralcommission.org.uk/voterID

or call 0800 328 0280



The
Electoral
Commission



Herefordshire
Council

*
REMEMBER TO
1- Register to vote
2- Check my
photo ID
3- Vote at a
polling station!

No ID? You can apply for free voter ID
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or call 0800 328 0280



The Planning; Economic Development and Tourism committee, as it is now known, has continued to question all planning applications and approve those that will enhance the town and not support applications that contravene planning laws. We are concerned that the old Methodist church application was not supported and are asking Hereford for a discussion to move this on. The committee works hard to achieve our goals and Cllr Sims is now chairing the Tourism working party. Its first meeting was well attended and a lot of positive discussion was had. If any one thinks they could help, working parties encourage traders and the good folk of the town to join.

I hope my fellow councillors on this committee will stand again for election and then continue to improve the town and its future. There is a planning application No. 2023/001 To build more than 50 units behind the large house.

The Knapp, opposite the petrol station on the Homend. This is an extraordinary plot of land, full of bio diversity and the application has received a great number of OBJECTIONS from the public as well as the Council.

Cllr Nick Morris.
Chair. Planning, Economic Development and Tourism.



The scope of the Environment and Leisure Committee's work includes the care of the Recreation Ground, the Town Cemetery, the Dog Wood, and the general condition of the Town Centre. We are very pleased that this work is shared with a number of volunteer groups, and are grateful for their efforts to maintain our lovely town. Now that the balustrade at Top Cross has been replaced, the planters will soon be a thing of beauty once again!

A number of trees are being planted by the Council; in the Walled Garden, the River Walk and the Recreation Ground, for example. And the ivy which has been causing problems with the Cemetery wall has been removed. Several trees in Dog Wood have been identified as presenting a risk, and officers are working to ensure these are felled in the near future. Several new litter bins have been installed, and new cradle swing seats in the playground are on order.

The spirit of volunteering, which the King hopes will be very much in evidence over the Coronation weekend, is alive and well in Ledbury. When civic budgets are under so much pressure it is good that so much can be achieved through the work of local volunteers, clearing litter, tidying the Town Trail and planting flowers and shrubs in public places.

Cllr Stephen Chowns
Chair, Environment and Leisure

Finance, Policy & General Purpose

In the last few months, the Finance, Policy and General Purposes Committee have continued to ensure day-to-day monitoring of the Council's accounts and the scrutiny of all expenditure. The Committee also completed a budget process for the next financial year and were able to recommend to Full Council a budget for 2023-24 including a recommendation on the levying of the Precept by the Town Council.

The Precept is a tax that town and parish councils charge their local electors to meet their budget requirements. Town and Parish Councils do not receive any direct funding from central government and rely on their Precept plus any other income they generate from services or facilities they provide. Our Town Council Precept is part of the Council Tax and is collected from local electors via their Herefordshire County Council Tax payments.

Given the financially-tight times for the year ahead we had no wish to make even greater demands on residents' household expenses. We kept any increase in costs to a bare minimum - well below the headline inflation rate - whilst still being able to pay our bills; particularly increases in our 'big ticket' items of salaries and insurance; and the running and maintenance costs of our historic buildings.

You may have strong views on how Ledbury can grow and develop sustainably, whilst conserving what is best. You can find my contact details on the Ledbury Town Council website and I welcome you emailing me with your insights and opinions.

Councillor Mal Hughes - Chair of Finance, Policy & General Purpose

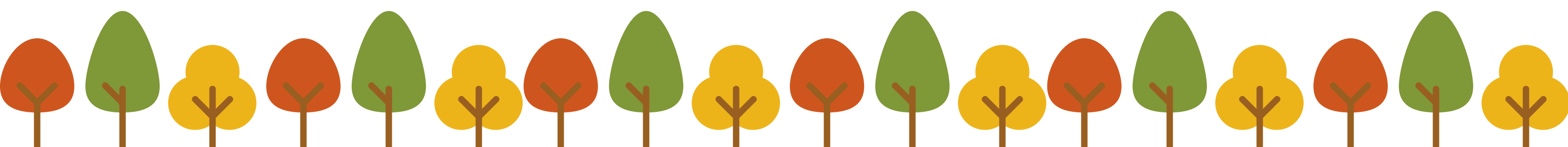


The revised Ledbury NDP, having been approved by Herefordshire Council to proceed to the independent examination stage, has been with the examiner since early in the New Year. The NDP website on the Town Council site has been fully updated with all the latest files for the Examiner and interested parties to explore.

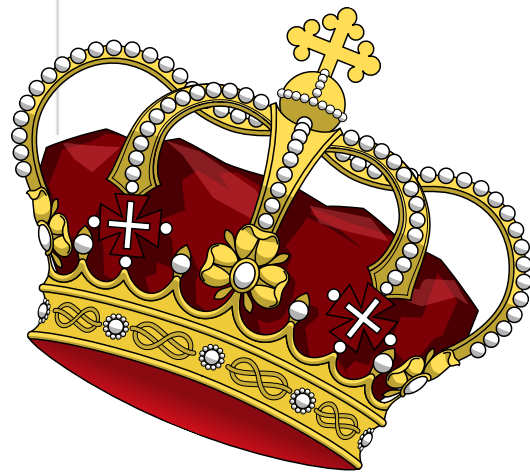
The Examiner's report is expected towards the end of February or early March, in which it is hoped that a proposed settlement boundary, land for employment off the Little Marcle Road and a proposed location for a new football facility, and green infrastructure with proposed enhancement zones, will be accepted. As it is, having gone through two rounds of public consultation, the plan already carries some weight in planning application decisions.

Once received, any recommended edits to the plan will be implemented and the document then submitted back to Herefordshire Council for approval to go to a public referendum for it to be adopted. Due to the pre-election period ahead of the Local Council elections in May, it is anticipated that a referendum will take place shortly after the election in early May following which, if confirmed by a majority responding, it is anticipated that the plan could be formally adopted during June 2023.

Cllr Phillip Howells, NDP WP Chair



CALENDAR DATES NOT TO MISS SPRING 2023



Ledbury Town Council



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

MARCH

LEDBURY FOOD BANK - EVERY MONDAY & WEDNESDAY IN MARCH
WORLD BOOK DAY - THURSDAY, 2 MARCH
LEDBURY WORLD BOOK DAY EVENT - SATURDAY, 4 MARCH
INTERNATIONAL WOMENS DAY - WEDNESDAY, 8 MARCH
STROMSTAD QUIZ EVENING - SATURDAY, 17 MARCH
MOTHERING SUNDAY - SUNDAY, 19 MARCH
CRIME WRITER TALK - SATURDAY, 25 MARCH

APRIL

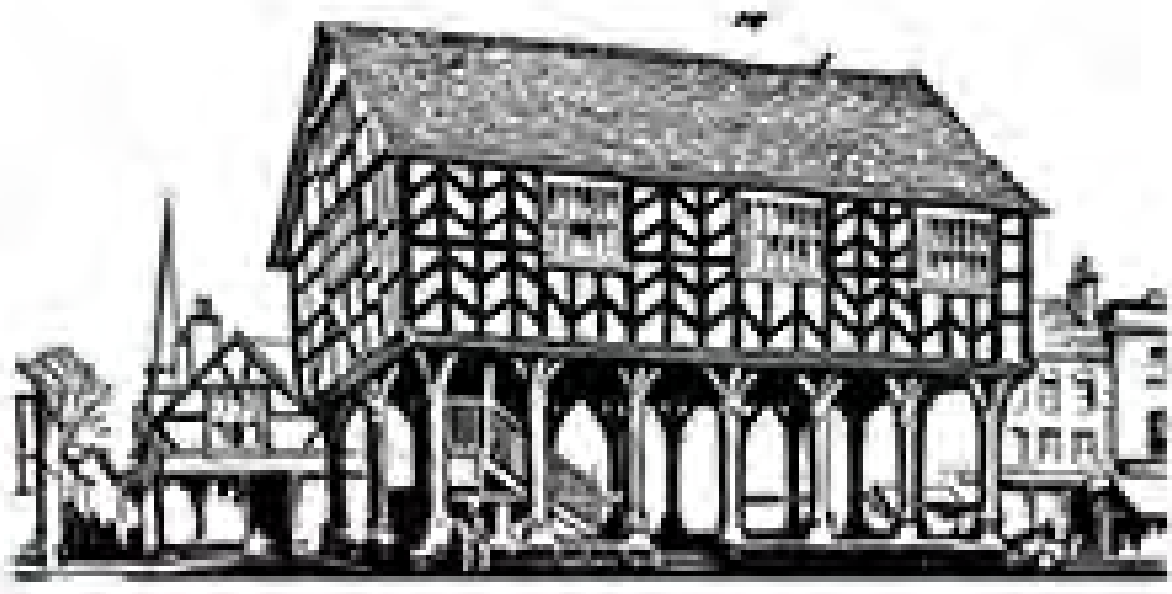
LEDBURY FOOD BANK - EVERY MONDAY & WEDNESDAY IN APRIL
MAYOR'S COFFEE MORNING - TUESDAY, 4 APRIL
GOOD FRIDAY - FRIDAY, 7 APRIL
EASTER SUNDAY - SUNDAY, 9 APRIL
SIBLINGS DAY - MONDAY, 10 APRIL
NATIONAL SCRABBLE DAY - THURSDAY, 13 APRIL
INTERNATIONAL HAIKU POETRY DAY - MONDAY, 17 APRIL
WORLD HERITAGE DAY - TUESDAY, 18 APRIL
EARTH DAY - SATURDAY, 22 APRIL
ST GEORGE'S DAY - SUNDAY, 23 APRIL

MAY

LEDBURY FOOD BANK - EVERY MONDAY & WEDNESDAY IN MAY
MAY DAY BANK HOLIDAY - MONDAY, 1 MAY
LEDBURY LOCAL ELECTIONS - THURSDAY, 4 MAY
CORONATION DAY - SATURDAY, 6 MAY
KINGS CORONATION CONCERT - SUNDAY, 7 MAY
INTERNATIONAL NURSES DAY - FRIDAY, 12 MAY
INTERNATIONAL MUSEUM DAY - THURSDAY 18 MAY
INTERNATIONAL TEA DAY - SUNDAY, 21 MAY
PENTECOST - SUNDAY, 28 MAY
WHIT MONDAY - MONDAY, 29 MAY

Details for events can be found on our website
<https://www.ledburytowncouncil.gov.uk/en-gb>





LEDBURY TOWN COUNCIL

WARM SPACES IN LEDBURY

Mondays	Ledbury Methodist Church 9am to 5 Ledbury Library 9.30am to 4pm
Tuesdays	Ledbury Catholic Church of the Most Holy Trinity 1.30pm to 5pm Ledbury Library 9.30am to 4pm
Wednesdays	Ledbury Foodbank 12pm to 4pm Pot & Page 10am to 5pm
Thursdays	Ledbury Baptist Church 10am to 5pm Ledbury Library 9.30am to 4pm Pot & Page 10am to 5pm
Fridays	Ledbury Foodbank 12pm to 4.30pm Ledbury Library 9.30am to 4pm
Saturdays	Ledbury Baptist Church 10am to 12pm (St Michael's) Ledbury Library 9.30am to 12.30pm Pot & Page 10am to 5pm
Sundays	Pot & Page 10am to 2pm

TALK COMMUNITY

COME
ON IN

GET NICE &
TOASTY

WE ARE A WARM SPACE

HAVE A
CHAT

talkcommunity.org/warmspace

 Herefordshire
Council

Delivering support for those over 50 who have concerns about their physical, financial and mental wellbeing, our services have never been more in demand. Sonia, our Information and Advice Officer is based in The Master's House and can offer a range of support according to your needs. Following an initial chat on the phone, she will organise an appointment if necessary.

From April 2021 to April 2022, we supported 118 older people to draw down £126k in benefits in the Ledbury area, totalling 1157 contacts with local service users. As part of the Household Support Fund, we will be offering free home energy checks and warm home packs to eligible Ledbury residents over the winter months to increase energy efficiency and offer additional support to access grant funding to ensure that Ledbury residents are warm and comfortable.

We are also excited to announce that Keith, our Sheds Together Ledbury Coordinator, is working hard to find a location for the project, so please let us know if you know of any land or workshop space so that we can get started in Ledbury. We have already opened in two locations in Bromyard, and have a base for our Leominster Shed, so any idea/support would be gratefully received.

For more information, please check our website/social media or call us on 0333 0066 299 and leave a message and we will get back to you.

<https://www.ageuk.org.uk/herefordandlocalities/>

Facebook: @AGEUKHandL

Twitter: @AgeUK_HaL

Instagram: @ageukhl

Our office in the Master's House is staffed on Monday, Thursday, and Friday (although our Ledbury team member will work from the Leominster office on Wednesday on caseload too and will be making calls to clients).

Ledbury Food Bank - Here to Help



Ledbury Food bank has experienced an unprecedented increase in demand for its services this year and had exceeded the number of visitors it had in 2021 by the end of September.

In addition to providing emergency food parcels visitors can access advice on benefits, housing and debt problems and has recently been awarded almost £25,000 from the government's Household Support Fund which will be used to provide additional support to Herefordshire residents.

The food bank is open each Wednesday and Friday morning between 10.00am and 12.00pm and Thursday evening between 6.00pm and 8.00pm.

If you are in need of support please just turn up when the food bank is open, no referral is needed.

Alternatively either call the food bank on 07581 283092 during opening hours or send an email to food@ledburyfoodbank.org



LEDDBURY CHARTER MARKET

Every Tuesday & Saturday

*Price: Market House Pitch £22.00
Street Pitch £18.50
*as of 1 August 2022

Contact: cdo@ledburytowncouncil.gov.uk
01531 632 306



Are you one of Ledbury's amazing litter picking groups?
Fancy starting a group and making a difference?

Ledbury Town Council is creating a register of Litter Picking groups and we want to hear from you!

The register will help to coordinate groups to ensure that all areas of Ledbury have a regular litter pick.

Please email deputyclerk@ledburytowncouncil.gov.uk with your group's details to join the register

Make a difference to your local community

