

CLERK'S INFORMATION SHEET FOR FEBRUARY 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 Rawlison PCSO 07971 051480
 Report a crime Police 101 Ext 7723802
Crime statistics from West Mercia police website
December - Eardisland parish none: Pembridge 2 x criminal damage and arson: Shobdon 1 x violence and sexual offence, 1 x criminal damage and arson, 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://www.safelincs.co.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,

Can I thank those of you who have sent me your kinds words of support over the last month following my operation in Birmingham. Sadly too many of you I know will have experience of this problem, but hopefully with an early detection and some follow up treatment I should be in a favourable position. I am most grateful to the surgery and nursing staff of the Queen Elizabeth; the teams at Kington Medical Practice and Hereford Hospital for what they have done and continue to do for me. I am building back my energy levels and dealing with emails and virtual work but cautious on indoor public meetings, but aiming to be fit for the local elections in April and May.

Herefordshire Council received 20 million pounds from the Government from the Levelling up Fund towards the cost of a transport hub by the railway station – a long standing ambition of the council for 20 years and one of the reasons the link road was built between Edgar street and Aylestone hill. The rest of the funding is to be spend on various cycleways in the city and to the Rotherwas business park. Unfortunately the case wasn't made for improved investment at Ross Model Farm business park or in Leominster. The fact that a national grant aiming to equalise employment opportunities and improve incomes across England misses the projects to create jobs but is spent on modal shift in the city only reflects the current council's priorities.

Last year I took on the chair of the Rural Services Network which lobbies on behalf of rural communities, rural organisations and local authorities. To support a greater understanding and add evidence to our argument for more funding for rural pressures, we are looking for rural residents to complete a Rural Cost of Living Household Survey. Research shows there are different and extra pressures on rural household budgets compared to urban and we want to explore that. Whatever your income or financial position is we need to demonstrate the extra cost pressures. This will help us engage more effectively with Government departments, MPs and other policy makers.

The survey can be found at the following link: https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/Rural_Households_Cost-of-Living

The Government's appointed commissioner over Herefordshire Children's services Eleanor Brazil has submitted her report to the Secretary of State, and it will be considered by Claire Coutinho MP (Minister for Children, families and wellbeing). I have ensured I remained briefed on this very important area. The poor performance over the last couple of years in particularly after extra investment has been a concern, but since her appointment in late Summer there has been signs of improvement, and retaining Eleanor Brazil as overseeing commissioner of the council service for an extended period would seem to be a most positive option.

Following consultation over Christmas the council's cabinet are recommending an increase in council tax of 4.99% - 2.99% increase in core council tax plus 2% adult care precept which would raise an additional 2.5 million pounds to support pressures in the social care budget. The increase is equivalent to a band D charge of £1,786.61. In addition Police, Fire service and Parish Council precepts will be added. The finance council meeting will be held on 10th February.

The Council has had a consultation on the Hereford City master plan which proposes an eastern crossing of the river Wye but no eastern bypass. The Plan will have a formal public consultation in the summer and puts a greater emphasis on active travel of Cycling and walking but my concern is the link of the rural communities to our main service centre of Hereford.

Last month we experienced a period of high rainfall and flooding. Our vulnerable residences and communities were affected; and again in Eardisland the stupid behaviour of certain drivers, had no consideration of the impact that bow wave was going to have on people's property, sending a wave of water potentially into their homes.

Local Government & Parish Council Elections 4th May 2023

Take your passport or Driving licence to the polling station in May if you want to vote

From 4 May 2023, voters in England will need to show photo ID to vote at polling stations in some elections. If someone doesn't have accepted photo ID, they can apply for a free voter ID document, which is known as a Voter Authority Certificate (VAC). The electoral commission are running a campaign which we will be supporting to remind people they need to have accepted Photo ID in place in order to vote or they will need to apply for a VAC

<https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/voter/voter-id/accepted-forms-photo-id>

<https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/elections-1/forthcoming-elections-referendums/8>

THIS WINTER : GENERAL ADVICE, INFORMATION AND SUPPORT

As we go through this challenging time find out information and advice from the national website

<https://helpforhouseholds.campaign.gov.uk/>

Bus Fares

Last September the Government announced 60 million pounds to subsidise bus fares and this will also be extended to Herefordshire. It will allow single bus journeys at £2 to help increase passenger numbers on our local services from 1st January to 31st March.

More information can be found here <https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/public-transport-1/bus-travel>

Census 2021 – Economy figures

Following the ten year census I share with you the figures on population and our Herefordshire economy

An ageing population has driven a fall in economic activity, with rising numbers of people who are retired - 59% of Herefordshire's usual residents aged 16 and over were either working or seeking work in the week before the census 2021, down from 63% in 2011.

Over a quarter (28%) of usual residents aged 16 years and over were economically inactive because of retirement (compared with 22% nationally).

12% of all 16+ year-olds in Herefordshire are self-employed – one of the top 10% rates out of all local authorities across England and Wales.

Herefordshire's working residents were more likely to work in agriculture, forestry and fishing than in England and Wales as a whole (5% compared with 1% - the tenth highest rate in the country).

The lockdown meant that significantly more people in employment worked mainly at or from home than in 2011 (26% compared with 6%).

You can explore the data yourself using the Census maps on the ONS website.

Avian Flu – a serious danger to all bird life

Avian flu affects all birds – domestic, intensive and wildlife.

There have now 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 hundreds of cases confirmed including in our parishes. More details can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/avian-influenza-bird-flu>

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-prow-problem>.

[PROW@herefordshire.gov.uk](https://link.edgepilot.com/s/bfc12403/ZkrYKa-OpU6QLbww4S9Nyw?u=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.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.wutilities.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.titleygc@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 February** - Check Drain Tops and Grips through parish - Clear as required. Clear round and remove rubbish from Grit Bins through parish.
Works due in March - Trim around and clean Road Signs throughout parish & clean up (Check for Nesting Birds) Strim either side of village gates. Check Drain Tops and Grips through parish – Clear as required. Clean white lines – Clear as required
9. Correspondence – as follows:
From and to parishioners
- Emails re footpaths
 - Emails re roads/works
 - Emails re ditches
 - Emails re flood response
- 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