

CLERK'S INFORMATION SHEET FOR JANUARY 2023

- 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
Crime statistics from West Mercia police website
October - Eardisland parish 1 x burglary: Pembridge 1 x violence and sexual offence: Shobdon 3 x public order, 1 x violence and sexual offence: Pembridge 1 x violence and sexual offence: Monkland 1 x violence and ssexual offence: Dilwyn 1 x anti-social behaviour, 3 x violence and sexual offence.
November - Eardisland parish 1 x burglary: Monkland 1 x vehicle crime: Shobdon 1 x burglary: Dilwyn 1 x other theft
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](http://safelincs.gov.uk). 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,

Herefordshire Council is currently consulting on it's 2023/24 budget from 16th December to 3rd January at <https://consultations.herefordshire.gov.uk/consultations>. This is a strange timetable given that the Government settlement announcement didn't come till 20th December, no Parish or Town councils meet during that time, and we don't discuss the budget as a Council till February. I was also informed on 21st of December of a consultation on future plans for Kington's local transport plan and views from the rural hinterland are invited. None of my Parish Councils had been alerted, I had to supply any contact names in two days by 23rd December, and feed any comments by 9th January. I enclose details later in this update but this does seem to evidence a council not serious about public consultation.

As Chair of the English Rural Services Network I was delighted to meet up with Local Government Minister Lee Rowley in early December to discuss the higher costs of service delivery in rural areas. I was joined by several rural Members of Parliament including our local MP Bill Wiggin and South Shropshire MP Philip Dunne. Our objective was to secure the Rural Services Delivery Grant worth 85 million of which Herefordshire receives 5.2 million. The Grant which recognises the extra financial pressures of delivering services over a wide geographical area was introduced in 2012 and been increased since then. I am pleased to report that in the LG financial settlement announced before Christmas the grant was rolled over with no change to it's methodology. The grant also secures an additional 100K for Hereford and Worcester Fire service.

Many residents in my parishes use the Presteigne Leisure centre and were very concerned at the announcement of its abrupt closure of the swimming pool last month. I am in contact and supporting my neighbouring Powys Councillor Cllr Beverley Baynham who gave an excellent speech to the Powys Cabinet, and given the scale of the public reaction the decision was reversed. I also contacted our own senior director with responsibility for our Herefordshire leisure services and confirmed that our centres, under the management of HALO, were safe over

the winter but with ongoing energy pressures longer term sustainable solutions need to be discussed both sides the border.

This April will see the 25th anniversary of the establishment of Herefordshire Council in 1998, following the splitting of Hereford and Worcester County Council, and the abolition of the four district councils of Hereford City, Leominster, Malvern Hills and South Hereford. I will be taking the opportunity to share over the next few months some of the projects that I was personally involved with and delivered over that time.

LEOMINSTER SWIMMING POOL January 2008

It is seventeen years this month in January 2008 that we opened the new indoor Leominster swimming pool for north Herefordshire. The old pool had been closed by the previous council administration with no plans to reopen and when I became Leader of the Council in 2003 one of main priorities was to build a replacement.

We decided to site it onto the existing centre and integrate dry and wet sections to help the efficient running of the leisure services. The pool is 25m x 12.5 m with a learning pool 10m x 5m, and a changing village, showers, toilets and plant. The cost to the rate payer then was 2.5 million pounds with an additional local fund raising of 250K from the local community.

I remember that because we were building it adjoining the existing centre, Sports England objected on the grounds of loss of recreational ground ! After winning that battle we then had to get people`s heads around the concept of a changing village of cubicles and lockers rather than the traditional male/female changing rooms. Within the first two weeks 4,000 people took a dip in the new pool, over 20 schools signed up to use the pool and 520 people had booked swimming lessons.

As the recent Presteigne proposed pool closure demonstrated a pool is important to the local community, but they have to receive the continued support of all age groups in our community. The rise in energy cost hits such facilities disproportionately and maintenance and refurb are big expenditure items.

Thanks to the good management of HALO who as a not for profit private organisation have run all Herefordshire councils leisure centres since late 2002 the pool remains an important part of our local community recreational life, and a project I am very proud to have delivered during my time in local government.

PHOSPHATE UPDATE

Last month I was shocked to be told by a third party that the council had pulled out of negotiations for developing a Shobdon wetland to extract phosphate from the local sewage plant. With potentially over 400 households emptying into this sewage plant that would be a more sensible investment than the Titley plant with just over 40 households which the council is going ahead with.

I also am told the Administration including the Leader have been holding meetings in my ward about the installation of a phosphate stripper at an AD plant to remove the phosphate from Chicken manure and export it from the county. A positive move if it doesn't increase our traffic pressures but again an example of council who are not transparent and open in their actions.

In reality the Council have not engaged with private sector solutions to the phosphate problem but following questions I formally put down at the last full council meeting there seems to be some improvement in their attitude. If they are pulling away from their wetlands project then they must engage with other potential solutions, otherwise we will continue to see no houses built, no improvement in water quality and a growing pressure on the social and economic wellbeing of our communities.

I am lobbying our local MPs on new legislation on water quality which is emerging from DEFRA. There are concerns about cross border issues with Wales and I will continue the pressure to ensure the new regulations apply to whole catchment areas which is critical for us on the Welsh borders.

HIGHWAY MATTERS

My thanks to Richard Spoor from Eardisland who spotted the men of Balfour outside his home clearing the drains. The Gigaclear subcontractors seem to have caused a lot of debris into the drainage system and given the village`s high water table it`s drains need to be kept as free as possible.

Last September the Government announced 60 million pounds to subsidise bus fares and this will also be extended to Herefordshire. It will allow single journeys at £2 to help increase passenger numbers on our local services from 1st January to 31st March. More information can be found <https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/public-transport-1/bus-travel>

I am still awaiting confirmation but the initial feedback on the highways I submitted and listed in last month`s update for consideration in the next highway programme for 2023/24 is that none have been considered a priority. I will continue to monitor. This March will see a large investment in Leominster Town roads as urban highways seem to have a greater priority at the moment.

Last month`s hard frosts and high levels of rainfall have tested our highways so please please keep reporting any problems.

Avian Flu – a serious danger to all bird life

Avian flu affects all birds – domestic, intensive and wildlife. There have been several outbreaks in Herefordshire and neighbouring counties. Mandatory housing measures for all poultry and captive birds in all areas of England and now Wales. 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. 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>

Reminder : Agricultural Planning supplementary planning document (SPD) consultation

The public consultation on the SPD will begin on 28 November for a period of eight weeks until 23 January 2023. The SPD supplements the policies of the adopted Core Strategy 2011-2031. It includes an outline the issues that may arise in relation to agricultural development that requires planning permission and what assessments and supporting information may be required to support applications. It also provides a methodology to determine the phosphate loading of a proposed development to inform the determination of planning applications within the River Wye Catchment.

The documents will be available on the Local Plan website at <https://hlp.commonplace.is/en-GB/proposals/agricultural-planning-supplementary-planning-document-consultation/step1>

For further information please contact Angela Newey, Senior Planning Officer at angela.newey1@herefordshire.gov.u

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@pembriidgeparishcouncil.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

7.1. **Works due in January** - Check Drain Tops and Grips through parish - Clear as required. Clean white lines - clear as required.

Works due in February - Check Drain Tops and Grips through parish - Clear as required. Clear round and remove rubbish from Grit Bins through parish.

7.3 EPC for EVH see [Non-Dom Private Rented Property Minimum Standard - Landlord Guidance.pdf \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)

Key extracts -

The Minimum Level of Energy Efficiency The Regulations set out the minimum level of energy efficiency for private rented property in England and Wales. In relation to the non-domestic private rented sector, Part 3 of

the Regulations contains the minimum level of energy efficiency provisions, which is currently set at an energy performance certificate (EPC) rating of at least band E. As band E is a minimum, landlords who are installing relevant energy efficiency improvements may also wish to aim above and beyond the current requirement in order to achieve greater energy savings.

The minimum level of energy efficiency provisions will mean that, subject to certain requirements and exemptions:

- a) from 1 April 2018, landlords of non-domestic private rented properties (including public sector landlords) may not grant a tenancy to new or existing tenants if their property has an EPC rating of band F or G (shown on a valid Energy Performance Certificate for the property).
- b) **from 1 April 2023**, landlords must not continue letting a non-domestic property which is already let if that property has an EPC rating of band F or G.

9. Then, from 1 April 2023, landlords must not continue to let a sub-standard non-domestic property to existing tenants (even where there has been no tenancy renewal, extension or indeed new tenancy) or to new tenants, unless: a. an exemption applies and has been registered; or b. all relevant energy efficiency improvements have been made (or that there are none that can be made), the EPC remains below E, and the exception has been registered on the Exemptions Register. 10. Therefore, where a landlord intends to let a non-domestic property (or from 1 April 2023, continue to let such a property) they will need to check whether their property is covered by the minimum level of energy efficiency provisions (as discussed at section 1.1 above), and, if so, whether the EPC rating is at E or above (as discussed at section 1.1.3 above).

9. Correspondence – as follows:

From and to parishioners

- Emails re hedges
- Emails re footpaths
- Emails re roads/works
- Emails re ditches

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