

Ledbury Town Council meeting Thursday 4th August 2022

Cllr Phillip Howells – Ledbury West Ward Councillor's report

Quite a lot being going on since the last full LTC Council meeting on 9th June 2022. I have attended a number of Herefordshire Council related meetings.

One full meeting of Herefordshire Council held on 29th July. Key decisions were approved on investing in the Hereford Museum to modernise it to help attract more tourists to the county and a major investment in a special school educating SEND (special educational needs) children of which there are 1,000 in Herefordshire alone. SEND education is the poor neighbour of the system and substantially underfunded.

At the latest Children and Young People Scrutiny meeting I chaired on 26th July we reviewed the provision of services for children with autism and also the progress being made on the DofE supervised non-statutory Improvement Plan which is now in the second year of an intense two-year programme.

The plan is not going great at the moment with significant parent complaints following the Panorama programme, some 300 parents/families have joined a 'Common Bond' group set up for families to bare their grievances with the council's children's services performance and two well attended demonstrations have been held at Leominster and Hereford. As a result of a whistle blower on failings and allegations of wrong doing, the council is undergoing an unexpected Ofsted inspection, so it's a tough time for Councillors and Officers.

Other Ward Councillor related activities in the month:

- 21st June – we had the Ledbury Business Summit at The Feathers with councillors and local business owners meeting the council leader, CEO and senior officers to discuss a range of economic matters affecting the town
- 28th June – had a 'place shaping' consultation on possible housing plans for Ledbury emerging from the development of the new local plan
- 4th July – had a meeting with the Clerk with a Herefordshire officer on the implications for providing traffic gates in Parkway and discussed other traffic management issues that the town's TMWP has been reviewing
- 20th July – had a Market Towns Maintenance Fund update meeting with BBLP, discussing St Katherines landscaping, Top Cross repairs, Woodleigh Road bridge being one way again, road resurfacing and yellow lines/TROs
- Followed up on several cases raised by residents

On 2nd August I will have attended the latest BBLP Ward councillors bi-monthly Ledbury-issues-dedicated Zoom meeting with the BBLP locality team and will be able to provide a verbal update for the council meeting.

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Mayor report - Cllr Phillip Howells

Full details of the Mayor's programme to date for 2022/23 are in the attached spreadsheet

Mayoral engagements since the last council meeting on 9th June (26 events)

10/06/2022	Pay respects to the funeral cortege for former Cllr Dee Knight
14/06/2022	Mayors' meeting
14/06/2022	Commemoration for 40th Anniversary of the end of the Falklands War
17/06/2022	Meeting with Assistant PCC Paul Middleborough
17/06/2022	Renaming of flower beds with Ledbury in Bloom
20/06/2022	Armed Forces Flag Raising Ceremony Hereford
20/06/2022	Armed Forces Day Flag Raising in Ledbury
20/06/2022	Blooms and Beasties Photo Competition (Ledbury in Bloom)
20/06/2022	Mayor making Ross-on-Wye
23/06/2022	Music in Quiet Places Concert
25/06/2022	Armed Forces day events in Ross on Wye
02/07/2022	Stromstad Twinning Assoc 20th Anniv celebrations
02/07/2022	Stromstad Twinning Assoc 20th Anniv celebrations
02/07/2022	Ledbury Choral Society
03/07/2022	Stromstad Twinning Assoc 20th Anniv celebrations
07/07/2022	Twelfth Night - Tewkesbury
10/07/2022	Ledbury Celebration Day
10/07/2022	Romanian Orthodox Church
10/07/2022	Educational visit to Ledbury by 6 Palestinian boys
10/07/2022	100th Anniversary Violette Szabo from Rosemary Rigby

11/07/2022	Ledbury In Bloom - Judging Day
12/07/2022	Mayors' meeting
16/07/2022	Ledbury in Bloom Prize Presentation
17/07/2022	Evesham Town Council Civic Service
21/07/2022	High Sheriff 'At Home' Invitation
23/07/2022	Opening Service of the Hereford Three Choirs Festival 2022

A full programme of Ledbury Mayor activities has recently been put together with the office – details to follow, but some provisional dates and ideas already likely include:

Themed coffee mornings:

12th October – after the fair

6th December – Xmas and mince pies

14th February – Valentine's Day

4th April – Easter and Hot x buns

Civic Celebration – Sunday 4th December

Santa Dash/Reindeer Dash – to coincide with Xmas lights on day

Mayor's Mile - Spring

Mayor's walk on Herefordshire Way - Spring

Visit to HMS Ledbury

Christmas themed Quiz night - December

Race night – February?

Drag night – April?

Disability access event

All in aid of the Mayor's Charity for the Year – Strong Young Minds

Mayor's Consort – Hilary Jones

Mayor's Chaplain – to be confirmed

Ward Councillor Report: June-July 2022

Frith Wood Access

Over the last month or so there has been some local concern regarding use by pedestrians of the forest road access to Frith Wood through the grounds of Frith Wood House, which used to be Forestry Commission property. Frith Wood House changed hands earlier this year and the new owners have had difficulty getting used to the number of people using the route through their property, resulting in them attempting to refuse public access.

I've received more than 80 contacts by email and phone from locals keen to continue to have the option to use the road route rather than the adjacent Public Rights of Way. Forestry England have recently confirmed that the public continue to have right of access along their forest road and have encouraged local walkers to continue to use this route whilst Forestry England work through the issues with the new owners of Frith Wood House.

In the meantime, if it is possible for some Lengthsman/P3 work to be undertaken along the exiting PROW to ensure that the routes are not obstructed, this would also be of assistance.

Master's House and Levelling-Up

The project is progressing as outlined in my previous report. Additional funding has been secured to undertake the main landscaping of the square area and architectural/engineering plans have been commissioned to revise the approved design to reflect issues with interfacing to retained areas of paving, water management and to reduce the slope of the square to improve its utility for public events and markets.

In addition funds have been sought, through a bid to the Levelling Up fund, to undertake the outstanding landscaping works (additional to those already funded by S106 monies and council capital) and to resurface and redesign the layout of the car park to complement the landscaping and improve the flexibility and utility of the overall scheme.

The work to create a small public square between The Master's House and St Katherine's Barn, funded by S106 and county council capital monies, will proceed whatever the outcome of the Levelling-Up bid. The bid offers the potential for the larger more integrated scheme for the whole Master's House plot to be delivered at the same time to include more vehicle charging points, more convenient car park layout, flexible space for public events/markets/etc, improved disabled access and facilities.

Core Strategy Update

The public consultation on local spatial options has just closed, but recognising the delays caused by governance requirements, parish councils are still able to submit their returns into August. The Place Shaping options for Ledbury are centred around the most popular growth option from the January consultation (the majority of development targeted to the city and market towns) – but this is NOT set at this stage as the preferred choice. It is just necessary to identify a baseline option in order to consult on variant options. The baseline option for Ledbury assumes a further 600 homes between 2021-2041 in addition to the existing commitments of over 1,000. This and its variants are outlined in this document at the following link:

<https://res.cloudinary.com/commonplace-digital-limited/image/upload/v1654773770/projects/61c08cc79b0f2a77b3e65790/media-upload/ozo4rbqo8th8qgakluup.pdf>

BBLP Public Realm

The long awaited resurfacing works on The Homend between Tesco and the station are scheduled for mid-August and will be undertaken at night to minimise disruption. Tesco have very kindly offered during the roadworks to allow people who would normally park on the street to use their car park overnight, as long as they hand their registration number in at the customer service desk to avoid receiving any parking penalties.

The full BBLP Annual Plan for 2022/23 has now been published and can be accessed here:
<https://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?id=8781&LLL=0>

Museum and Library Drop-in Sessions

Herefordshire Council is developing proposals for the £18m redevelopment of the Hereford Museum and Art Gallery to create a major new world class attraction at the heart of Hereford, and the £3.5m redevelopment of Maylord Orchards to establish a new modern library and learning resource centre. These multi-million pound investments will strengthen and enhance the entirety of both the Museums and the Libraries networks across the county.

Once completed, the redeveloped buildings will attract thousands more visitors to Herefordshire each year which will also have a significant impact on our local economy and improve services for local people.

To find out more about both projects, 'drop in' events at Hereford Town Hall Assembly Room have been arranged on the following dates when members of the project teams will be available to answer questions:

- Tuesday 9th August 2022 any time between 1.30 pm – 3.30 pm and
- Thursday 11th August 2022 any time between 11.00 am – 1.00 pm

Anyone interested to know more but unable attend the drop-ins, there will be opportunities the coming weeks to view the presentation boards at other county locations (details TBC) and you can register to receive short videos about the projects at the following addresses:

newmuseum@herefordshire.gov.uk and newlibrary@herefordshire.gov.uk

Consultations

Improved walking and cycling routes to Hereford Enterprise Zone: The Council wants to encourage more people to cycle or walk to work at the Hereford Enterprise Zone and when travelling around the area generally. Improvements to achieve this are proposed for walking and cycling routes in the South Wye area. These improvements, which will offer a practical alternative to travelling by car for short distance journeys, will include:

- Changes to the layout of Holme Lacy Road and
- Changes to some quieter routes in the South Wye area that make it easier to cycle or walk

Anyone who lives, works and travels through the area is asked for their views on the improvement proposals. Your comments will be used to help inform the final detailed designs for each scheme. The consultation ends 31 August 2022.

<https://consultations.herefordshire.gov.uk/consultations/article/81/improved-walking-and-cycling-routes-to-hereford-enterprise-zone>

Taxi Licensing policy consultation 2022: Herefordshire Council (in its role as licensing authority) is responsible for licensing and regulation of the taxi and private hire trade. The revised draft policy, which covers the next five years, sets out the principles we will apply, when making decisions. **The consultation closes at midnight on Sunday 28 August 2022.**

<https://consultations.herefordshire.gov.uk/consultations/article/82/taxi-licensing-policy-consultation-2022>

County Council initiatives

I refer councillors to the Herefordshire Council Leader's monthly newsletter for July and August, and to the Talk Community newsletters which are also circulated monthly. These provide more information on developments and initiatives many of which are relevant to Ledbury and its residents. If councillors would like further information on any of the above initiatives, please contact me.

Councillor Liz Harvey

Independents for Herefordshire – Ledbury North Ward Member – 3 August 2022

Ward Councillor Report

Please forgive this brief report but at the moment I am manning our shop single handed as my husband has Covid

Councillor Howells report already gives you extensive information on Children's services. We have had meetings cancelled due to the Ofsted inspection

The No Wrong Door project which provided life changing support and opportunities for young people aged 11-25 in Herefordshire, due to a change in policy at hvoss, was very sadly closed at the end of July. NWD were a fantastic team working tirelessly for our young people

Following our Full Council meeting last Friday the Leader of the Council is arranging a meeting with our MP'S to discuss issues around the Rivers Wye and Lugg and specifically what Central Government is doing, what more can be done and what role our MP'S might be able to play in getting more done.

I was very pleased to be able to welcome Rishi Sunak and Liz Truss to Ledbury Rugby Club on Tuesday and Wednesday this week so that they could meet those locally who are able vote to elect our new Prime Minister.

I note that there appears to be nothing on the Agenda concerning progress on finding a drop in centre for our young people.

Helen l'Anson

04/08/22

