

CLERK'S INFORMATION SHEET FOR NOVEMBER 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
Crime statistics from West Mercia police website
July - Eardisland parish - None: Pembridge 1 x theft: Shobdon 2 x anti-social behaviour, 1 x burglary, 1 x violence and sexual offence.
August - Eardisland parish - 1 x violence and sexual offence: Monkland 1 x anti-social behaviour: Pembridge 2 x burglary: Shobdon 1 x violence and sexual offence.
September - Eardisland parish - 1 x vehicle crime: Monkland 1 x anti-social behaviour: Shobdon 2 x burglary, 2 x violence and sexual offences, 1 x anti-social behaviour, 1 x other offence.
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](#). 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 was delighted to welcome our Herefordshire Police Chief Superintendent Ed Williams to meet many of my residents at Shobdon Village Hall. He is a Herefordshire lad living with his family in the county and very keen to ensure our communities are safe. Given the concerns of traffic and recent commercial and farm thefts I felt it appropriate to arrange an opportunity for some of my concerned residents to engage directly with senior officers and the Commissioner's office. More details in the update.

The Fastershire Broadband final stages continues in Eardisland, Titley and Staunton. I had many complaints about the standard of working by the sub-contractors in Eardisland village and had to request more "Business open as usual" signs installed. The works have taken longer than originally estimated and I have sought confirmation from Gigaclear of new dates to complete the operation which they hope will be 6th November and 9th by the latest. I have requested the drains be jetted once the work is complete.

I remain perplex as to why after all this huge amount of planning and building Gigaclear do not seem to be in a hurry to sign people up.

The Airband contract in Titley and Staunton continues with some issues being picked up along the way. Eywood section I am informed is now live for sign up. With no adverse weather and some final wayleaves agreed we should be on target to achieve over 99% potential connection to superfast broadband of households and business in my parishes by next Spring.

<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 to show the road closure and may be a sounder indicator of build restriction.

Following on from the Government's announcement of 1.7 million pounds of Rural prosperity funding to us, I have been keeping a close eye on how the council is distributing the money. The initial indicative amounts which have to be returned to HMG for approval seem sensible but I still have concerns that the market towns will grab too much of the funding intending to support the rural economy. Any local businesses who think they may have a scheme that could benefit please let me know.

- Capital grants to support micro and small rural businesses (£1m) – building on the successful delivery of the Leader programmes previously
- Capital grants to support the development of the tourism offer (£250K)
- Capital grants for community capacity building and infrastructure (£250K) – this could include village halls, for energy efficiency measures and some EV charging points.
- Capital grants for active travel measures (£200K) – would include improving trails and cycle ways for visits, and possibly community transport initiatives that could also benefit visitors.

Avian Flu – a serious danger to all bird life

Avian flu affects all birds – domestic, intensive and wildlife; so this is not just as the BBC tells it about turkeys for Christmas it is about protecting an important part of our ecosystem. Mandatory housing measures for all poultry and captive birds are to be introduced to all areas of England from 00:01 on Monday 7 November, following a decision by the United Kingdom's Chief Veterinary Officer.

The housing measures legally require all bird keepers to keep their birds indoors and to follow stringent biosecurity measures to help protect their flocks from the disease, regardless of type or size. The order will extend the mandatory housing measures already in force in the hot spot area of Suffolk, Norfolk and parts of Essex to the whole of England following an increase in the national risk of bird flu in wild birds to very high.

Over the last year, the United Kingdom has faced its largest ever outbreak of avian influenza with over 200 cases confirmed since late October 2021 including in our parishes. The introduction of the housing measures comes after the disease was detected at over 70 premises since the beginning of October, as well as multiple reports in wild birds. More details can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/avian-influenza-bird-flu>.

Senior Police Chiefs talk with my communities

Following many concerns in my parishes last month I arranged a meeting with senior police officers that cover Herefordshire and I invited all my parish councillors, speedwatch teams and various residents who have contacted me regarding traffic and crime issues.

Superintendent Ed Williams – lead Police officer for Herefordshire spoke to the 50 attendees about West Mercia's approach to various issues recognising that we live fundamentally in a low crime area.

Superintendent Ed Williams was joined by Paul Middleborough –Assistant Police Commissioner, Inspector Ashton– Rural lead officer, Ian Connolly – West Mercia Traffic Advisor, and our own Community Police Officer Dean Wall.

Attendees were asked to write down their top concerns on post-it notes when they arrived and after an introduction from Ed Williams we split into two main groups. One dealing with traffic matters and the other dealing with broader crimes including thefts. Both groups then re-joined and after feedback we had a general Q and A.

While not all issues were resolved most people seemed pleased to have had the opportunity to meet and discuss concerns.

The Police were anxious that residents sign up for the Neighbourhood Matters which alert people to crimes, attempted frauds and campaigns locally. *See link at 4.1 above.*

In the traffic group not surprisingly speeding and the lack of enforcement was the identified . The police haven't the capacity to deal with all speeding concerns but wanted to work with village community speedwatch groups where residents were concerned. Eardisland already has speedwatch and Shobdon is the process of setting theirs up. Attention was drawn to the nine week vetting process of villagers to be cleared and the Ast Commissioner took that away as an action point. When more official speed enforcement is being carried out it was suggested to be done at more active traffic times. There is a small grant from the Commissioner's office for highway safety initiatives and Lyonshall recently received funding towards their solar panel to support their SID (Speed Indicator Device).

The 20 mph scheme in Pembridge was introduced last February and is still awaiting the final components of the roundels and markings to complete the project. This is a phased and monitored introduction of the limit to access the effect of each individual component of the signs and road markings on travelled speeds. The Police have agreed with Herefordshire Council that they would not enforce the limit until everything is complete in order to get an accurate picture of how each part of the project influences driver behaviour.

I am pushing the Council and Balfour to get it finished off and was told by the Herefordshire Cabinet member this will be done before the end of the financial year – 31st March.

Issues of speeding on our unclassified highways was brought up. There have been a number of nasty accidents on these roads but they are seldom reported. A suggestion of Parish Councils and residents paying for signage was supported by the police where the County Council will not install, however there is a surcharge of Balfour for overseeing and installing the sign. Our Balfour steward is reluctant to have reflector posts installed on our verges but I consider they are effective and value for money so I am pursuing that issue within Balfour and the Council.

HGVs using the highways was brought up but concern of large farm vehicles was particularly mentioned. The accident earlier this year at Weston has resulted in an insurance claim of nearly 50K for structural damage alone. Our PC Dean Wall and our Balfour steward have visited the main Agri business over the summer to engage with them on safety issues. I will look to follow this up during winter and arrange a meeting again where we can encourage better tractor driver standards e.g stop one handed operations- not using mobile phones, dogs on laps! Better identification of vehicles, one way systems. We all choose to live in a rural area and recognise it is a working environment to produce our food but respect for residents and road users must be part of operations.

If you record anything illegal by photos or car cam forward to the police who will either consider prosecution or a warning letter.

We are fortunate to live in a low crime area with very low household burglaries, however, concerns were raised in the other group about recent commercial and farm thefts. Trespass and intimidation by certain minority groups were raised and the apparent lack of prosecution. The police encouraged more proactive behaviour of smart watering and tracker devices in more expensive machinery. The illegal practice of Hare coursing was highlighted and the previous network of monitoring of suspicious late night driving was raised.

We are probably rather naïve in our parishes about the matter of drugs and the huge impacts it makes on communities, families and individuals but with County Lines extending into north Herefordshire it is still a challenge for us. The lack of Police visibility and the need for West Mercia to be more committed to ensuring the local Community team is fully staffed was raised. Points about the need for better communication, engagement with parish councils, sharing of information and feedback were also mentioned to which signing up to the Neighbourhood Matters alert could help with.

Children services Update

I have meet with a family who have had problems with the council children's services department, received and listened to many parent and young people concerns. I attended a briefing with the Government's appointed Inspector Eleanor Brazil who gave us feedback on her initial findings. In a Teams session identified for one hour long she was not asked to speak until after 50 minutes, which continues to demonstrate in my view a total lack of proper understanding by those in charge of the seriousness of the situation.

Ms Brazil spoke of finding a department with a sense of chaos with a culture not supportive of families and children. She said there should be more systematic and robust management of casework responding to family concerns, with improved tracking processes. The IT systems are not helping good practice - poor data resulting in no accurate picture that can describe the performance of the service.

Far too many agency staff being used. Staff need to return to offices at Plough Lane to be able to work together, talk and share experience and knowledge. New staff need to be appointed to support the administration processes to release Children social workers to do their job at the front line.

Some of the extra funding put into the service during the last 18 months could have been better spent. Despite previous court comments and inspections action has been slow. Better focus on how funding is spend is required going forward. Partnerships with other public agencies were not well developed. She will be making a recommendation to the Secretary of State in December.

I am not reassured by the information we as elected members are receiving. Despite being told number of children subject to a child protection plan is lower, number of children in care falling – no numbers to evidence are given. We are still awaiting after over two years a report on peer on peer abuse in the county. For over 12 months we have had a Children's improvement board and it is difficult to see what positive impact it has had. Recruiting, retaining and sustaining staff levels will be critical to improve the service. Currently there are the demands of the historic cases to deal with as well as running the service on a daily basis. To improve this service will have a financial cost which is bound to have an impact on other services in the county. But children must be safe in Herefordshire.

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

Footpaths

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

PROW@herefordshire.gov.uk 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.edgepilot.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

Tittley 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 **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.
- Works due in October that will be carried out in November:** Cut grips with digger throughout parish.
- Works due in November:** Check drain tops and grips through parish - clear as required. Trim around and clean road signs throughout parish and clean up.
10. Correspondence – as follows:
- From and to parishioners
- Emails re hedges
 - Emails re Lyme Lane
 - Emails re road works
- From other sources
- From HC – Talk Parish/Community
 - From HC - Planning
 - From HC - Precept
 - P Russell - Internal Auditor

Debbie Cottam – Parish Clerk

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