

CLERK'S INFORMATION SHEET FOR 14 OCTOBER 2021

- 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 Rawlinsong PCSO 07971 051480
 Report a crime Police 101 Ext 7723802
August crime statistics from West Mercia police website
 No offences reported in Eardisland area; x4 violence/sexual offence reported in Shobdon; x1 criminal damage and arson in Pembridge– no other information available.
Reporting an incident of bad/dangerous driving, you can report it **at the time or soon after** online and upload a photo or video that includes the number plate details to <https://www.westmercia.police.uk/police-forces/west-mercia-police/areas/west-mercia/campaigns/campaigns/2019/operation-snap/>
 If a road is blocked by such an incident, **you need to report it at the time to 101.**
New service launched by police – We are delighted to launch Neighbourhood Matters, our brand new community messaging service. Through Neighbourhood Matters you can sign up for local police alerts; receive information about crime in your area, find out about drop-in sessions, answer surveys, and more. You can choose exactly what type of alert you want to receive and how you receive them, whether it be via text, email or phone call. Sign up now <https://neighbourhoodmatters.co.uk/>
Fake BT call scam
 Criminals, pretending to be from BT (British Telecom) are calling local people and asking them to download an app on their mobile device which appears to allow them to take control of the victim's computer. Once the app has been downloaded, in order to 'assist' the BT staff, the offenders are then able to access the victim's online banking.
 The police received a report from an elderly victim on 23 September who confirms that he was telephoned and told by the fake BT staff that there was suspicious activity on his account. Once he had downloaded the app onto his computer, the offenders then took control. They showed him a transaction of £30,000 into his current account and said that he needed to transfer it into a different account for safekeeping.
 The vulnerable victim was then asked to attend his bank, keeping his phone line open. He then transferred the £30,000 into an unknown account. The victim has since found out that the original £30,000 had been transferred from his own savings account into his current account, which he then transferred to the 'safekeeping' account, which was the offender's.
 "I would like to remind everyone that the police, government agencies and well-known companies such as BT will never ask you to transfer funds for them in this manner. They will certainly never ask you to attend your bank and if you or your family receive a call like this, hang up immediately.
"Please speak to your elderly family members, friends, customers and neighbours to make sure everyone is aware of this scam and to hang up the phone, wait ten minutes which will clear the telephone line and then call 101."
- 4.2 Dear Residents,
 Life continues to get back to varying degrees of normality and last month I returned to Local Government offices in Smith Square and spoke at a pension conference in Leeds with 150 delegates. Certainly office working will never be the same again with homeworking firmly established as a practical alternative. The real challenge however is in supporting new employees in the team and managing staff from afar.
 Locally I am anxious we learn to live with the virus and go about our lives as normally as possible making our own and respecting others judgements. I have been pleased to attend various parish meetings, coffee mornings, social events, pub and café drinks and meals in recent weeks and meeting up with residents individually on particular issues.
 You know that for the last 18 months I have used the line phrase "be nice nosey neighbours" which is genuinely about caring and looking out for the wellbeing of our communities. As we go into the darker evenings keep that thought. Going forward we need more and younger residents (at the risk of offending under 70) to support existing groups, events and activities to continue in the future. That will be so important if we want to sustain the strong community and sense of place we all benefit from.
 Congratulations to Hugh Vernon on receiving his BEM medal from MH Lord Lieutenant Edward Harley at a special ceremony in Eardisland for his services to the community and in particular his inspiring memorial walks project. The siting of new oak kissing gates and dedication of our local footpaths to the local lads who lost their lives in the first world war was a fitting and mindful reminder of the centenary of WW1.

I arranged a farewell Coffee at the Pembridge Café for Lara, our retiring Balfour Steward, on her last day with the parish clerks. Paul Hunter is our new steward and I have met up with him this week and he has already met some of our clerks.

My contact at Gigaclear has moved on and I am trying to arrange a meeting with his successor to establish a working arrangement and dealing with practicalities like timescales, repairs and connections.

I am still awaiting confirmation of start dates for the Titley contract. We had a teams meeting last month to confirm the Eywood element of the Titley contract and I am grateful for the support of the local residents in helping to achieve this.

A reminder the Council is currently consulting on its budget for 2022/23 and the three year Medium term Financial plan . the consultation formally ends on 4th October – more details on

<https://consultations.herefordshire.gov.uk/news/article/61/budget-consultation-2022-23>

Six million County Covid recovery plan

Using a six million pound grant from the Government Herefordshire Council has put together a number of projects to support a recovery of the economy and community. Business grants will be available and promotion of the county to support tourism and hospitality sectors. Advice for return to work, re-skilling at a one stop shop and new youth employment Hub to support young people not in education, employment or training.

Encouraging people to return to towns with free weekend bus travel, refurbished shop fronts, discounts and investment in public rights of way and seating areas as well as various measures to improve physical activity and support people`s wellbeing including basic mobile and ipad lessons and free adult learning swimming lessons.

Details at <https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/downloads/file/22617/herefordshire-council-recovery-plan-2021>

There are currently three specific grants to support community and local projects see below

Community and personal resilience grant:

There are grants of up to £10,000 available for projects that will increase capacity in voluntary and community groups, to promote greater personal and community resilience, following the impacts of Covid-19. The application process closes on 14 October 2021. <https://www.herefordshirecf.org/community-and-personal-resilience-grant/>

Get active cultural activities grant:

Grants of up to £10,000 are available for projects that support the development of cultural activities, to improve mental health and wellbeing and get people engaged back into society, following long periods of lockdown and restricted access to services. It is open for applications until 14 October 2021.

https://www.comfirst.org.uk/_get_active_cultural_fund

Community climate and nature grant:

Grants of up to £15,000 are available for non-profit organisations and parish councils to support new projects, which deliver carbon reduction and / or ecological enhancement in local communities. The funding is limited and match funding may also be required. The application process closes on 15 December 2021.

<https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/climategrant>

As ever if you think I can be of help please do not hesitate to contact me. Stay safe and keep well everybody.

Be Nice Nosey Neighbours

ROGER

Eardisland Flooding concerns raised with the Environment Agency

During the wet winter of 2019/20 twenty four Eardisland households had to deal with the serious impact of their homes being flooded with all the loss, damage and disruption to their lives and properties that brings. Some residents had to vacate their homes for months and with the pandemic following it was only now that a Parish meeting could be held with the various public agencies. The Parish Council had been working with the Environment Agency (EA) and I with Herefordshire Council to understand better the issues, learn lessons, and any mitigation for the future.

With the support of the Parish Council residents have formed a flood group who can respond swiftly to help alert and support households to prepare for a flooding event. This includes shutting off the highways to prevent vehicles entering flood water for the passengers protection and residents`s homes being impacted by surge waves. This is only the second such group to be set up in the county and will play a key role with the early warning information from the Titley monitoring station to support residents.

The EA were keen to encourage property resilience but most house owners have already done what they can to limit impact. Discussion around de silting the river through the village took place and the short operational timescale due to impact on habitats plus the disposal of the silt and EA licensing fee . Their principle proposal was to lower the Glanarrow weir on the east of the village – the weir was lowered by 6 inches in the 1960s. This will impact on the water levels through the village throughout the year and many residents wanted to know more about that impact or why not release the sluice gates at times of high water level instead. The EA indicated they are looking at a whole catchment approach to the problem, seeking out upstream flood storage and any natural flood management. I offered to walk with their field officer upstream and look at some of the features of the river valley.

River and watercourse maintenance is important – keeping the water carrying channels clear. With our climate changing more high rainfall events seem likely to occur and rightly the community need reassurance that their vulnerability is on all agencies priorities.

Wild in the Curl – A 5 year project improving water quality & wildlife.

The aim was to improve the water quality of the Curl brook and improve the wildlife of the catchment. The approx. 6,000 acre catchment includes 25 farms, nine million chickens, two large Dairy farms, several AD plants

on the periphery as well as fruit, maize, potatoes and cereals. Beef and sheep. Throughout the five years sampling of the river quality has been taken by the group and as a result of the measures undertaken the project has recorded a 20% reduction in levels of phosphate in the water.

This has been done by a variety of measures including fencing off the river from grazing stock; roof spans over silage and manure stores, separating dirty water, concreting stock yards, planting clover cover crops with Maize, and working with Welsh water on the leakages from Lyonshall sewage works.

The project has been funded by Natural England and it would be good to see some funding maintained and further capture the good practice for the larger Lugg and Wye basins. Government grants totally nearly one million have also supported many of these measures.

At the last annual bird count in February over 18 of the farms, 1500 birds of 51 different species were recorded with 11 red listed and 8 amber listed – remarkable to have sufficient feed and shelter to support them in winter. They have also surveyed wildflowers, Moths, Butterflies, and other insects. Electro-fishing has identified a healthy population of trout and other fish. Planted hedges and hundreds of trees particularly the rare native black popular and disease resistant Elms. Wildlife cameras have filmed Barn Owls and at least five different Otters using the Curl and with the support of a Kingspan grant over 500 children have been able to have a better understanding of their local water and wildlife.

I believe this project has been hugely important in providing evidence as to what we need to do to improve water quality and numbers of wildlife and species in our environment. Well done to Tony Norman, Lucinda Lewis, the support from volunteers and farmers for their work.

Holmes Marsh new homes

Harpers have completed their development of eight houses at Holmes Marsh of five 3-bedroomed houses and three large 3-bedroomed bungalows with an average price of approx nearly £500,000. Although only formally released last month only one bungalow is currently unsold. The planning permission was gained before the phosphate freeze on new developments and together with Webbs meadow in Lyonshall represent the only new house building being undertaken in my ward for past 18 months with no scheduled builds in the near future. Unfortunately as the development was less than 10 houses Herefordshire Council rules did not allow the Parish Council, local residents or myself to have any input into the naming of the site. Given that the site included the old tin Mission room used for Sunday school and small prayer meetings the developers called it Mission Hut mews. With houses prices increasing significantly throughout this year yet wage levels remaining some of the lowest in the west midlands, the future housing of economically active residents, many being key workers is rising up the agenda fast. When the Neighbourhood plans are revisited along with Herefordshire Core Strategy addressing local housing needs will be more of a priority otherwise it will not just be lorry drivers we will be short of in future.

Highways

The closure of the Offa Dykes bridge on Spond Lane in Lyonshall (pictured opposite) is a problem for many local residents and I am pushing Balfour and the council for a timetable and resources to get this done. A number of contractors have visited the site and submitted tenders for the work which are starting to be reviewed. I have not had a firm timeline on the work but it looks sadly that the situation will continue for some time.

Meanwhile Balfour Beatty internal investigation into the damaged milestone at Shobdon continues!

I have written to the large Agricultural operators in the ward regarding highway safety matters and while we have had a dry time recently there is always the matter in wetter conditions of mud on the highway and they need to ensure they sweep it up. The works for 20 mph speed limit in Pembridge are due after Christmas which is a disappointment as I expected them to be done by end of this year. There will be a formal notice published prior to the introduction. Another concern is the Gas Utility wanting to dig up Bearwood lane which was only surfaced in March! I have asked if this is essential and if it must be done be during school Half term. Paul Hunter is our new Balfour Steward and I met up with him on a debrief of the ward highways and footpaths. It is a challenging job but the Parish clerks and I will work pro-actively with him to get the best we can for our residents and businesses. He will continue to send weekly updates of all works undertaken by Balfour and these are copied to all Parish Councillors by the clerks.

The Gigaclear contract continue on our highways. If you have any concerns on the works please contact networkbuildcare@gigaclear.com or tel. 0186 5591 137.

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-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

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.titleyipc@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: [Hereford HRC, Chapel Road, Rotherwas](#) [Leominster HRC, Bridge Street, Leominster](#) Open hours 7 days per week from 8am to 6pm.

- 8.1 Work done in September: strimming footpath to church; strimming footpath to mound; clearing recreation ground ditch; strimming both sides of one way road; strimming around village gates and verge markers.
Work due in October: Second application of Weed Control – **Cancelled in favour of mechanical removal**; Clear round and remove rubbish from Grit Bins through parish; Cut grips with digger throughout parish; Check Drain Tops and Grips through parish and clear white lines – Clear as required. From September work – cut back hedge in war memorial carpark
- 8.2 Clerk waiting for map and details of landowners to send letters.
- 8.4 Steps to river now filled in.
Meeting with EA – no follow up information received yet.
- 8.5 Currently 46 trees ‘claimed’.
- 8.7 Session 1 – 82 vehicles in 40 mins, 5 speeders, top speed 51mph.
Session 2 – 110 vehicles in 50 mins, 10 speeders, top speed 45mph.
- 8.9 Items agreed at last meeting: moving speed limit; replacement bus shelter; traffic calming measures; flood resilience measures for village hall; biodiversity for public spaces; footpath enhancement within conservation area; pavement from Tadpole Bridge to Lynch Court; dropped kerbs to improve access; war memorial carpark maintenance. Any other ideas? Priority of list needed to send to HC.
- 8.10 Event is Thursday 2 June, Her Majesty the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee. Beacons are to be lit at 9.15 pm. Beacons that are open to the public should be registered with the Pageantmaster for the Jubilee Beacons and must be managed safely.
3 types of beacons are suggested:
 - Gas-fuelled Jubilee beacon, package with stand, anchor, lighting torch etc is £490 + VAT and then needs 1x 47kg propane cylinder and 1x 400g propane cylinder for lighting torch
 - Beacon brazier, no price given
 - Bonfire beacon, constructed so it collapses inward – detailed instructions provided.
- 8.11 Signage at end of Lyme Lane as requested by parishioner had been assessed by BB as a non-intervention matter. White line markings have been assessed as a defect and have been added to the list for repainting.
- 8.12 All current advertisers have agreed to be in the reprint; £225 of expected £575 sponsorship received so far.

Orphans quote for reprint of previous copy is £391 for 3,000 copies and £595 for 6,200 copies.
PIP quote for print of new copy is £270 for 3,000 copies, £347 for 5,000 copies and £593 for 10,000 copies.
Changes are needed to existing copy anyway and parishioner who did initial work no longer has files. Clerk waiting for pdf file from Orphans so she can open it and extract items; can reproduce leaflet in Publisher and suggests removing the orange background and tweaking some of the photos to make them lighter etc and leaflet more modern looking. However will take extra hours to do work, but means files will be available on PC hard drive for future editions.
? remove item on ‘Footpath to Pembridge’ and put in something about Eardisland memorial Walks.
- 8.13 11 parishioners attended the inaugural meeting of the Eardisland Environment and Sustainability Group. The Group agreed to be a working group of the PC, though may move into a Community Group at some stage in the future. Ben Woodcock was appointed Chair for the Group.
The overarching aim for the Group was agreed – To encourage and support the community as a whole to minimise its impact on the environment and nurture all life within the parish boundaries.
Ideas to take forward were briefly considered under the following headings – climate change, development, energy use, travel, biodiversity and green spaces, procurement of resources, planning, using power of river for energy, electric car charging point, wind and solar power, encouraging the PC and influencing community on personal level and agriculture.
Agreed to consider a few projects at next meeting for a grant application to recommend to the PC.
E&S Group requests the PC joins the Herefordshire Green Network.
Next meeting Tuesday 26 October at 7.00 pm in EVH – encourage more people to attend.
11. Correspondence – as follows:

From and to parishioners

- Email re noise from grain/grass dryers and increase in size of building
- Email requesting wall to be rebuilt on village green area
- Email re hedge/trees on Green Elms – reported online
- Email re garage built over millstream

From other sources

- From HC – Illegal money laundering seminar, Leader’s newsletter, Talk Community updates, free weekend buses
- From HALC – Oct-Dec training
- From BB – loose grit salt in 1 tonne bag – needs equipment to unload from BB vehicle & undercover storage
- From Fastershire – Autumn update
- From Orleton flood group leader – information on their meeting with BB and HC

Alison Sutton – Parish Clerk

7 John Davies Place, Westcroft, Leominster, Herefordshire HR6 8JD. Tel: 07789 322771. Email: parish.clerk@eardisland-pc.gov.uk