

CLERK'S INFORMATION SHEET FOR
PARISH COUNCIL MEETING ON 28 MAY 2020

- 4.1 Get in touch: Tel: 101 to talk to your local SNT or report a crime. Email: kw.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk
Website: www.westmercia.police.uk Facebook /Twitter @NHfdShireCops
Useful information: Please find the links to the Fly Tipping prevention guides, currently viewable on the NFPG website. Always worth a read if you ever have the misfortune to encounter such waste.
Householder - <http://www.tacklingflytipping.com/Documents/NFTPG-Files/NFTPGAdviceforHouseholders.pdf>
• Businesses - <http://www.tacklingflytipping.com/Documents/NFTPG-Files/NFTPGAdviceforBusinesses.pdf>
• Landowners - <http://www.tacklingflytipping.com/Documents/NFTPG-Files/NFTPGAdviceforLandowners.pdf>
Dean Wall PC 07773 053846
Emma Dune PCSO 07971 051474
Felix Rawlingson PCSO 07971 051480
Report a crime Police 101 Ext 61216
- 4.2 Hope you are all keeping well in these extraordinary times and being nice nosey neighbours. Thankfully this month the weather has allowed us to enjoy the colours and blossoms of spring, the lockdown to hear the birds singing and indeed I heard the cuckoo on the 22nd April.
A big thank you to everyone for looking out for your neighbours, our community lead contacts, and the huge amount of random acts of kindness that are being done in our communities. I have again enclosed our main lead contacts who link into the Herefordshire system and hopefully can help with sorting out difficulties and problems. If you can offer some support, are in need or know someone who is in need please feed into them. I think we all recognise that the past five weeks are a phase in this crisis and we will need to sustain our local support systems for some time yet. We must not be complacent, our County will become more vulnerable possibly in the weeks and months ahead.
8 May should have been a public holiday to reflect the 75th anniversary of the ending of World War two in Europe – VE Day. Sadly nationally and locally all plans are postponed. There is a growing campaign in the ward to celebrate by having afternoon tea in your front garden on the 8th optionally including a red, white and blue theme. Flour and Bread stocks permitting put out the bunting and send me your pictures. Message from Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of Herefordshire, The Dowager Countess of Darnley CVO Lady Darnley, "Coronavirus has altered our lives so completely that we are all having to accept unexpected, and unwelcome, restrictions and challenges. It is a great disappointment that so many long-planned events have, for everyone's safety, to be cancelled, but it is still hugely important that we remember with thanksgiving the sacrifices made during the Second World War, and the joy and relief felt across the nation on Victory in Europe Day. Our parents, grandparents and great grandparents had to sacrifice far more than we are, and for nearly six years. We have enjoyed peace in Europe since then, and this is our opportunity to give thanks for their sacrifice and to celebrate the end of hostilities in Europe, and all the good things that were achieved.
From my high risk isolation, and as Her Majesty's representative in Herefordshire I send my very best wishes to our veterans and their families, and our friends working across the military charities, whilst also thanking all of those wonderful people across this county who are working so hard in this present crisis to keep us safe. As Her Majesty the Queen said *we shall meet again.*"
Locally of course public meetings have all been cancelled and I have been involved with many virtual meetings and discussions on the computer and phone. Regrettably there has been a postponement to the Lawton's Cross project due to the current situation, however it remains a priority for the year. I have been pushing nationally and locally for the reopening of the household waste sites including Leominster and Kington and hopefully there may be a national announcement and movement on this. Given the likely huge initial demand some sort of system may need to be introduced perhaps online booking.
I continue to raise concerns about flooding and was pleased to hear from the Lugg Drainage Board that maintenance, which is regarded as essential work, has been carried out during the recent dry weather including on the Southall brook in Eardisland with several minor obstructions being removed. The travellers site at Turnpike Pembridge is scheduled to be closed but unfortunately due to Covid this has been delayed. I have raised concerns of many residents on the condition of the site with officers.
The project of installing wetlands at smaller sewage works in the county is being progressed, but Herefordshire Council has no confirmation from Natural England on how this will be positively viewed by them and impact on the current planning restrictions. No development therefore is and will be granted for a considerable time where an increase in phosphate outputs will occur. In all honesty I think that could mean the rest of this year and the impact on local businesses on top of Covid 19 is a serious concern for local jobs and the business economy.
I have received the following statement from Shobdon airfield about some future limited flights. "Shobdon Airfield has been closed to all except emergency, utilities and military flights for the last five weeks because of the Covid-19 emergency. This is in line with guidance from the Civil Aviation Authority for recreational and instruction flying, to comply with the 'stay at home' government restrictions and to protect everyone on the airfield. Recently, the CAA have issued supplementary guidance permitting essential maintenance flights for aircraft, including where the health of aircraft engines requires a short flight every few weeks to bring them up to full operating temperature. The airfield has received several requests from aircraft owners for such flights, and is permitting these flights on specified days only, the first of these being this coming Friday, 1 May. The flights will take place according to the CAA guidance, will be spaced throughout the day and be of short duration in the local area around the airfield. Your residents may, therefore, notice some increased aircraft activity on that day, but please be assured that these are only being permitted where they are essential, and that general airfield operations will not be recommencing until government restrictions are lifted to permit these."
In this month's update I cover aspects of the current challenge in Herefordshire, how one local business adapted to Covid 19, highways update, an analyst of the County's population and a couple of local initiatives to support our frontline workers. As ever if you think I can be of help please do not hesitate to contact me.
Stay safe and well everybody
ROGER

Lots of activity is going on to support our key workers. In Eardisland material and sewing from WI members helped make scrub bags for the County Hospital. My own postman has asked me to pass on his thanks for the cards and chocolates he has received but to understand that with all deliveries and collections they will be keeping their distance. They are not being rude but no one wants to inadvertently pass on or catch this ghastly virus.

The NHS 'Help us to help you' campaign

The NHS is asking councillors to help raise awareness of a new campaign to encourage the public to seek the urgent care and treatment they need. New findings show that four in ten people are too concerned about being a burden on the NHS at this time to seek help from their GP, while data suggests that A&E attendance so far in April has been about 50 per cent lower than this time last year.

The campaign – including digital adverts, posters and social media featuring NHS staff – aims to reassure the public that it is safe to access urgent and emergency services for stroke, heart attack, and other killer conditions, as well as scheduled appointments, vaccinations and maternity services.

Herefordshire Council / Covid 19

Each Herefordshire Council ward is allocated an officer and assistant who reports to the council, who are the identified lead authority for our area reporting to Govt. This then gives a line of communication in both directions feeding information, concerns and ensuring support to vulnerable and branded as Talk Community in our county. Those who are identified as most vulnerable approx 5,000 are receiving a phone call from officers to double check. A management Board of officers headed by the Chief Executive Alistair Neil oversees the project.

Herefordshire has to date received over £11 million from the Government in two instalments to meet initial extra costs of the virus. It is early days to know the financial implications but I expect more funding will follow. Herefordshire Council has redeployed 200 members of staff, with home working for all staff apart from front line – no staff have been furlonged. Liaison with Wye Valley Trust (Hereford Hospital) and residential care sector is important as the council is also the commissioner of social care. The County Hospital released capacity with many other services e.g cancer care transferred to the Nuffield. The Council has and is procuring additional care provision for hospital discharges by entering into agreements with local hotel chains.

Locally to date figures of infections and mortalities have been much lower than our neighbouring authorities apart from Powys. The concern now must be to maintain vigilance by ALL the public to prevent an increase in outbreaks in our county now and when the unlock begins.

The enemy was well defined 75 years ago this time it is invisible, potentially deadly and can be brought to our community at any time.

In other departments vigilance is required for vulnerable adults and children in certain domestic settings; 62 of our 92 schools are in some way open being attend by many but numbers should be higher, some attendees include children in local authority care or protection. Enforcement teams are working with police on lockdown issues and fly tipping.

An additional £62 million has been allocated to Herefordshire from the Government to support local business with various rate relief grants including hospitality and Leisure grants. Currently £45.5 million has been paid out to just under 4,000 Herefordshire companies. There has been a good take up but can I urge any businesses in the ward that pay business rates please to ensure they get and apply for the grant they are entitled to - more details on

smallbusinessgrants@herefordshire.gov.uk

Local information on services and advice www.Herefordshire.gov.uk/coronavirus

National information www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19 www.gov.uk/coronavirus

HIGHWAY MATTERS

Basic highway maintenance has continued but some of the resurfacing and projects have been delayed including the Lawtons Cross change of priority scheme. As you will be aware this crossroads just east of Eardisland (B4592/C1035/A4110) has one of the worst accidents rates in north Herefordshire and I have been working with the Council, Balfour Beatty and adjacent ward to get a scheme in place. This was due to commence in late April for five weeks.

The proposal is to change the priority to a roundabout situation where all roads must give way.

It is not financially possible to put in a full scale roundabout but a circle will be painted and hatched on the highway of normal size with an elevated centre. I have the support of the local parish councils and have delivered details of the scheme to all households in Eardisland village and in these updates. This is the statement I have had from Balfour Beatty "With regards to Lawton Cross it was hoped that we would have been able to proceed as planned but given recent events and with agreement with Herefordshire Council it was decided that the start date should be reviewed as there continues to be uncertainty around Covid 19. This is due to the potential impact on site activities eg supply of materials, labour which poses a risk to ensuring the works can be completed within the existing TTRO durations. In addition we would not want to keep the road closed longer than absolutely necessary should we have to pause the scheme. We anticipate that works could commence in late June and as soon as we confirm timings we will notify you and residents."

I am confident that as soon as the situation improves these will be done. In the meantime I was pleased to see the new surfacing at Golden Cross junction. This junction has been the most serious accident spot in my ward in the past with many serious accidents and several fatalities over the years. The installation of the lights, bollards and road markings significantly improved the safety of this crossroads. I have prioritised this junction as we need to ensure it is maintained to continue to have the benefit of the safety improvements. The lack of traffic is helping Balfour get on top of the pothole issue but Please report any problems on highways or footpaths using the links below or phone 01432261800.

Go onto Herefordshire Council website and download the pothole App to help report potholes

<https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/transport-and-highways/maintenance/potholes>

<https://myaccount.herefordshire.gov.uk/report-a-pothole>

Report fly tipping it will be dealt with in a much quicker time frame. by either calling the Contact Centre on 01432 261800 or by logging the fly tipping via the council website on the links below as your

https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/info/200226/report_a_problem/98/fly_tipping

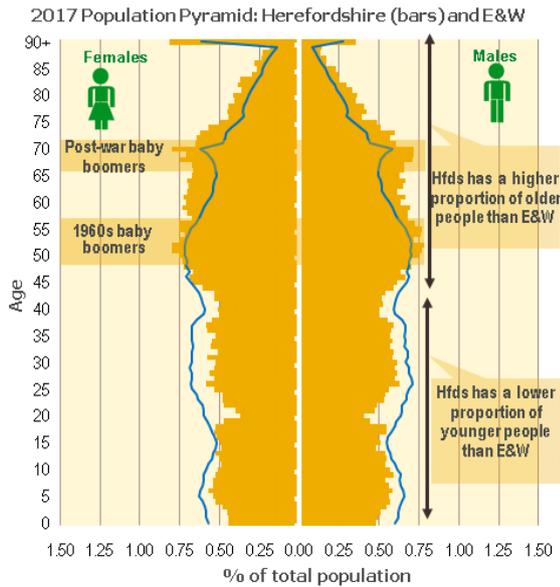
<https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/transport-and-highways/footpaths-byways-and-bridleways/cg-report-prov-problem>

If you wish to make a claim as a result of damage to your

vehicle https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/info/200196/roads/206/highway_claims

HEREFORDSHIRE POPULATION PRESSURES

This diagram I think really gives the background to many of the economic, health and social pressures in the UK and Herefordshire today.



The central spine has separated males and females and each horizontal bar represents a year and the number of Herefordians in the county of that age. The blue line is the England & Wales average.

The orange mass is the Herefordshire population and you can see clearly that the bulk of our population is from 45 to 70 years. It clearly shows the peaks of the post war baby boomers and how they are rapidly approaching retirement. In Herefordshire case the mature sections are higher than the national average and below 40 years they are lower.

This diagram tells us nothing new but I think the graphic is powerful. It shows the pressures that are here and coming on our health services, why we need to bring in workers to support businesses, the pinch point at 20 shows the lack of higher education, lowering birth rates and what that means for local schools, and the need to sustain and attract more younger people to provide a balanced economy, support education and provide the appropriate levels of support to the maturing generation.

Broken down locally in the Arrow Ward group of Parishes with a 3,687 population there are 1,035 people (28%) are over 65; 2,078 people (56%) are 16-64 and 574 children (16%) are under 16.

PARISH CONTACTS

Pembridge clerk@pembridgeparishcouncil.gov.uk Shobdon shobdonparishclerk@gmail.com

Lyonshall lyonshallparishclerk@gmail.com Eardisland parish.clerk@eardisland-pc.gov.uk

Titley Group rachaeljones.titleyppc@gmail.com

If you want to discuss a planning matter please contact Adam.Lewis@herefordshire.gov.uk

If you a planning enforcement concern mttansley@herefordshire.gov.uk

The following [household recycling centres](#) are open from **Saturday 9 May: Hereford HRC, Chapel Road, Rotherwas Leominster HRC, Bridge Street, Leominster Open hours 7 days per week from 8am to 6pm**

- 9.1 Some Lengthsman work has been completed while maintaining social distancing, strimming the one-way road and the recreation ground ditch. No invoice yet.
Clerk has received email from parishioner about the presentation tree on the millstream bank opposite the Dovecote. It needs branches removing to keep the lighter colour as it is reverting. Particularly bad on side nearest the river.
- 9.2 2 issues.
Millstream – again silted up. Email received from E team that unable to clear the berm and request the PC undertakes this work, as it will need a professional digger and trailer.

Main river – parishioner contacted Bill Wiggin for help. Response from DEFRA which states the following:

Riparian landowners (those whose land adjoins a watercourse) are also required under common law to keep watercourses clear of anything which could cause an obstruction to the flow of water on their land, or downstream if washed away. This includes maintenance of the riverbed and banks as well as any trees or shrubs growing on the banks. Since April 2016, individuals, such as farmers, businesses and public bodies, may also undertake dredging on main river watercourses. As they are also able to maintain ditches up to 1.5 km long, they can, where this is appropriate, dredge and clear debris and manage the land to stop it getting waterlogged, without the need for an environmental permit. Further information can be found on GOV.UK: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/environmental-permitting-regulations-exemptflood-risk-activities/exempt-flood-risk-activities-environmental-permits#dredging-to-remove-accumulated-silt-and-sand-from-the-bed-of-up-to-20m-of-a-main-river-fra24>

People undertaking watercourse maintenance must also make sure they comply with other legislation, such as that protecting flora and fauna. These protections should not cause a significant impact, however, as effective forward planning means that maintenance activities and their timing can be managed to support wildlife interests, e.g. by avoiding the bird nesting season and fish spawning, and achieve the required standard of river and stream conveyance.

The above link gives the following information:

With this exemption you can dredge up to 20m of a main river.

You cannot:

- remove gravel from the bed of the river, only accumulated silt or sand
 - dredge below the established bed of the channel or **re-shape the bed or banks in any way**
- Dredging means raising or taking of any sand, silt, ballast, clay, gravel or other materials from or off the bed or banks of a main river - this includes hydrodynamic dredging and desilting.*
- Before you register this exemption, you must check your activity meets all of the following conditions:*
- your works and equipment must meet the dredging requirements
 - you must ensure that the dredging and subsequent deposit of any materials does not have a significant adverse effect on protected or priority species of importance for nature conservation – read Natural England's guidance on construction near protected areas and wildlife
 - no dredging has been carried out in the previous 12 months in the same main river and property
 - the works are completed within 12 months of registration of the exemption
 - the works do not damage the bed or banks of the main river

- the works **do not remove vegetation from the bed or banks of the main river, other than vegetation growing in or through the silt and sand**
- the dredging is limited to the removal of accumulated silt and sand on the established bed of the main river
- the dredging does not include the removal of gravel
- the works **do not involve the use of a vehicle or machinery on the bed or banks of the main river**
- the works do not occur between 15 March and 15 June inclusive in any year
- on a main river that is a designated salmonid river, the works do not occur between 1 October and 14 March inclusive in any year.

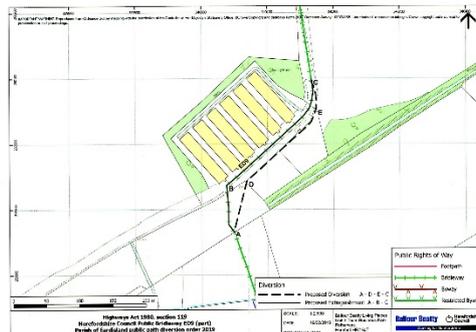
The highlighted items above would appear to be important when considering how to deal with the berm by the river bridge.

- 9.3 Email received before lockdown re repair to aerial runway (zip wire):
Our guarantees cover machines rounded timber elements of the equipment, along with 12 months after installation during which we cover everything aside from intentional damage. As you know we have returned to site a couple of times to deal with issues raised - I believe promptly and with a positive outcome.
The quote to carry out the maintenance was raised on the basis that we would need to send a team of two to site, and the £900 represents the day rate for that team. However your offer to have help available on site would mean that Ricky, our contracts supervisor for the area, could carry out the repairs on his own, so long as somebody was available to observe from a health & safety perspective (it is unsafe to send a single employee to site in case of an accident which leaves them immobile and requiring hospital treatment). In addition it may be possible that a site such as your play areas does not require site security while the work is carried again, again a representative of the parish authority could ensure members of the public are kept a safe distance from the equipment while it is repaired. On this basis I have revised the quote, please see attached (I have left the site security on the quote but this is optional).
 The quote is now £458.75 + VAT – after removing the site security fencing and welfare facilities.

Cost of annual inspection from Fran White's company £58.60 as previous years. Will be the same inspector as last few years as well.

RoSPA inspection cost £68.50 + VAT for 5 pieces of equipment, £3.50 + VAT for each extra piece. Likely cost £72 + VAT BUT no guarantee can be done this year as RoSPA schedule states Herefordshire inspections are in April/May. Email inquiry sent to see if possible this year.

- 9.4 Order now published for footpath diversion – PC previously notified of this proposal.



10. Correspondence – as follows:

From parishioners

- Emails from various parishioners – flood damage, information and photos
- Phonecall – highlighting issue of flood damage still not repaired due to Covid lockdown
- Emails and phonecalls regularly with Covid Response Volunteer Co-ordinators
- Emails and phonecalls re planning application

From other sources

- From Balfour Beatty – re inquiry about ED5, being investigated by Locality Steward in absence of a PFO
- From Herefordshire Council (HC) – multiple emails re Covid 19 issues
- From NALC – multiple emails re Covid 19 issues
- From various sources – multiple emails re Covid 19 issues

Alison Sutton – Parish Clerk

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