

January 2024 Report from Cllr Justine Peberdy – Ward Councillor Ledbury West

The consultation process with a cross-party working group for the Public Realm Services Future Operating Model has come to an end. The group, of which Liz and I were members, made observations and recommendations about the contract with Balfour Beatty, which we hope will lead to better customer service, value for money, higher environmental standards and improved engagement with ward members, parish councils, community group and volunteers. Recommendations include; review and redesign of litter bin emptying system, expansion of lengthsman scheme, rebrand and relaunch as a new service. The Future Operating Model is scheduled to be determined at Cabinet on 28 March 2024.

The construction of the shared cycle footway at the back of Golding Way, associated with the Bloor Homes development, has been on hold since the beginning of December and the footpath is closed. Residents on Golding Way contacted me because they feel that they have not been properly consulted on the plans. Andy Byng (Senior Engineer, Economy and Environment Directorate) has checked and provided all the relevant planning and environmental impact documents and will be arranging a site meeting shortly.

A new Volunteer Coordinator has been appointed to work with the Public Rights of Way (PROW) team at Herefordshire Council. He will support, organise and arrange training for volunteers. Volunteers, working closely with Public Footpath Officers, will help maintain and inspect PROW and report and remove defects. Currently there are 1218 PROW enquiries awaiting inspection. The Local Access Forum, of which I am a member, will be learning more about how this will work at our next meeting on Friday 25 January.

The deadline for the consultation process for the County Plan 2024 - 2028 has been extended to February 8 to allow more time for engagement with the public. At this stage there is a simple questionnaire to complete which can be found on the HC website under Consultations. [Latest consultations – Herefordshire Consultations](#)

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Ledbury South January 2024 Ward Report – Cllr Stef Simmons

Herefordshire Council Update

Budget

The minority Conservative led administration instigated a review of Talk Community (service to support community and voluntary groups in Herefordshire) ostensibly to look at value for money and effectiveness of delivery across the County and to see where savings can be made to fund administration priorities. This impacted a range of projects in Ledbury bidding for Superhubs funding including plans for a new youth club and food bank plans for a new clinic. I have been raising this concern at Full Council, Scrutiny Management Board (where I substituted for Cllr Chowns), with Cabinet members and I met with the Director of Community Wellbeing last week to discuss the directorates approach to support for all ages in the County. I was reassured that the current review will ensure continued support for community early intervention. I will await review outcome but will continue to press for funding and support for people in Ledbury.

Borrowing is proposed by the administration to help fund road repairs to supplement grants secured from central Government. Concerns have been raised at scrutiny committee.

I attended last night a briefing on the Annual Delivery Plan. This sets out the services Highways and BBLP deliver on behalf of HC. I along with colleagues raised a number of issues not discussed or identified. We are awaiting further details but are aware that £450,000 worth of savings are being looked for in the budget.

Herefordshire Council (HC) Capital and Revenue budget is due for consideration and approval at next Full Council meeting (9th February). Attendance and questions from the public are welcomed and encouraged.

20mph zones

It was reported today in the Hereford Times that it has been discovered via a FOI request that the Herefordshire wide 20mph feasibility study due to be commissioned before Christmas has been shelved, this will necessitate costly individual TROs everywhere communities and schools are requesting them e.g. John Masefield High School. Further clarification is being sought as funding was available for this from central government and explicit questions had been asked of cabinet members and officers on this issue at recent scrutiny and Full Council meetings.

Current Consultations

The consultation period on the administrations 4 year County Plan (not to be confused with the Development Framework - Local Plan) has been extended to 8th February to provide opportunity for additional public consultation given it coincided with Christmas. Please see questionnaire on the HC website under Consultations. [Latest consultations – Herefordshire Consultations](#)

Information Events

On 6th February Herefordshire Natural Flood Management Project is holding an information day (Herefordshire Town Hall). If you want to learn more about how the Herefordshire Natural Flood Management (NFM) Project is reducing flood risk, then book in to one of our information sessions (morning or afternoon). The Herefordshire NFM project is working collaboratively with landowners and communities within the seven priority sub-catchments, identifying opportunities to work with natural processes to slow the flow of water within the catchment and reduce the flood risk to

downstream communities. More information about the project and how to book can be found at www.herefordshire.gov.uk/nfm or by emailing NFM@herefordshire.gov.uk

Ledbury Youth

As per my election campaign promise I have been working to try and improve provision of and access to youth services in Ledbury. As part of this I have attended two meetings (December and January) of organisations who are providing youth services or have funding to support youth services within Ledbury. The aim is to understand what is wanted by young people, how and where that can be delivered, and how funded. Funding has been secured by Rural Media from charitable trust to undertake an initial online youth consultation event to determine need and wants, with future work to be based on this. More detail will be provided within a funding request to LTC to support this vital work to benefit Ledbury. I very much hope Councillors are able to support this.

Dymock Road Flood

Following direct contact from residents and social media posts I have spent last few weeks trying to get the pluvial flooding issue on the Dymock Rd resolved with Highways/BBLP (now been there for nearly 3 months). This has involved multiple emails and phone calls, and site visits, without much success to date. I have been informed that the locality steward assessment is that nothing can be done to investigate/resolve the issue until water levels recede. In the meantime flood warning signs are deemed sufficient. I have repeatedly stressed this is not satisfactory, the flood is deep necessitating crossing of carriageway on a National Speed Limit blind bend of all users (vehicles, pedestrians, cyclists). Have requested pumping off of water to enable investigation (residents assert there is a blocked culvert/pipe under the road) and clearing of ditch. Emails are now going unanswered and I have had no response to my request.

Ledbury Top –Cross Closure (Worcester Road, Gloucester Road, New Street, High Street)

From 5th to 28th February there will be works undertaken in the vicinity of Top Cross by BBLP, Welsh Water and National Power. This will involve phased 4 way lights for most of that time – however there will be a 6 day full closure (24hrs) from 11th February until 6am Saturday 17th February (Half-term holiday). This will enable the upgrading of the traffic lights to improve flow, a new power connection and a new water main. It is likely that both Cut Throat Lane and Knapp Lane will be closed to all except residents. The official diversion route is lengthy via A417/M50, and will be shown on google/apple maps and live HGV satnavs. Vehicles travelling from Malvern will be turned at the Eastnor A438 junction. I have attended a meeting with engineers and have requested clarification on numerous issues to try and ensure residents/businesses in my ward are supported during this time.

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.

Vistry site - Land South of Leadon Way - A revised planning application has been submitted for the development. This includes amendments and details of landscaping amongst other elements. Consultation on this runs until Thursday 1st February and comments can be made via the web site (Herefordshire Planning Search – application number 233023). See attached my response to the planning case officer for detailed comments.

Recent decision taken by Planning Committee to refuse consent for the proposed **McCarthy Stone retirement complex at The Knapp** in Ledbury is being appealed via hearing expected in Spring 2024. The Planning Inspector denied a request from the appellant for a Public Inquiry. This will require input from interested groups and individuals willing to speak and support would be appreciated from LTC given Neighbourhood Development Plan policy on the site.

Events and meetings attended since last ward report

- Support to residents with housing issues
- Dymock rd flood site visits
- 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
- Meetings with LEAF/local schools/sports clubs/Rural Media/CLD Trust on youth service provision in Ledbury
- Attended briefing on revised waste contract proposals
- Attended briefing and asked questions on the Annual Delivery Plan (BBLP)
- Site meetings with Vistry and Planning officer regarding concerns (lighting, generator noise, bund height, tree removal, access arrangement, surface ramps etc)
- Site meeting with Highways officer on Leadon Way re revised speed limit proposals and installation of new Toucan crossing at bottom of New Street to connect to Ross road
- Meeting with Highways engineer on s106 projects, Eastnor possible Traffic Regulation Order to reduce speed limit, request for highways improvements in Parkway, Eastnor and Ross Road

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:

Cllr Stef Simmons
C/O Herefordshire Council
Plough Lane
Hereford
HR4 0LE

Ward Member Comments Ref: Application 233023 Land South of Leadon Way – s73 MMA

Planning History

192482/O	Outline planning permission with all reserved (save access) for the erection 212243 – Variation of conditions 4, 15, 19 and 24 of planning permission 192482 (Outline planning permission with all matters reserved (save access) for the erection of up to 140 residential dwellings (use class C3) with associated parking, access roads, public open space, landscaping, sustainable urban drainage, and associated works) - to include revised plans and reports reflecting revised location of roundabout.	Approved subject to conditions
212244/AM	Proposed non-material amendment to planning permission 192482 (Outline planning permission with all matters reserved (save access) for the erection of up to 140 residential dwellings (use class C3) with associated parking, access roads, public open space, landscaping, sustainable urban drainage, and associated works.	Approval of Non-Material Amendment
221621/AM	Amendment to red line boundary. 220855 - Application for approval of reserved matters following outline approval. (212243).	Approval of Non-Material Amendment
212243/O	Variation of conditions 4, 15, 19 and 24 of planning permission 192482 (Outline planning permission with all matters reserved (save access) for the erection of up to 140 residential dwellings (use class C3) with associated parking, access roads, public open space, landscaping, sustainable urban drainage, and associated works) - to include revised plans and reports reflecting revised location of roundabout.	Approved subject to conditions
222698/XA2	Application for approval of details reserved by conditions 7, 9 & 11 attached to planning permission 212243.	Approved
222992/XA2	Application for approval of details reserved by condition 8 attached to planning permission 212243.	Approved
223024/XA2	Application for approval of details reserved by condition 10 attached to planning permission 212243.	Refused
223025/XA2	Application for approval of details reserved by conditions 12 & 14 attached to planning permission 212243.	Refused
232283/XA2	Application for approval of details reserved by conditions 12 attached to planning permission 212243.	Approved
232302/XA2	Application for approval of details reserved by condition 16 attached to planning permission 212243.	Approved
231858/AM	Proposed non-material amendment to planning permission (Outline planning permission 212243) and associated reserved matters 220855) - Amendment to Affordable Housing distribution.	Approved
232381/XA2	Application for approval of details reserved by condition 10 attached to planning permission 212243.	Not yet determined
232980/XA2	Application for approval of details reserved by condition 6 attached to planning permission 212243.	Not yet determined.

The current application is a section s73 minor material amendment to planning permission 212243 which formed the 'root' planning consent (highlighted in yellow).

This application follows the recent non-material amendment planning permission 232303 to amend the red line boundary only, to enable reinstatement of the bund, as included within this current application. It is understood the Planning Officer also requested that all outstanding conditions were

reattached to this application and drawings to enable clear comprehension of the scheme, which is welcomed.

Whilst a previous application for amendment of the redline boundary included the area of land for the revised cycleway/footpath link it is understood that no planning permission has been granted for the development of this. This application therefore seeks permission to relocate the cycle/footpath link from Jubilee Close to Shepherds Close.

Bund works

Concerns have been raised by residents that works have been undertaken in advance of this application and permission to reinstate the section of bund removed to facilitate the previously consented new access roundabout location.

It is understood Vistry acknowledge this and have undertaken infill operation at own risk to try and reduce the visual and noise impact of traffic/construction created by the bund removal on residents of Spring Grove and Shepherds Close. Whilst early reinstatement is generally welcomed the pre-commencement works for the bund removal and reinstatement with access via land in Vistry's ownership (the meadow accessed via Shepherd's Close), location of storage compounds, severance of informal access, removal of mature and semi mature hedgerows and trees and no obvious use of CEMP controls safeguarding reptiles, amphibians or bats - all caused great concern for residents. Planning enforcement, ecologist and tree officer subsequently attended the site at my request.

Current Site Condition (22/01/2024)

Existing hedgerows/trees (with the exception of those subject to TPOs) to the north and south of Leadon Way have been in large parts removed. Within the site, construction compounds and earthworks have been established. The three-arm access roundabout for the site has been formed on Leadon Way that is at a higher level than the current highway, and higher than originally anticipated. This has required temporary ramps and road surface levels, with a new cycle/footpath and drainage currently under construction. Lighting columns on Leadon Way are yet to be installed and temporary lighting of the roundabout is in place powered by a noisy diesel generator. The bund re-instatement has been formed to the previous height, however due to the increase in road height to the south the bund is not achieving sufficient height when measured from new road levels. The gradient profile is also incorrect with 2:1 on the north (meadow side) and 3:1 on the south (traffic side). This would preclude effective landscaping of the bund.

Whilst highways works (s278) have commenced on construction of a footpath/cycleway within the highway extent no works have yet commenced (pre-commencement/construction) of the proposed footpath/cycleway from its connection point on Leadon Way through the meadow to Shepherds Close e.g. removal of bund/vegetation screening.

Review of Planning Application Documents

Plans, surveys and assessments have been provided to support the current application. Within the application covering letter this is specified as including updated surveys and assessments e.g. ecology, arboriculture. This review notes some areas of concern (as titled within list of supporting documents on planning portal), with clarification required prior to determination:

1. Condition 4 – Travel Plan: It would be preferable to see provision of bus stop infrastructure included within the proposals to enable future service provision. As with the constructed Hawk Rise development the absence of bus infrastructure is proving a barrier to bus service

operator servicing the site. Given distance from key amenities and likely mobility issues of some future residents it is likely car use will be necessary. This is contrary to out LTP and Core Strategy. However it is noted that the approved layout does not appear to provide for sufficient turning area for a bus.

2. Condition 4/8 – Biodiversity survey and enhancement plan. A number of concerns raised directly with planning case officers since the approval of realignment of the redline area in previous application. Works have been conducted in meadow in proximity to records of amphibians, reptiles and bat roost. CEMP not initially adhered to with works already conducted in meadow.
 - Ecology Technical Note (edp2828_r021a) references dried pond (August 2023) but does not note the presence of the brook that runs the length of the boundary of the meadow (within some gardens) and provides damp/wet refuge for amphibians and reptiles during dry periods when pond is restricted in extent.
 - Biodiversity enhancement plan edp2828_d075e does not detail any biodiversity enhancement proposals in relation to the footway or bund infill. Given damage done to the meadow from earthworks it would be appropriate for restoration and enhancement opportunities to be located here (land within ownership of Vistry). Consideration could include installation of bat boxes, amphibian and reptile refuges, additional planting of species rich hedgerow, re-seeding of meadow grassland damaged with local native wildflower mix (sourced from Herefordshire Wildlife Trust).
3. Condition 10 – Landscape Management Plan (edp2828_r026a). This is dated August 2021 and does not appear to have been superseded/supplemented by an Addendum relating to the revised red line area incorporating the relocated footpath or proposed bund works. Plans provided within this documents are therefore out of date e.g. Sheet 2.
 - However Drawings supplied do include correct Landscape Detailed Design (Public Open Space) layout including the bund works and relocated footpath (edp2828_d072h sheet 5 and 6).
 - Sheet 5 provides specification of planting of the reinstated bund and the species mix is welcomed (17 Field Maple, 17 Alder, 17 Silver Birch, 17 Wild Cherry, 17 Rowan plus native shrub mix and wildflower margins). The numbers and mix should be confirmed and management including watering and reinstatement if fail within first 5 years should be conditioned.
 - No Landscaping appears to be proposed for the relocated footway/cycleway. This appears to be an omission as a proposed tarmac path without additional fencing/hedging is visually unappealing and provides no ecological or landscape benefits.
 - No reference is provided to the management of the meadow within Vistry's ownership through which the relocated footway/cyclepath traverses, and through which Vistry accessed the bund working area (see comments below).
4. Arboricultural Addendum Statement (Dec 23) - Annex EDP1; references 2m height of bund infill, with 1.5m top and profile of 1:3 northside, 1:2 southside.
 - Confirmation is required that the proposed 2m height of the bund should be taken from the south side finished road level to ensure partial screening of HGVs/vehicles on the roundabout/Leadon Way.

- It should also be required as part of conditions that as per the previous bund prior to removal, that semi mature specimen trees be planted on north side and top of the bund to provide additional height for screening of the roundabout and vehicles. This will assist with negative visual and noise impacts being experienced by existing residents since bund removal. It is recommended that girth of specimen trees should be no less than 10cm (denoting height 10-12ft tall).
 - Re-profiling of the north and south side of the infill should be done to fit with stated gradients, and facilitate planting of trees/shrubs on north slope/top.
 - Clarification required as to the width of the top of the bund (Roundabout Overall Scheme plan references 2.5m wide top (drawing 3309.62F) whilst elsewhere 1.5m referenced).
5. Tree Protection Plan edp2828_d078 elements G105, G106 and G107 highlighted have already been wholly or partially removed as part of pre-commencement works in the meadow (to facilitate access of heavy machinery via Shepherds Close to remove bund). These should be required to be reinstated, ideally with betterment, and ensure no compaction of roots with further works necessary on the infill profiling.
 6. Condition 15 – Proposed Roundabout General Arrangement plans. The plans appear not to have been updated from previous iterations and include a 4th arm off the roundabout into the reinstated bund. This should be removed and not approved as a general arrangement.
 7. Condition 15 – Proposed Surfacing Plans. Show the relocated foot/cycleway as AC20/AC6 tarmac path and grass edging with no edging finish specified, across area of meadow. No finished levels (AOD) are provided. Given this meadow is often boggy toward bottom end near Shepherds Close and in proximity to culverted section of the brook that runs the length of the meadow edge, additional information is required as to drainage proposed and to ensure surface water doesn't restrict use.

Issues not referenced in the supporting documents and planning drawings

Future Meadow Use/Status

The meadow behind the reinstated bund (providing separation of existing development from the Leadon Way) and the site of the revised location of the footway/cycle path is now within ownership of Vistry (July 2023). Prior to this it was grazed by cattle periodically. As such the whole meadow was fenced by post and rail with farm gate access and water connection providing a secure environment for livestock. The periodic grazing of the site maintained a meadow status, keeping brambles and brush limited, and with informal use by dog walkers when cattle absent. The presence of cattle/livestock led to dung and associated insects, that in turn support amphibians, reptiles and a population of bats (roost confirmed within T21). The reinstatement of the bund and the introduction of footway do not include reference to fencing or hedging of the meadow. This would preclude the grazing of the meadow, which without such management would quickly revert to scrub, and with absence of livestock will likely lead to a reduction in flora and fauna. This would not be in line with the Councils stated ecological emergency and core strategy aims or wider national nature recovery target or biodiversity net gain principles.

It is recommended that any consent should ensure through conditions the post and rail fencing/hedging of the bund and footway/cycleway connections within redline (and extending to

connect to existing fencing) to enable future grazing of the meadow to facilitate ecological management to maintain or improve existing habitat. This also dissuades accidental human/animal access onto the bund/Leadon Way. Whilst appreciating this will in effect create an additional field parcel to the west of the foot/cycle path access can and should be maintained by field gates for access. However this will need further clarification.

Lighting

Whilst accepted that lighting of Leadon Way and cycle/footpath is within Highways responsibility, consideration should be given to the importance of not lighting areas subject to ecological constraints (e.g. Bat roosts/foraging –T103 on addendum arboricultural note plan). Consideration should be given to motion activated lighting of the footway through the meadow to prevent severance of foraging habitat and nuisance to existing residents. Lighting of Leadon Way/Roundabout should have directional cowls to reduce light spill, especially in proximity to T21/103.

Linkage to Shepherds Close/Mables Furlong

The link from the proposed new footway to the existing development form in Shepherds Close is not satisfactorily denoted. It would appear that the gateway to the meadow will be in part obstructed, and it is not clear how motorised vehicles will be prohibited whilst enabling cycles/pedestrians/wheelchair users.

Alternative access arrangements to the meadow for management purposes (tractors/livestock etc) should be made clear.

Onward route to Mables Furlong requires crossing of Biddulph Way in proximity to a bend, and the existing pathway/alley is in a state of poor surfacing precluding use by wheelchairs/mobility scooters etc. Whilst appreciated this is outside of the planning application area the additional crossings generated would benefit from s106 provision to support works to improve crossing/surfacing of path.

Ledbury North: Councillor Ward Report - January 2024

Master's House Landscaping



A simpler sign introducing the Master's House project has been installed adjacent to the building's main entrance – see image. The stone 'map' showing the original layout of the hospital complex has been remade/renovated and installed on a sloping base surrounded by the original character stones – see image.

Works on site should complete in February.

The improved railing design has been fabricated and will shortly be installed. The mounting post holes for the set of ramp hand rails adjacent to the gable end of St Katherine's Hall have been dug and these rails will also shortly be installed.



Thought is being given to the arrangements for a formal opening ceremony for "St Katherine's Square". I welcome any suggestions from councillors.

McCarthy & Stone Development of 'Masefield's Meadow'

This planning application was refused by the county council's Planning Committee on 25 October, which resolved that:

"The application be REFUSED due to: the protection of open and green spaces; highway safety concerns regarding the site access; the impact on the landscape and conservation and enhancement of buildings of historic importance; contrary to Ledbury NDP policies CL2.1 (g and h) and BE2.1 and core strategy policies MT1 and LD1."

The appeal against the decision to refuse this development has been agreed by the Planning Inspectorate to be undertaken by means of a hearing rather than by public inquiry. Further details and a date for the hearing are yet to be received. The reference for the appeal is: Appeal 223248 - APP/W1850/W/23/3334961 - Green Acres The Homend, LEDBURY - P223248/F

Viaduct Housing Development

The street lights illuminating the roundabout at the entry point to this development has now been installed and the temporary arc lights removed. Hopefully this will have reduced the light pollution being experienced by local residents in the AONB which has a 'dark skies' policy. The first of the houses at the entrance to the development are nearing completion. I have asked for information on the start date and traffic arrangements for the works to the Hereford Road.

Below is the agreed phasing of the delivery of off-site transport and highways improvements agreed under the discharge of condition 5 of the planning permission granted for the development. As can be seen, the footpath and cycleway links to the site via Ballard Close and the old canal tunnels running through the railway embankment and their connection by means of a Toucan crossing to the Town Trail have not been delivered to the schedule agreed. These measures must be in place before first occupation of any dwelling on the development.

Table 6: Trigger Points for Wider Highway Infrastructure

Phase	Type	Description	Start Date	Completion Date	Trigger Point
S278 (1)	Bromyard Road Highway Works	Site Access Roundabout on Bromyard Road and footpath link to Bromyard Road Trading Estate from emergency access. Initial construction access via existing field access.	May 2023	Spring 2024	Prior to first occupation
S278 (2)	Bromyard Road / Hereford Road / Homend Highway Works	Improvement works at junction including signalisation of junction with new left turn lane on Hereford Road (onto Bromyard Road) and controlled pedestrian crossing to Station.	Summer 2024	Winter 2024	Pre-occupation of 100/150 th dwelling
S278 (3)	Hereford Road Highway Works	Package of measures including introduction of toucan controlled pedestrian crossing (including links to FP1), uncontrolled crossings, and new 3m foot and cycle path, widening, surfacing and lighting to Town Trail Link to the east of the discontinued railway bridge.	Spring 2025	Winter 2025	Pre-occupation of 250 th dwelling
FP1	Foot and Cycle Path	New foot and cycle path running along eastern edge of the canal connecting Bromyard Road and Phase 1 of the development to the Viaduct and FP2. New foot and cycle path through the Viaduct Tunnel to Ballard Close, and new toucan controlled pedestrian crossing to the southern side of Hereford Road. Surfacing, widening and lighting of section of public footpath (Ref 2818) to Town Trail.	Summer 2023	Winter 2023	Prior to first occupation
FP2	Foot and Cycle Path	New foot and cycle path extending under the Viaduct through to Hereford Road / New Mills Way roundabout.	Summer 2024	Spring 2025	Pre-occupation of 250 th dwelling

Flooding on the Bromyard Road

Blockages to the drainage infrastructure under the highway at the station junction have been cleared this month following flooding caused by heavy rainfall in November.

Network Rail have recently confirmed that they have a regular inspection schedule for their land drain adjacent to the station junction. They assert that the council's highway drainage infrastructure and/or the surface water drainage pipework belonging to Severn Trent is inadequate to cope with the volume of water being discharged from Network Rail land. I have asked for engineers to consider this claim and to engage with Network Rail as regards a solution.

It will be important that any improvement works to drainage infrastructure is carried out at the same time as the works to install the highways improvements and signalling systems at the station junction which are associated with the Viaduct Site 'Arches' development.

TRO Consultations

Consultation with Statutory consultees is now underway for the Public Traffic Regulation Orders proposed for Masfield Avenue, Newbury Park and The Homend, Queen's Court, Belle Orchard and Belle Orchard

Close, New Street, New Street and Fiarfields Road, Homend Crescent, Albert and Victoria Roads, and the Lower Road Trading Estate these consultations run until 13 February.

Consultations

The following consultations are live on the Herefordshire Council website:

County Plan 2024-28: The County Plan is the key strategic document for the council that outlines the ambitions and objectives over the next four years and highlights how those ambitions will be delivered. The consultation has been extended to now run **until 8 February**. More information is available here:

<https://consultations.herefordshire.gov.uk/consultations/article/107/county-plan-2024-28-consultation>

Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO) - Dog Control Areas: The PSPO for dog control came into effect on 27 March 2018 for a period of three years. The order was extended for a further three years from 27 March 2021. It is due to expire on 26 March 2024. It replaces the four Dog Control Orders which were previously made by the council under the provisions of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005. There are 9 dog control areas in Ledbury. The consultation runs **until 26 February**. More information is available here: <https://consultations.herefordshire.gov.uk/consultations/article/108/renewal-of-public-space-protection-order-pspo-for-dog-control-consultation>

Garden waste collection survey: Following recent confirmation from government regarding their waste strategy, we now know that all councils will be asked to provide a separate garden waste collection service.

Introducing a separate garden waste collection service will support the council's vision to increase recycling rates as set out in our Integrated Waste Management Strategy 2021-2035.

The council is assessing future options for the collection of garden waste from residential properties, and evaluating the introduction of a paid for subscription-based collection service to be introduced from April 2025. Legislation allows for a charge to be made to cover the cost of running a separate garden waste service and current evaluation anticipates that the annual subscription fee would be £55.. The consultation has been extended to run until **31 January 2024**.

Subscribing properties would be provided with a 240 litre brown bin. Collections would take place on a fortnightly basis between March and October giving 18 collections in total. The garden waste collected would be composted. Should this service be introduced it will replace the current arrangement and green sacks for garden waste will no longer be available for purchase and will not be collected alongside the black bin. More information is available here:

<https://consultations.herefordshire.gov.uk/consultations/article/105/garden-waste-collection-survey>

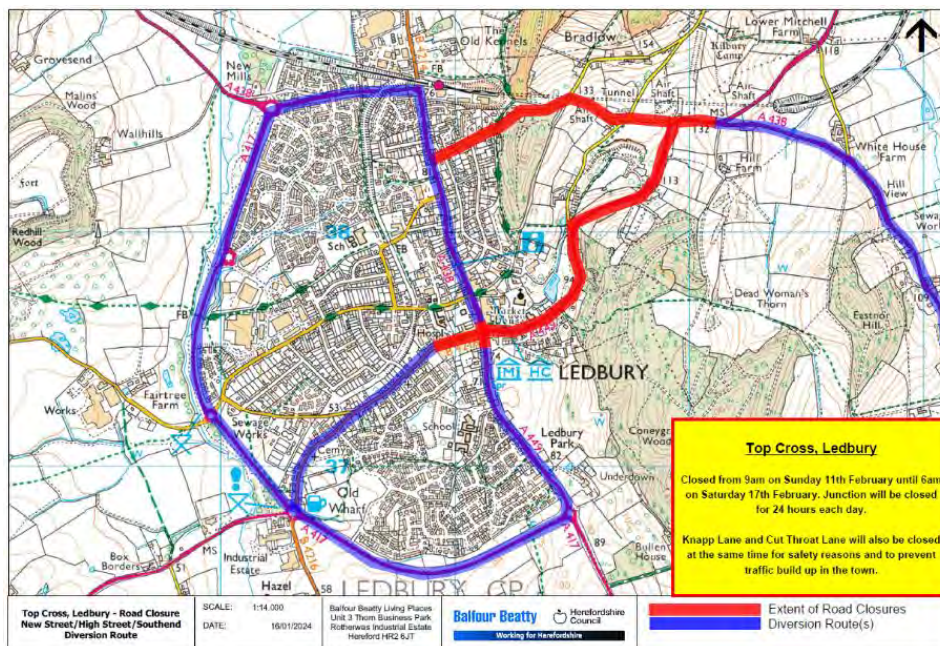
Police and Crime Commissioner Panel



I am one of the County Council's two appointed representative on this panel. The panel met on 19 January when it supported the PCC's recommended appointment of Kyle Gordon as the new Chief Constable for West Mercia.

I have been appointed to a working group considering the PCC's proposed budget and precept for 2024. The PCC Panel will consider approving the PCC's budget at its next meeting on 7 February.

Closure of the Top Cross



The Top Cross will be closed in all directions for a week from 9am on Sunday 11th February to 6am on Saturday 17th February.

This is so that highway works to the traffic light systems, and connection and infrastructure works to power and water utilities can be carried out jointly.

This joint working means that the junction is closed only once rather than on three separate occasions. Nevertheless, it will be hugely disruptive to the

town and to its residents and businesses, and also to neighbouring communities which are likely to face rat-running from traffic seeking alternative routes through village lanes.

Maps and diversion routes have already been provided and letters are going out this week to residents in the Knapp Lane and Worcester Road areas giving details of how the 24hr manned closure points will be operated to ensure that they continue to have access to their properties throughout the closure period.

I have made enquiries of the council's economic development team regarding what support or compensation is available to businesses – particularly to traders – whose operation are likely to be hit hard by the closure.

Parish Consultations

Consultations with parish councillors and clerks continue on a wide range of matters. The most recent being on the proposed balance of investment in maintenance work and services in the BBLP Annual Plan. It is very disappointing that so few Town Councillors attend these consultations. It is an opportunity for you each to express your view of what is important to our residents and is also an important support to ward councillors and to the Clerk who always makes every effort to attend these sessions.

The Town Council operates a number of services locally which complement those delivered by BBLP in our public realm, and consultation on the Annual Plan is an important opportunity to reinforce the priority of services in the town. More than £450,000 of cuts are proposed to the Annual Plan programme, including possibly reducing grass cutting schedules. We all remember the dreadful effect this had on the look of the town when this was last imposed by a Conservative-led administration.

County Council initiatives

On 22 December, Jonathan Lester, leader of the minority Conservative administration in charge in Herefordshire produced his first Leader's Newsletter since being elected into office in May 2023.

Talk Community and Talk Parish initiatives continue. I encourage councillors - and particularly committee chairs - to sign up for automatic alerts on issues of interest via the council's website:

<https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKHEREF/subscriber/new>

Councillor Liz Harvey

IOC & Independents for Herefordshire – Ledbury North Ward Member – 24 January 2024

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