



## Talk Community Newsletter 5 November 2021

### Talk Community Hub welcomes council Chief Executive

We're delighted to hear that Herefordshire Council Chief Executive, Paul Walker, popped into one of our fantastic Talk Community Hubs this week.

Paul visited The Life and Soul Kitchen in Hereford, where he heard about the great work they do in the local community and enjoyed their wonderful café (which even has a cheesecake factory....Yes, you did read that correctly!).

To find out more about The Life and Soul Kitchen and all our hubs across Herefordshire, visit [www.talkcommunitydirectory.org/hubs](http://www.talkcommunitydirectory.org/hubs).



**Have you got a project which supports climate change?**

If you're a local community group, charity, business or farm in Herefordshire, which has a fantastic idea for a project which helps tackle climate change and / or enhance the natural environment, take a look at the grant schemes available, to help boost your funding.

### **E-bike Grant Scheme**

If you're a Herefordshire based business, with paid employees, you can apply for grants of up to £5,000 to purchase an e-bike or e-cargo bike, to offer a low carbon solution to business travel.

The electric bikes will provide you with a healthier alternative to car travel, while saving money on fuel and vehicle maintenance. As an added bonus, cycling often saves time when travelling to meetings or making deliveries, cuts air pollution and will also help the county reach its target of becoming zero carbon by 2030.

You need to apply by **Wednesday 1 December 2021** and full details, including the eligibility criteria and how to make an application, are available online at [www.herefordshire.gov.uk/ebikegrant](http://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/ebikegrant).

### **Community Climate and Nature Grant**

This is for non-profit groups and organisations or parish councils based in Herefordshire and you can apply for funding of up to £15,000 for new projects which will deliver carbon reduction and / or ecological enhancement in the community.

It's based around four themes...

- Community buildings (energy conservation or efficiency measures)
- Sustainable transport (community cycle parking or electric vehicle charging points)
- Nature (tree planting, community allotment projects or the creation / enhancement of a community nature area)
- Other projects (waste reduction schemes or community initiatives which promote sustainable lifestyle choices)

The deadline for applications is **Wednesday 15 December 2021**. To find out more or to apply online, visit [www.herefordshire.gov.uk/climategrant](http://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/climategrant).

### **Farming in Protected Landscapes**

This DEFRA funded programme offers support for farmers and land managers in the Wye Valley AONB (Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty), to carry out projects which support nature recovery and mitigate the impacts of climate change, such as flooding.

The funding is for one-off projects which cover these areas of work, along with projects which provide opportunities for people to discover, enjoy and understand the landscape and cultural heritage or support nature-friendly sustainable farm businesses.

The deadline for applications is **Monday 31 January 2022**, but funding will be awarded to successful applicants throughout the application window, so apply today! Find out more at [www.wyevalleyaonb.org.uk/farming-in-protected-landscapes](http://www.wyevalleyaonb.org.uk/farming-in-protected-landscapes).



### Have your say on proposed flood plans

The Environment Agency, in partnership with lead local flood authorities across the country, has produced draft flood risk management plans, which set out how flood risk will be managed in those areas identified as being at risk of flooding.

The agency invite you to have your say and help shape the final plans, which will cover 2021 to 2027. Your responses will help find different and more ambitious ways of protecting people, the natural world and precious water assets.

The consultation closes on Friday 21 January 2022. To find out more and have your say, visit the [Environment Agency's website](#).



## When did you last test your smoke alarm? (When you burnt the toast, doesn't count!)

The fantastic team at Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue Service, as part of the Fire Kills Campaign, are encouraging residents to regularly test their smoke alarms.

It is estimated that you're around eight times more likely to die in a fire, if you don't have any working smoke alarms, which is why it's so important to regularly test your alarms, ideally once a week. Don't forget, you should have a smoke alarm on each floor of your home too.

If you're not great at remembering to test your smoke alarms, why not get into a new habit and test them on a day which will stick in your mind....perhaps on bin day?

In the event of a fire, working smoke alarms will give you and your family valuable time to get out, stay out and call 999.

To help keep you and your loved ones safe, try these simple steps:

- Test your smoke alarms when you read this message or as soon as you get home
- Make sure you test your alarms regularly, even if they're wired into the mains
- Never remove the batteries from your smoke alarms, unless you are replacing them (some require new batteries every year)
- Plan and practise an escape route and make sure everyone in your home knows what it is
- Help family, friends and neighbours test their smoke alarms, if they're unable to safely do it themselves

For more fire safety advice, visit the [Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue Service website](#).



**Last chance...Get your group on the map with Herefordshire's state of the sector research study (we can't do it without you!)**

How many voluntary organisations and community groups are there in the county? What do they do? How much influence do they have over county priorities?

These are just some of the questions Herefordshire's state of the sector research study will answer, but we need **you** and **your input**. There is just over a week left to contribute to this valuable piece of work, commissioned by Herefordshire Council and HVOSS, which will give us a detailed picture of the scale and scope of the sector in Herefordshire. The information will provide powerful evidence of the essential social and economic role voluntary and community groups play, along with demonstrating why the sector needs to be properly resourced, supported and listened to.

**Look what you can win!**

We need as many groups as possible to have their say, so please help us share the survey far and wide. Plus, if you complete the survey, you'll be entered into a draw to win **£500** for your organisation or group.

**Sign up for a focus group...**

Don't forget to register for one of the focus groups too, running in November and December. The details are contained within the survey.

**Have your say...**

It only takes about 15 minutes to complete the survey and play your part in making this the biggest and most comprehensive research study into Herefordshire's voluntary and community sector.

If you have any questions about the survey or the focus groups, please e-mail [claire@impactconsultancy.co.uk](mailto:claire@impactconsultancy.co.uk).

To have your say by midnight on Monday 15 November, visit [www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/Hfds\\_VCS\\_Survey](http://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/Hfds_VCS_Survey).

## **Covid-19 update**

There is still local and national Covid-19 information and support available.

**Local data:** [Understanding Herefordshire Covid-19 summary website](#)

**Local information:** [Herefordshire Council website](#)

**Local vaccinations:** [Herefordshire and Worcestershire Clinical Commissioning Group website](#)

**National guidance:** [Government website](#)

**Urgent medication supplies:** [NHS website](#) / call NHS 111

**Talk Community helpline:** The helpline is still available to help residents, who don't have support from family, friends or their local community, with food supplies, medication delivery or befriending (this includes those who are self-isolating).

Call: 01432 260027

E-mail: [talkcommunityhelpline@herefordshire.gov.uk](mailto:talkcommunityhelpline@herefordshire.gov.uk)

Online: [Coronavirus - Talk Community support](#)

## **www.talkcommunity.org**

