

Ledbury South Ward Report May 2024 – Cllr Stef Simmons

Herefordshire Council Update

The Local Spatial Plan review Over 100 people attended the second consultation event held on 7th May at the Burgage Hall. The strength of feeling and articulate comments were well received and understood by the strategic planners who are now considering the responses. Although the Regulation 18 Consultation period has now closed emails can still be sent to ldf@herefordshire.gov.uk. I am due to meet with the strategic planners to discuss my concerns regarding loss of best and most versatile land, impacts upon the setting of the Malvern Hills National Landscape area and pressure on infrastructure and services.

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.

Ledbury Youth



The work with multiple local organisations and schools supported by Herefordshire Council's Talk Community team is continuing with some initial feedback from the 630 responses to the youth survey due to be presented at Ledbury Community Day. The first meeting of the Young People's Point of View Panel is Thursday 6th June with more meetings planned to prepare for a presentation to LTC in the autumn. The feedback has been used to support grant applications (currently on hold due to election) for the football and rugby clubs and is being used to inform other schemes and proposals including future s106 funding.

Dymock Road Flood

Since early January I have been pushing for funding and an engineering solution to the flooding issue in two places on the Dymock Rd. Drainage engineering works, re-instatement of edging and resurfacing was completed last month. This involved digging out new drainage channels, reinforcement of drain headwalls and clearance of railway sleepers that had been washed down the land drainage pipes into catch pits reducing flow capacity by 70%. Local landowner also cleared sections of drainage on private land enabling clear flow of surface water. Whilst his has resolved the majority of the issues further heavy rainfall brought more detritus down the channel from the woods that blocked the catch pit at the second site. Engineers are now working up a scheme to address this with a grill, regular maintenance inspection and wider investigation into changes in the drainage regime.



Leadon Way Road

The construction of the Vistry/Bovis development on 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. The road was recently closed to allow for resurfacing of the stretch between Hawk Rise and Southend roundabout to be brought up to correct profile. 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. I am also meeting Vistry on site this week to discuss site levels and western boundary with Hawk Rise.

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 extent 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.

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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