

Ledbury North: Councillor Ward Report – November 2024

Signalling of Station Junction

As stated in last month's report, the works at the junction were completed by the end of the first week of October. The permanent light clusters were received from the suppliers later and fitted during October – however one of the clusters has been installed in the middle of the pavement on the station side of the junction and has been snagged for relocation.

Temporary lights have remained in operation due to problems with the programming of the permanent light clusters. The latest information I have is that the permanent clusters will be commissioned by Bloor's contractors on Friday. This should allow a more complex mix of signalling to operate which is expected to reduce the tailbacks presently being experienced on all arms of the junction. We shall see.

Highways officers are considering whether further yellow lines are required to reduce capacity for on-street parking opposite junctions close to the new scheme.

I remain sceptical as to whether the junction will satisfactorily manage the traffic volumes once the development is fully built out.

Pedestrian/Cycleway access to 'The Arches'

The pedestrian crossing linking the new development through the old canal tunnels to the Town Trail is planned for commissioning XXX.

The footpath links both sides of the crossing have been completed and tree works undertaken to the ash tree to the south side of the crossing to trim back diseased and damaged branches.

The further works on the Hereford Road to narrow the carriageway and to install pavement and a cycle path to the northern side are not due for completion until 250 homes have been built out.

Further Footpath/Cycleway improvements

Additional works to widen the bridge crossing of Orchard Lane by the Primary School and to provide a zebra crossing on Bridge Street at the Town Trail crossing point are planned and ward members are in discussion with officers regarding initial survey works for these projects.

A request has been made to install the 'missing' drop kerbs to both the north and south sides of the staggered ground level crossing of the Town Trail on Orchard Lane as part of the bridge works.

TROs and RPZs

The yellow lining TROs and the first Residential Parking Zones in Ledbury at New Street, Queen's Court and Belle Orchard and Belle Orchard Close have been being implemented during October. The lining works are complete, and the RPZs are in their start-up phase. Non permit displaying vehicles are being issued with warning notices for 2 weeks prior to the enforcement of the zones going live.

Residents in all areas are already reporting improvements in parking behaviour.

Knapp Lane

Ward Members and highways officers met with residents and the Mayor on Knapp Lane to discuss a range of issues with driver behaviour and the condition of the highway and signage.

Concerns raised by attendees;

- Visibility using the junction at Knapp Lane and The Homend.
- Large vehicles using Knapp Lane and the impact they pose when getting stuck (two media documented instances this year).
- Vehicle speeds, primarily along Knapp Lane.
- Pedestrian safety through lack of footway along Knapp Lane and the pedestrian/vehicle conflicts when using the route.
- Visibility using junctions that lead onto Knapp Lane.

Conditions on the ground;

- Heavy vegetation from the junction of Knapp Lane through limiting sightline visibility.
- Vegetation obscuring several warning signage.
- Kerbs covered/concealed with vegetation and detritus visually making the carriageway appear narrower.
- Some warning signage is faded and covered in algae.
- Warning signage is facing in the wrong direction.
- Lining is tired and faded in some areas.
- Carriageway is in a fair condition for the most part, noted that the bottom junction of Knapp Lane (jct with Ledbury Road) is worst with a pothole present.
- Blocked gullies, not helped by the surface patches being laid at adverse camber for water run-off to run around the gullies.

Actions suggested

- Issue letters to residents to cut back vegetation to boundary wall
- Contractors give a harsh cutback also sever any ivy from the roots and remove any dead, diseased or dying trees
- Side-out along the kerb line and remove all debris and leaf litter
- Clean all warning signage and reline to correct position
- Enhance key warning signage such as 544.1 (pedestrians in road ahead) with grey backs
- Refresh all white line markings such as 3x dragons' teeth, hatching markings, SLOWs and STOP
- Obtain new speed data through new traffic survey
- Refresh all give way markings

Long Term;

- Extend Double Yellow Lines on The Homend to improve junction visibility
- Compulsory vegetation removal to the East side of West View

Ward Members will be agreeing locations of traffic survey points with officers in the coming weeks and BBLP is being tasked to undertake a number of the maintenance related actions under the in-year work programme.

Flooding and Drainage Issues

Following action in response to a recent Notice of Motion to full council at Hereford on drainage and flood management, I have completed a feedback report to officers on the hot-spot areas suffering frequent nuisance from water run-off or from overwhelmed drainage infrastructure. These areas include:

- Businesses along the Bromyard Road - The Station Junction - Network Rail land drain
- Bromyard Road between Storesbrook Bridge and Burton's Lane
- Rhea Lane
- Knapp Lane - Homend --Tesco PROW - Robinson's Meadow
- Conigree steps – Worcester Road – High Street
- Dog Hill Wood Steps – Church Street/Lane – Bye Street
- Dog Hill Wood – Upperfields – Bank Crescent footpath
- Wellington Heath Common – Pub Lane – Pool Piece - Dogberry

Many drains and gullies have become blocked as the result of debris being washed into them. Councillors are asked to encourage members of the public to report blocked drains using the 'Report It' function on the Herefordshire Council website, so that these can be cleared before further heavy rainfall occurs.

<https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/report-problem>

Police & Crime Panel and Commissioner

I am one of the Herefordshire representatives appointed to the West Mercia Police and Crime Panel which holds the Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC) to account. The Panel met on 6 November to discuss action to

address the issues of Violence Against Women and Girls and of Harassment and Stalking. The Panel was not able to consider the Q2 performance statistics for the force because the data was not made public until the day of the meeting.

A number of public questions were received, which highlighted that the panel did not have a satisfactory process for handling these or for engaging meaningfully with the public. I also had to point out that there was no link on the Worcestershire Council website from the Panel webpages to the Panel meetings and agenda papers. Hopefully this will be addressed swiftly so that it is easier for the public to find out about what the panel is doing.

A recording of the meeting can be accessed here:

<https://worcestershire.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?MIId=7190&x=1&>

I would urge councillors to prepare thoroughly for the visit by the PCC later this month in order to make best use of the time and to demonstrate that councillors are effectively representing local residents on police matters.

The Q2 performance statistics for the force can be accessed publicly now here: <https://www.westmercia-pcc.gov.uk/app/uploads/2024/11/Q2-Performance-report- PUBLIC.pdf?x30892>

The statistics on crime figures for Ledbury can be accessed here: <https://www.police.uk/pu/your-area/west-mercia-police/ledbury/?yourlocalpolicingteam=about-us&tab=statistics>

A digital map showing the location of crimes in the Ledbury policing locality can be accessed here:

<https://www.police.uk/pu/your-area/west-mercia-police/ledbury/?yourlocalpolicingteam=about-us&tab=crimemap>

Malvern Hills National Landscape (MH-NL)

I am one of the Herefordshire representatives appointed to the Joint Advisory Committee (JAC) for the MH-NL. The JAC is meeting tomorrow (15 November 2024) to consider the following:

- Review final draft of the MH-NL Management Plan 2025-2030
- Approve the Climate Change Adaption Plan
- Receive the Planning Report for the MH-NL 2023-24
- Receive a report on farming in protected landscapes

Wellington Heath – Parish links

Wellington Heath Parish Council are concerned about a number of matters affecting their residents that connect with or are the responsibility of Ledbury Town Council.

There is a specific item on tonight's agenda relating to vehicle speeds on the approach to Wellington Heath through Beggar's Ash, but there are other matters of joint interest which would benefit from further discussion.

I would welcome the Town Council considering inviting Wellington Heath PC representatives – or the entire PC – to a meeting to discuss areas of common interest and concern at a mutually convenient time in the New Year.

Councillor Liz Harvey

IOC & Independents for Herefordshire – Ledbury North Ward Member – 14 November 2024
epjharvey@herefordshire.gov.uk

Ledbury South (Eastnor and Donnington)

Ward Report November 2024 – Cllr Stef Simmons

Potential planning application for 450 more homes



Figure 1 Source Vistry

As seen online/in the Hereford Times an application has been submitted for an 'EIA screening determination' for a further 450 homes south of Leadon Way between the Hopfields development and Parkway. This is the first stage before submission of a planning application. The developer has delivered a consultation leaflet to 3,900 homes in Ledbury asking what people think of more homes on this site.

More information can be viewed at:

<https://consultations.vistrygroup.co.uk/southledbury>

Herefordshire Council's strategic plan review is yet to report back on the draft spatial plan allocation consultation that residents responded to in huge numbers in the summer. As the emerging plan is in a very early draft stage it carries no material planning weight. The site is also outside the recently adopted Neighbourhood Development Plan. Furthermore Ledbury has already accepted over 50% more than in its total planned housing allocation for the entire current plan period (up to

2030). Whilst the new Government has consulted on changes to the National Planning Policy Framework and an increase in housing allocations, these have not yet been enacted in law.

In my opinion unplanned piecemeal site development as we have seen with Hawk Rise, Hopfields and the Viaduct (all on appeal) has, and continues to cause, significant problems for Ledbury and its residents. This is not how development should be brought forward in a plan led system. Please do feel free to make your views known to the developer.

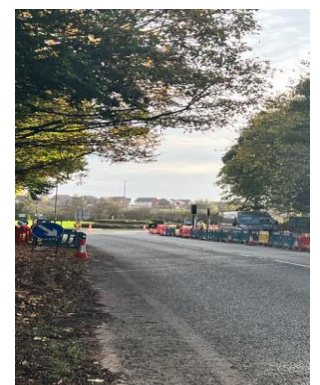
New Street/Leadon Way/Little Marcle Rd Flooding

Friday 20th September saw a highly localised rain storm pass over Ledbury delivering a month's worth of rainfall within a very short timeframe. This resulted in the pumping station at New Street being overwhelmed and subsequent significant flooding of gardens, residents unable to use water, and closure of highways. Severn Trent emergency team responded promptly with tankers pumping over 3 days. CCTV surveys and full mapping of connections and pathways has now been undertaken and along with previous reports of a blocked sewer in the summer, contributory factors have been identified with further investigations now being undertaken. I will be in a position to update once these investigations have been completed.



Leadon Way Toucan Crossing

The new Toucan Crossing and improved footway connection is being installed across the Leadon Way to connect New Street with Ross Road. This will help all ages to safely cross to the Leadon Country Park, and sports hub of the rugby, football and cricket clubs. This has been funded by s106 money from the Connexus development. I am pushing for further highway improvements to reduce the road speed outside the rugby/football club and extend the cycle/footpath up to the clubs to improve ability of children to access these facilities safely.



A438 Eastnor Resurfacing

After regular reporting of carriageway defects on the A438 I was told that resurfacing works scheduled for the 21st-25th October from its junction with A449 to Hollybush, have been delayed until the New Year. This is to enable more extensive works to take place. I am also trying to align this with some safety and sign improvements at the junction with Clenchers Mill Lane and the Woodshed café given the increasing number of visitors here and concerns of residents and users.

Ledbury Area Youth



LIGHTNING & THUNDER
FREE YOUTH ONLY DROP IN
11-17yr olds
beginning
8th October 2024
18:00 - 20:00 15:15 - 17:30
Every Tuesday Every Thursday
St Katherine's Hall
HR8 1DZ
Games, Food, Music, Activities

The work with multiple local organisations and schools supported by Herefordshire Council's Talk Community team is continuing. In October Rural Media and young people involved presented the findings of the survey of over 650 young people to community leaders including town and county councillors and our MP. This has led to some actions already with the new Head teacher at John Masefield High School setting up a youth council, the launch of the new Youth club/drop in sessions at St Katherine's Hall by LEAF, and work to repair equipment at the Rec, by the Town Council. Given the level of ambition the youth drop in needs more volunteers. Full training, supervision and DBS provided. Please contact sloeoppong@leafledbury.com for more information.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
ARE YOU INTERESTED IN SUPPORTING YOUNG PEOPLE?
We're running a youth group
18:00-20:00 15:15-17:30
Every Tuesday Every Thursday
IF YOU WANT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN LEDBURY, GET IN TOUCH BY EMAILING: SLOEOPPONG@LEAFLEDBURY.COM OR FOLLOW THE QR CODE AND PROVIDE YOUR DETAILS

Herefordshire Council Consultations

Trees, Hedgerows, Woodlands...have your say! Herefordshire Council wants a Tree, Hedgerow and Woodland Strategy for the county (h-THaWS) and has launched a 4 week online public consultation. This is your chance to respond personally or on behalf of a community or group and help guide the production of this strategy for the county's treescape, including actions that everyone can help deliver.



- What makes trees and hedgerows important to you?
- What is already happening locally?
- What type of tree-hedgerow schemes would you support?
- How do you see the future treescape of the county urban & rural?

Your thoughts, ideas and views are needed. The aim is to have a final h-THaWS launched in Spring 2025 helping support an increase in Trees and Hedgerows across the county and encouraging better management of those we already have. Further information and the online survey can be found at Herefordshire Tree, Hedgerow and Woodland Strategy (h-THaWS) or you can email us at hthaws@landuse.co.uk The consultation and survey will close on 8th December 2024.

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