

Ledbury South Ward Report July 2024 – Cllr Stef Simmons

Herefordshire Council Update

There are no live consultations but the council officers are working through the consultation responses on the local spatial plan and local transport plan review, and implications if any of the change of government on these plans.

McCarthy Stone Planning Application I attended and spoke at the Planning Appeal hearing for the McCarthy Stone development, representing the council planning committee who refused the planning application. This limited my ability to speak on wider issues beyond grounds for refusal, but I was pleased at the collective defence presented from all those residents, councillors and ward member in attendance. Unfortunately the Planning Inspector allowed the appeal and whilst recognising the planning balance of loss of the green space felt that the benefit of older people having dedicated housing, freeing up other local housing, outweighed this.

Ledbury Youth

The work with multiple local organisations and schools supported by Herefordshire Council's Talk Community team is continuing with an initial report having been produced, and Rural Media are working with a representative small group to explore the issues further looking to present the work done to Ledbury Town Council and other interested organisations and individuals **on Saturday 12th October** at St Katherine's Hall.

Leadon Way Road

The construction of the 'Hopfields' development on the land south of Leadon Way is ongoing. The roundabout and highways works to narrow the road (to reduce speeds) and install a footpath, cycleway and toucan crossing are now almost complete – just awaiting lights switch on, speed roundels and gates for abnormal loads.

The proposed planting of the reinstated bund with trees has been delayed due to missing the planting window following planning discussions requiring greater density – this should commence from late October.

The works to connect the site to Shepherds Close have commenced and I am in discussion with highways and s106 officers for funding to improve the connections to Mables Furlong. Cllr Peberdy, Harvey and myself viewed the new show homes on site and discussed the potential for the meadow behind Shepherds Close/Spring Grove to be handed over to LTC once the development is complete.

Southend/Parkway

I have been in contact with LTC, BBLP, Head of Highways and Building Enforcement about the poor state of maintenance of the Southend to Parkway wall, hedging and pathways. LTC requested work to be done by the Parish Lengthsman to address weeds that were blocking the path near the vets and as strimming was deemed not possible due to potential for stones to damage cars, spraying was undertaken. The dead weeds are due to be cleared asap. Enforcement have written to the Biddulph Estate to repair the collapsing brick wall on the Southend and I am awaiting a response from the officer. BBLP have commenced some clearance work of the pathway and cutting of hedging past the tennis club to the Bullen. I will continue to demand work is extended to cutting back and clearance of the dangerous pathway to Parkway.

I have also reported multiple times that the operation of the lights at the Top Cross is causing difficulties and delays in some directions. I have noted some improvements however it is still does not appear to be operating smoothly.

Hawk Rise

I have been in discussion over a period of time with DRM bus operator, highways, transport and s106 officers to try and install and extend the bus service to the Hawk Rise development. This is now at an advanced stage with funding allocated, shelter design and build team determined and highways adoption being brought forward to enable buses to operate on the site. I hope to have more details and date for service extension in due course.

I requested that the Streetworks inspector attended the Hawk Rise/Martins Way roundabout to ensure reinstatement of the roundabout following recent works to enable grass cutting by BBLP. The roundabout has been seeded and cut

and the bank in front of Deer Park Care Home has been cut. I am due to discuss sponsorship of the roundabouts to ensure planting and maintenance in line with other excellent examples in Ledbury.

Platinum Way/Full Pitcher

Occupation of housing on Platinum Way behind the Full Pitcher is moving ahead following resolution of delays with legal agreements and highways works between the developer and the HC. The work to install a new toucan crossing at the bottom of New Street across the Leadon Way to the Riverside Park has now been agreed. I am hopeful we will have a date for this soon. I welcome all the new families and people moving into their new homes.

Planning Committee

My work on the Planning and Regulatory Committee continues. I have been scrutinising all local planning applications, holding discussions with planning and enforcement officers, s106 and highways officers.

Contact details

I am holding a Ward Surgery monthly at Ledbury Rugby Club on Tuesdays 6:30 – 7:30pm by appointment, or I can visit individuals if mobility an issue. I am contactable via email stef.simmons@herefordshire.gov.uk or phone 07792881706

Please send any written correspondence to:

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