

CLERK'S INFORMATION SHEET FOR 10 FEBRUARY 2022

- 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 7723802
December crime statistics from West Mercia police website
 Reported in Eardisland parish – None. Pembridge – x2 Public Order. 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/>
Warnings about scams
 WhatsApp and Lottery frauds reported recently – be very careful about calls, messages or emails from people you don't know or which don't feel right – if it feels suspicious it probably is.
- 4.2 Dear Residents,
 Last month I joined Debbie Stokes and the local community in Staunton for their monthly coffee spot, and I am pleased to see so many events being held in the community. We have had a very dry and mild January which has helped our road surfaces and with emerging signs of spring with snowdrops appearing let's hope winter has no surprises left for us.
 This time of year sees discussions on the council's budget and following better than expected funding support from Government indications are that Herefordshire Council will seek a 3% increase in council tax (1.99% council tax plus social care rate of 1%). Inflationary pressures are very much in our economy and likely to remain for some time and I am keen that public authorities keep any rises to as minimum level as possible. I continue to monitor the performance of our children's care services but it is clear this is still challenging and I have requested to see where the addition government funding of 1.7 million is being targeted.
 Virtual calls and meetings are a standard feature of my working now. I chaired a zoom call of the Rural Services Network (RSN) and our State of Rural services report which we presented before a group of rural MPs and their researchers recently. The report highlighted the issues that the pandemic had impacted on rural areas including the importance of Broadband connection, the rise in internet shopping, the drop in bus passengers, concern for future of local pubs and village halls, volunteer numbers and community activity. As a lobby group we push hard to get a better understanding in Government of rural pressures and costs. Including Energy bills which are higher as houses are more poorly insulated and Oil and off grid Gas heat so many homes. The national goals of net zero carbon are often set by urban thinking with little thought for implications on rural communities and business. For example we consider long term hydrogen is probably a more realistic alternative to petrol/diesel than electricity in areas such as ours for transport.
 There is a review of future local government funding and the next 12 months will be critical for us to adapt to new streams of funding and understanding how they are arrived at. Herefordshire council currently receives a 5.2 million Rural Services Delivery Grant each year which the RSN fought for. We need to ensure that recognition of extra cost of delivering services across a large area are reflected in what replaces it .
 Can I remind everyone that we are still subject to restrictions due the national outbreaks of Avian Flu - more details <https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/news/article/1290/bird-keepers-reminded-to-follow-rules>
 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
Major consultation on County developments
 Planning is determined by three main documents- the National Planning Policy Framework delivered by Government, Neighbourhood Plans drawn up locally and the Core Strategy by the local planning authority – Herefordshire Council in our case. This strategy is beginning its consultation on being revised and I recommend anyone interested on planning of housing and business in the future get linked into the process.

Herefordshire Council

Spatial Options Consultation
Local Plan 2021-2041

Exploring how development could be distributed across the county
We would like to hear your views

To find out more scan here to go to the consultation pages:  SCAN ME

or go to: <https://hlp.commonplace.is/>

The consultation runs from: **17 January 2022 until 28 February 2022**

 #hscouncil  herefordshire.gov.uk

The current consultation is at a high level but significant in its decision. Between now and 2041 Herefordshire has to deliver 11,200 new homes plus the 5,800 already granted permission but not yet built. The current consultation starts to look at how those houses could be distributed across the county. There are five options which vary in number allocated for rural areas from 6,200 to only 1,500 in the next effectively 20 years. I will be pushing all my Parish Councils to discuss and reply to the consultation as there are significant outcomes for our villages. The options included removing house building from villages in ANOBs and conservation areas, identifying only a few rural hub villages for development.

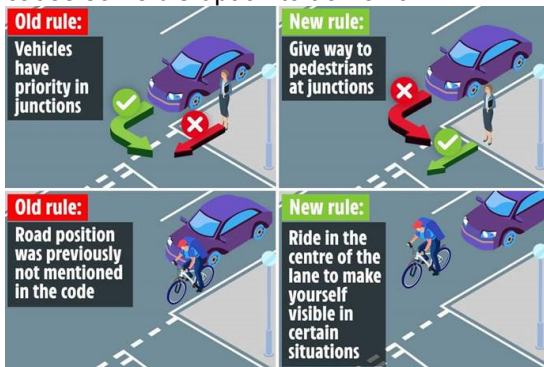
Consideration needs to be given to future sustainability not just environmentally but for rural services, schools, local businesses and communities. Throughout this year more consultation will come forward and the aim is a draft strategy is published in early 2023. More details go to <https://hlp.commonplace.is/>

HIGHWAYS

I am delighted to report that after several delays funding is secured for the B4355 main road in Titley from the Stagg to the Church.

Titley Village Closure The works involve a full road closure of the B4355 currently planned for Monday 21st Feb to Friday 25th from 9am to 5 pm each day

I am also expecting the Pembridge 20 mph measures to be installed this month but despite requests I have not had an update since the beginning of the year which indicated weather permitting mid February. This will also cause some disruption to traffic flow.



Last weekend new highway code rules came into force including slowing down to 10 mph for horses being ridden on the highway and keeping a distance from the horse and rider also. In certain locations cyclist should move into the highway to ensure their visibility particularly at junctions so drivers can see them and not cut them off.

These new rules make sense and all rural drivers should certainly be aware of, sadly we also have many incidences locally in the past of accidents and severe injuries and loss of life to cyclists, riders and horses.

While those measures are possible long overdue the ruling on change of priority at junctions is more of a surprise. When

indicating to turn off a highway you proceed entering the junction with any pedestrians on the pavement waiting for you to pass before they cross. The new ruling means the pedestrians have right of way and the vehicle turning must stop and allow them to pass before continuing to enter the junction.

The Bridge street junction in Pembridge is a classic example of this significant change. Motorist will need to be extra vigilant at junctions and not just the vehicle turning but those that are following behind as well so we don't have any shunting .

I think my concern is the mixed messaging - crossing the highway elsewhere the vehicles still have priority, we all learnt the Green Cross Code and this change at junctions does seem to go against that straight forward more simpler messaging. However we all know that speeds are an issue on our rural highways particularly through the villages so this is another reason why all drivers need to reduce their speed.

The winter has been very mild with the lowest amount of gritting drives that anyone can remember and as a result the potholes are nowhere as present as normal. Indeed this time of year the reactive team is usually struggling to keep pace with reports.

Preparing for Flooding

While we may have enjoyed the driest January for a generation we should still be preparing for high rainfall and potential flooding. I arranged a meeting last month between the Fire service, Herefordshire Council and Eardisland flood team to discuss the co-ordination of any flooding event in the village. There are some sensitivities apparently over the community closing the highway and preventing non-emergency traffic through the village at times of flooding but with proper simple notification I think we have overcome that. Preventing vehicles driving through floodwater creating waves of water going into people's homes that otherwise would not have flooded is common sense to me.

I enclose part of my submission to the Environment Agency consultation on their risk assessment for England. I consider it important to get my most vulnerable areas on their radar even in a high level strategic document. "My particular references are to the River Arrow and the need to work with the communities, business and public agencies to ensure there are co-ordinated approaches and co-operation between all parties in flood events, the planning of and prevention of. Eardisland in particular is a low lying village settlement which suffers frequent flood events including 24 homes in February 2020. It would appear reading the consultation that some commitment to support prevention work is given and I would seek reassurance that maintenance of main river is supervised and water monitoring is continued (in this instance Titley monitoring station). This is particularly important to the preparation and resilience of the local flood team in Eardisland and the safeguarding of vulnerable people as well as dwellings. There are also isolated dwellings in Lyonshall and Pembridge parishes

vulnerable. The Flood Risk Assessment Plan must also recognise the challenges of the phosphate problem in the river Lugg catchment area and ensure any measures are complimentary with and hopefully improve the work to improve the water quality of the river courses in the Lugg catchment."

Rejecting the Kington Car Parking new charges

See enclosed part of the lobbying I have done to the council on the proposed introduction and increase in car parking charges in Kington. Neither myself or neighbouring parish councils were informed about these. "The Town relies heavily on support from its rural hinterland which includes parishes in my ward who travel by car to Kington for shopping, business and employment. With the exception of a limited Bus service from Lyonshall village there are no real alternatives to the private car in this area. I note that my Parishes and rural communities were not included in the brief consultation phase despite the fact they are also impacted. I would also agree with other correspondence that for this matter not to have been mentioned at the council's recent Economic forum at the Oxford where there were so many retail representatives was most regrettable. I am sure the Leader and the Chief Executive would have been aware of the changes if not precise details. Kington's economy and retail is more fragile than any of the other market towns and a county policy must reflect those different strengths and weakness. If the council is sincere in supporting local High streets and small businesses then it should be encouraging rural hinterlands to visit their local market towns to shop and do business rather than discourage. Introduction of these proposed charges will have a disproportional negative impact on customers than any income gained by the council.

The car parks in Kington are small and I also have concerns about the cost of the installation and maintenance of pay kiosks given the limited proposed return. You may have a longer business model which increases the fees in future which would be even more concerning. Have you any projected returns over a three year period you can share with the local community which have helped you come to your proposals? Knowing Kington all my life I recognise the challenges that it faces and also the challenging times of delivering public services; but the economic and social reality of Kington and its hinterland would be valid reasoning not to proceed with your proposals."

I have not had a reply from the cabinet member or transport officer to my submission.

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-prow-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.titleypc@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.

- 7.1 Work done in January/February: Cut back edges of village hall car park – plus clearing rubble as extra.
Work due in February: Check Drain Tops and Grips through parish – Clear as required.
- 7.3 EVHMC arranging official opening of kitchen at 10.00 on Saturday 23 April at start of Taster Day. Request for PC to fund tea/coffee and cakes.
Plaque for donors' names being prepared. Do you wish to acknowledge the Contractors - Harpers, Hereford Heating, Wye Water, Focus Flooring, and the kitchen fitter (not sure of business name)?
- 7.4 The E&S Group have been awarded a grant of £2,275.50 for: community engagement event; hire of thermal imaging camera; carbon audit of trees; and purchase of laser rangefinder/clinometer for tree audit. Offering EPC was rejected for funding.
The Group is meeting on 15 February to take forward and plan the grant work and to consider the implications of The Great Collaboration as follows.
The 'Great Collaboration' Platform is a partnership project between Herefordshire Green Network, Caplor Horizons and Fownhope Parish Council. Its profile is planned to grow across the county in 2022 and then be rolled out nationally. There are currently around 14 parishes using the platform. It consists of a website <https://greatcollaboration.uk> where individuals and businesses can sign up and view a list of carbon reducing and ecologically beneficial actions in the areas of *Buildings, Transport, Food and Waste, Land Use, Energy, Money and Use Your Voice*. Explanations are given for each action as to the impact they may have, and any costs involved.

For example: *Switching to LED lightbulbs will cost less than £100 and will reduce less than 100kg of carbon a year. 'Meat Free Monday' is free and could save over 100kg of carbon a year. Planting and maintaining a tree could reduce over a tonne of carbon and cost less than £100.*

Parish councils will have access to the data showing how many individuals and businesses have signed up and what actions they are engaged with. The data should (over time) enable parish councils to take informed actions to support the needs of the community. It will enable all local councils in Herefordshire to track and capture information about carbon reduction actions with the **same format and reporting**. Parish councils also have access to a 'Local Council Handbook' which provides information on how to use The Great Collaboration website.

The suggested steps are:

1. **DECLARE:** Parish Council declare a climate emergency and give the climate emergency a prominent place on its website. Includes carrying out Community Carbon Calculating to gain an understanding of its current carbon footprint and enable monitoring of improvements over time. This can be additional to the E&S policy agreed Dec 2021
2. **PROMOTE:** Use provided resources to promote The Great Collaboration (social media / notice boards / Magazine) to encourage community (including business) engagement.
3. **PLAN:** Parish Council to produce a set of annual Carbon Reduction Actions covering all relevant council strategies. This report will detail the specific actions to be taken for the next year.
4. **REPORT:** Review reports annually and adjust supported actions accordingly.

Declaration of a climate emergency template here: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1-l5mF4dM7l_k-OegddE5nKm3nLpOIMyl/edit Download the Local Council Handbook here:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1-GZo70R4WtpGUbjUrx911SSM7SWlp9lR/edit>

Suggested online tool for calculating community carbon footprint here: <https://impact-tool.org.uk/> View The Great Collaboration website here: <https://greatcollaboration.uk> View Fownhope PC website here (as an example of how to give prominence to the climate emergency on the website): <https://www.fownhope.org.uk>

Steps to progress

- The PC needs to agree to declare a climate emergency.
- The E&SG can put the declaration together and carry out the Community Carbon Calculation for the PC meeting on 11 March.
- The E&SG has a planned launch event for The Great Collaboration on Saturday 26 March in the VH.
- After a period to allow for residents and businesses to use TGC website, use the data to plan and commit to a series of specific actions, the PC can take meaningful action over the coming year. Suggest that the E&SG make recommendations and these are committed to by the PC at the 13 May meeting.

7.9 The Share A Care co-ordinators have decided not to resume the coffee afternoon meetings. They were poorly attended and they have made other arrangements for those involved. It would not be economical for the shop or the PC to continue funding.

The co-ordinators and group wish to thank the PC for its support in the past.

9. Correspondence – as follows:

From and to parishioners

- Email re Share A Care coffee afternoons stopping

From other sources

- From Herefordshire Community Foundation – 'Let's Create' Jubilee grant fund
- From BB – Annual Plan Teams session
- From HC – January Leader's Letter
- From BB – Monthly update
- From Boundary Commission – Hearings for constituency changes
- From Herefordshire Green Network – Session on central heating boilers
- From HC – Spatial Options session
- From HC – Draft Core Strategy review
- From HC – Rebranding of Parish Council Summit and notes of last meeting

Alison Sutton – Parish Clerk

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