

Ledbury South September 2023 Ward Report – Cllr Stef Simmons

1. Herefordshire Council Update

- Next Full Council meeting scheduled for 13th October. Discussion around budget, children's services, community wellbeing.
- Keep Herefordshire Warm advice line for home energy grant is still open. The advice line please call 0800 677 1432 (Monday - Friday 9am to 5pm) or email khw.advicecentre@yesenergysolutions.co.uk
- For those homes in Ledbury/surrounding area not connected to Gas mains the Council is working in partnership with Severn Wye Energy Agency to offer the Home Upgrade Grant, part of a £7 million government scheme, to pay for much needed energy-saving home improvements. This is open to anyone with household income below £31,000 per year or on means tested benefits. To apply for the Home Upgrade Grant, call the Severn Wye team on 0800 170 1432.
- My work on the Planning Committee continues. I have 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. This includes new Vistry site.

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

- Reporting of various footpath and road defects and potholes including Biddulph Way, New Street, A438 and Parkway
- Helping residents with housing concerns
- Helping resolve concerns with Dwr Cymru Welsh Water works on Southend (residents parking and traffic lights problems)
- Pursuing support for residents with poor broadband access in Parkway and Eastnor
- Discussion with resident regarding potential on street EV charge point, and application to the LEVI fund run by Herefordshire Council to provide infrastructure in line with County wide Net Zero progress
- Getting urgent closure and action from BBLP to repair Town trail barrier to prevent falls from Bridge Street access point.
- Addressing concerns about Vistry development commencement and hedgerow removal along Leadon Way.

3. Events and meetings attended since last ward report

- LEAF family fun day – helped with a stall and met lots of families enjoying fun in the sun.
- Carnival float judging and collection of donations along route
- 20mph information evening with talk from Prof John Whitelegg on public health benefits to residents.
- Ledbury Swifts and Ledbury Town Football Clubs meeting on current plan for move to new site, future aspirations for the site.
- Further discussions with S106 delivery officers to discuss funds received from developers around Ledbury and new 'wish list' of projects for forthcoming Core Strategy review.

- Meeting with Eastnor Estate and discussion of opportunities for better transport links, road safety, road condition, public access, tourism, housing energy improvements
- Ledbury Rugby Football Club meeting to discuss opportunities for improving community use and accessibility
- Meeting with area Highways Engineers regarding potential Ledbury Traffic Regulation Orders to be delivered under Stronger Towns Fund.
- As Vice Chair I represented Herefordshire Council at the Hereford Art College Graduation, 6th Battalion Rifles Bugles Breakfast, Citizenship Ceremony to welcome new British Citizens.
- Discussion with Canal Trust and Planners regarding delivery of project on Bloor Homes site.

4. Contact details

- I am holding a Ward Surgery monthly at Ledbury Rugby Club on Tuesdays 6:30 – 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
 - C/O Herefordshire Council
 - Plough Lane
 - Hereford
 - HR4 0LE