

CLERK'S INFORMATION SHEET FOR 13 OCTOBER 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 Rawlison PCSO 07971 051480
 Report a crime Police 101 Ext 7723802
June crime statistics from West Mercia police website
 Reported in Eardisland parish - None: Pembridge 1 x theft: Shobdon 2 x anti-social behaviour, 1 x burglary, 1 x violence and sexual offence. 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/>
Useful numbers
- Victim Advice Line - 0800 952 3000
 - West Mercia Women's Aid Helpline (available to help all victims) - 0800 980 3331
 - Men's Advice Line - 0808 801 0327
 - The Mix (for under 25s) - 0808 808 4994
 - National LGBT+ Domestic Abuse Helpline - 0800 999 5428
 - Samaritans - 116 123
- How fire safe are you?**
 Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Service (HWFR) offer a FREE online Home Fire Safety Check. There are around 35,000 house fires and over 300 fire related deaths in Great Britain each year so this could play a vital part in helping our communities and HWFR are asking people to use it. You can access the Home Fire Safety Check on the [Safelincs website](https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/safelincs). Individuals can request further information and self-refer for a free Home Fire Safety Visit by calling HWFR on 0800 032 1155.

4.2 Dear Residents,

I signed the book of condolence in Shobdon Church following the death of HM Queen. Her strong faith and core values earned her the respect and affection of millions of people in this country and across the world. On the Saturday after her passing we paid tribute at Kington Show and afterwards all collective sang God save the King, many for the first time – which is something we are having to get used to.

This month I was involved in the annual Rural Conference which was held on-line and had various speakers as we tackled issues such as Rural economy, Housing, Transport, Care and Wellbeing as well as assessing what Net Zero means in rural areas and the particular issues of the coming winter pressures on rural communities. We live an urban nation with little awareness and understanding of the particular challenges of rural communities and businesses.

Many issues raised including the ratio of average earnings to house prices, also pressures on the rental market, and the older traditional properties having to meet energy efficiency levels by 2030 likely to take them off the rental market.

Business highlighted poor broadband, the lack of under 55 year olds and the poor business planning. Tackling Net Zero is particularly difficult with so many older homes and the need for reducing energy demand and home insulation were seen as practical priorities but recognising some rural homes will require significant sums to improve them.

Last month the Government announced its Rural Enterprise grant with 1.7 million pounds allocated to Herefordshire. But I fear most if this will be spent in market towns rather than on rural businesses and communities. The Broadband roll out in the ward continues at a pace with scheduled works this month in Eardisland, Staunton and Lyonshall. Keep up to date on progress of faster Broadband installation and road closures by visiting <https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/roads-1/roadworks> - link on the live incident maps and they will show red dots which if you click on show the road closure and may be a sounder indicator.

Most importantly this month I cover the recent OFSTED report of the council's Children's care department being inadequate. Most of you are fortunate not to be aware or come into contact with some of the problems that many

vulnerable children in our county experience. It is an important statutory duty of the local authority to protect and support these children, some of which will be on protection lists before they are born. This is the worst report I have read in over 25 years as a councillor and the task of improvement will be a huge challenge ahead. In this month's update I cover the final victory of common sense at the Battle of Gigg Bridge with the removal of the timber mass after eight months; traffic disruption in Lyonshall on drainage exploration works, the recent road safety campaign for young people – Dying to Drive, Poppy time is arriving and the usual contact details.

Herefordshire Council Children's care services

Last month OSTED published their report into the councils children care services which identified the local authority as inadequate in all aspects of the service. The opening line of the report reads "Children and young people in Herefordshire are not protected from harm" and continues to identify severe failings across the board. The Secretary of State for Education has issued a statutory declaration appointing a commissioner to review the service and report in three months on the actions the department should take.

This is a service which has never functioned particularly well but has got progressively worse, despite previous visits in 2019 and 2021, OFSTED noted further deterioration in the quality of services resulting in priority action being required in a number of areas- and this after significant extra funding had been invested.

The reading of the report is distressing because this is a service which is there to protect and support some of the most vulnerable children in the county, experiencing real challenges and we are failing them. It will take time and funding to get this service and its support to vulnerable young people in a decent position, requiring a stable workforce and strong management and scrutiny.

But with comments such as "drift and delays are endemic, compounded by continuous staff turnover, weak guidance and a lack of management grip" – the challenge is huge.

You can read the full report at <https://files.ofsted.gov.uk/v1/file/50192875>

Road closures, roadworks and traffic lights in Lyonshall village & Kington in October

Initial investigatory works into the flooding problems at the Curl bridge in the village identified Thirteen defects in the drainage system. Further investigations and excavation to the system are required and then repair or replace pipework as necessary if required. Cleansing of the existing system by a Jetter will then be done

The drainage system runs through Highway, Parish Land and Private Gardens, permission will need to be given from landowners for access.

Different Traffic Management set ups will be required through the scheme's duration in phases, including two-way lights, three-way lights and a full road closure. A series of traffic lights – two and three way will begin from 5th October with a complete 24 hour closure of A480 through the village from 24th -27th October.

I have alerted local businesses including Tarmac and Burgoyne's but this is bound to result in traffic queues and delays. The work is necessary as we have experienced some flooding events on the highway and a real threat to homes also. This will be a significant operation which we hope will result in an improved situation.

Also the highways in the middle of Kington are being resurfaced and various Roads will be closed from Monday 3rd October 2022 to (and including) Tuesday 18th October 2022 from 9 am to 5am.

The Battle of Gigg Bridge 2022 !

The job is done ! We have won the battle and it is a victory for common sense.

But what a performance and without persistent pressure it would not have happened. During the campaign to get Herefordshire Council to do the work I reported the matter to the Hereford Times who came and took the picture on the left, with 23 residents expressing their concern about the delay and lack of action by the council.

While we will have to wait for a new replacement – apparently the existing one cannot be repaired- but the removal of the timber mass before winter was urgent, and work for environmental reasons was restricted to only August and September. Despite my consistent requests as of the 1st August minimal preparation had been done. But with the help of the community raising the profile we managed to get the work allocated on 28th September.

This involved an ecology study which identified wildlife present on the timber mass – no surprise as it had been there since January. Although we know we have Otters in the Arrow, cameras were placed to monitor the mass and thankfully revealed Otters used it but not as their home. Following Bat surveys and a care plan for the Crayfish, an ecologist was present as the timber was removed to ensure the project was legal. I am very grateful to Austin and Heather Owens for their cooperation and allowing the work to have been done from their adjoining meadow. Had the mass not been moved and joined by other drifting timber at times of flood the impact on the remaining bridge structure, riverbanks and Noke weir just 200 metres downstream could have been serious; as well as risks to residential flooding and damage to the sensitive highway erosion site. The bridge is part of superb circular walk around Staunton and I know is valued by the community. Hopefully we can resolve these matters but it shouldn't have to be such a battle!

Herefordshire Council took back the Public Rights of Way service on 1st April but staff left and were not replaced and as a result there wasn't the capacity to undertake the work and that is a failure in management at an administrative and political level which I will take up.

2022 POPPY APPEAL

Towards the end of the month we will see the launch of the 2022 Poppy Appeal and our local Royal British Legion branches will be active in the community. This year marked the 40th anniversary of the Falklands campaign and back in June this was marked at the Pembridge war memorial. To commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee

new gates from the road to the memorial were installed. The memorial has three willow cherry trees recently planted by the RBL which were a gift from the Japanese Embassy

HIGHWAY MATTERS

It was four years ago that I managed to secure the resurfacing of the main road in Pembridge complete with a top surfacing to reduce noise levels. Since then we have had three utility operations through the village including the Fastershire broadband project. We have up to two years after such utility work to require them to return to make good any defect on their works. This Autumn a full inspection will be carried out.

Recently more traffic speed surveys have been carried out in Pembridge on the 20 mph limit. However the final stages have yet to be implemented with the painting of roundels and highlighted surfacing. Until this is complete a proper evaluation of the project cannot be made.

There is a nervousness in Herefordshire about the demand for 20 mph limits for residential areas particularly as the Welsh Assembly has supplied funding for all such areas in Wales. But no such funding exists in England and the impact of blanket speed limits does need to be evaluated as an effective response and value for money project. Following on from various concerns raised with me I have arranged a meeting with West Mercia Police leads on traffic issues this month. All my parish councillors have been invited together with representatives of village speedwatch groups.

I attended the annual "Dying to Drive" presentation at Leominster Police station offered to all 16 year olds in the County. It starts with a very realistic staged car accident based on an actual event involving a teenage fatality (pictured left). Fire, Ambulance and Police staff are involved and that's followed by four individual sessions on highway safety. This year the event took place the day after a 20 year old young farmer was killed in car accident in south Herefordshire making the messaging even more realistic.

Please forward this update to any residents in the ward who you think may be interested and copy me in.

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

Potholes - go onto Herefordshire Council website and download the pothole App to help report potholes or ring 01432261800. <https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/transport-and-highways/maintenance/potholes>

<https://link.edgепilot.com/s/e3b2b34e/ttjzBlvlfEewR-39NN73dA?u=https://myaccount.herefordshire.gov.uk/report-a-pothole>

Footpaths

<https://link.edgепilot.com/s/bfc12403/ZkrYKa-OpU6QLbww4S9Nyw?u=https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/transport-and-highways/footpaths-byways-and-bridleways/cg-report-prow-problem>.

[PROW@herefordshire.gov.uk](https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/transport-and-highways/footpaths-byways-and-bridleways/cg-report-prow-problem) PROW No – 01432 383 550

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://link.edgепilot.com/s/f452e836/Hy5YWk_SgEGkleekL2ROFQ?u=https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/info/200226/report_a_problem/98/fly_tipping

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

Local Emergency Numbers

Environment Agency: 0800 80 70 60 (24-hours) or visit www.gov.uk/report-an-environmental-incident

Flood alerts: Floodline 0345 988 1188. Sign up online at www.gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings to get Flood Warnings from the Environment Agency by phone, email or text message. If you live by a river or stream, keep a watch on current and expected water levels.

Power cut: Call 105 or visit www.powercut105.com

BT phone line issues: www.downdetector.co.uk/status/bt-british-telecom

Gas leak: 0800 111 999 or visit www.wvutilities.co.uk/services/smell-gas

Welsh Water: 0800 052 0130 (Water emergencies) or 0800 085 3968 (Sewer emergencies) or visit www.contact.dwrcymru.com/

Report a flooded road or highway obstruction – Balfour Beatty Living Places : **01432 26180**

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 have a planning enforcement concern mttansley@herefordshire.gov.uk

- 8.1 Work done in September: Strim and remove debris – footpath to church. Strim and remove debris – both sides on one-way road School Lane. Strim and remove debris – recreation ground ditch. Strim, hedge trim and remove debris – footpath to mound. Strim either side of village gates. Cut back hedge in war memorial car park

and remove debris. Additional work - Cut back hedge line in EVH Car Park; Cut back hedge and verge on approach to Recreation Ground gates; 'Hard' cut to hedge from EVH to Church.

Works due in October: Mechanical weed control. Clear round and remove rubbish from Grit Bins throughout parish. Cut grips with digger throughout parish. Check drain tops and grips through parish - clear as required. Clean white lines - Clear as required.

8.7 Environment & Sustainability Group

The Environment & Sustainability Group of Eardisland Parish Council has the following ongoing projects:

- The Great Collaboration sign ups is at 8 for the parish. Ben has had a conversation with Claire Cherry (Llangarron) who is the new TGC coordinator about possible ways to engage better with the community, Mixed messages from TGC / Greener Footprints were discussed. This is likely to be discussed further at the Talk Parishes event on 24th October.
- Soft plastic recycling is now being offered by Co-op, Morrisons and possibly Aldi. Will publicise this once Aldi have confirmed.
- Talk Parish on 24th October, the focus for this summit will be around The Great Collaboration and parishes can help reduce the carbon footprint within their parish. Ben unable to make that date, Merry is able to go.
- Trees and Hedgerows. The E&SG welcomed Andy Dunne, the tree warden, to their last meeting. Work towards identifying suitable locations on PC land for tree and hedgerow planting for an application for a Tree Council grant. Deadline 4th December.
- Energy Saving Eardisland. Email has been sent out to registered parishioners containing a range of suitable information (boiler tuning, open days, online talks, grant help).
- Greener Footprints. Still not fully sure what measure the PC can take. Will hopefully know more after Talk Parishes.
- Plastic Free Eardisland. <https://plasticfree.org.uk/> Focus of the next E&SG meeting, which is to be a Plastic Free Eardisland Steering Group meeting. Aim of the project is not to go fully plastic free, but to work with local events and businesses to reduce single use plastic and raise awareness. Public launch of the project to tie in with the community shop tap opening. Hope to work with local businesses and village events over the next 12 months. One objective of the project is to engage with the PC and ask it to designate one councillor as a member of the steering group, support Plastic Free Eardisland initiatives and remove single use plastic items from its operations.

Copies of the minutes where support is given to be uploaded to the Plastic Free Communities portal as evidence.

Items for consideration at Parish Council meeting 13th October 2022

Plastic Free Eardisland

The E&SG asks the PC to support the following actions:

Eardisland Parish Council agrees to put a named member on the Plastic Free Eardisland steering group.

Eardisland Parish Council agrees to support all Plastic Free Communities initiatives in its area.

Eardisland Parish Council pledges to act by example and remove single-use plastic items from its premises and operations.

8.9 Last session on 28 September. 139 vehicles through in 45 minutes session – 21 were over speed limit. This equates to 15% of all vehicles over speed limit!

10. Correspondence – as follows:

From and to parishioners

- Emails re CPR/Defibrillator training
- Emails re mowing
- Email re pavement/pedestrian safety
- Emails/letters following village walk/drive around

From other sources

- From HC – Talk Parish/Community
- From HC - Planning
- From HC - Precept
-

Debbie Cottam – Parish Clerk

Westgate, Eardisland, Herefordshire HR6 9AR Tel: 07799 826779 Email: parish.clerk@eardisland-pc.gov.uk