

Ledbury South Ward Report – Cllr Stef Simmons

1. Herefordshire Council Update

- Very sadly Cllr Peter Jinman passed away – moving tributes were paid to him by past and current councillors and the Chief Executive. The Council will miss his wisdom and experience.
- Following formation of a minority Conservative Cabinet a decision has been taken to pause and review the consented/agreed county library project at Maylord's Orchard in Hereford (£3 million secured from Stronger Towns Fund). In the interim collections will be housed in part at Ledbury library with the library bus traveling to rural areas.
- Work continues on efforts to improve Children's Services in the County with recent publication of the Report of the Commission to Consider Families Experiences – this was difficult reading and I attended the briefing with Government appointed lead. Ofsted are conducting their second Monitoring Visit this week (28th/29th June).
- The Big Economic Plan (strategy up to 2050) was launched with a new Economy and Place Board being recruited currently to deliver this.
- Current and new councillor trainings and briefings are still being held each week to ensure we are abreast of current activities within the Directorates.
- I have commenced work on the Planning Committee and have also been scrutinising all local planning applications, holding discussions with planning and enforcement officers regarding historic applications to understand planning conditions and obligations to be delivered e.g. Hawk Rise Travel Plans.

2. Ward Casework – examples of recent help provided to residents

- Reporting of various footpath and road defects and potholes including weekly discussion with Locality Steward, progressing priority of New Street and Biddulph Way repairs.
- Spoken to the Co-Op Manager and notification letter sent from Herefordshire Council regarding safety at the access/egress: visibility issues regarding hedge condition and sign placement, white 'give way' markings have worn away.
- Clearance of obstructed PRoW at bottom of New Street opposite Full Pitcher.
- Assistance with Housing Need application.
- Cutting of hedge along Deer Park recreation area.
- Assistance with nuisance issues off St Katherine's Way.
- Assistance with Blue Badge parking issue.

3. Events and meetings attended since last ward report

- LEAF/LYAS update on progression with permanent youth centre home.
- Malvern Hills AONB change to National Landscape designation following Glover Review and opportunities to help nature recovery.
- Meeting with S106 officer to discuss funds received from developers around Ledbury, also notice of new 'wish list' of projects for forthcoming Core Strategy review.
- Andy Evans John Masefield High School regarding safer routes to school, children's services experience and s106 fund projects.

- Eastnor and Donnington Parish Council – talk from operators of proposed new children’s home in Eastnor.
- Age UK - sadly following Bosbury site visit I arranged with the Buchanan Trust found not to be a suitable venue for a new Men’s Shed. Age UK are still looking for a Ledbury site for a Men’s Shed – very successful in Ross and Bromyard.
- Herefordshire Wildlife Trust Strategy Launch – discussion with landowners and stakeholders how to improve wildlife recovery in the County.
- Ledbury Community Day – fantastically well organised and run event, met range of brilliant voluntary groups and individuals.
- As part of the Big Green Week I attended the Mayor’s Sustainable Coffee Morning (well done Helen l’Anson, a great Clothes Swap was held).
- As Vice Chair I attended the Armed Forces Flag Raising ceremony in Hereford and subsequent signing of the Armed Forces Covenant by Herefordshire businesses.

4. Upcoming meetings/visits scheduled

- Headteacher Ledbury Primary School.
- Ledbury Rugby Football Club discussion of road safety concerns (reduction in speed limit) and future project plans.
- One Public Estates director re s106 health services money and associated project.
- As Vice Chair I will be representing Herefordshire Council at the Scouts Jamboree ‘ShireJam 2023’ on 8th July.

5. Contact details

- I am holding a Ward Surgery monthly at Ledbury Rugby Club on a Thursday 6 – 7:30pm by appointment, or can visit if mobility an issue.
- I am contactable via email stef.simmons@herefordshire.gov.uk or phone 07792881706
- Please send any written correspondence to:
 - Cllr Stef Simmons
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