

## CLERK'S INFORMATION SHEET FOR MARCH 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](http://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 burglary, 1 x other theft, 1 x other crime: Shobdon 1 x burglary, 1 x violence and sexual offence: Lower Burton 1 x Burglary: Dilwyn 1 x other theft, 1 x violence and sexual 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](https://www.hereford.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,

Happy St David's day ! Hopefully most of the winter is behind us and the explosion of snowdrops this year have been a real bonus as we prepare for spring. I am progressing well and now only require six monthly scans but I am pacing myself towards a full recovery.

The Secretary of State via Minister Claire Coutinho MP ( Minister for Children, families and wellbeing) has retained her Commissioner Eleanor Brazil to continue to oversee Children's care services in Herefordshire. In the Statutory Declaration published today -1st March - the Minister instructs Herefordshire Council to work and cooperate with Ms Brazil and an appointed improvement adviser until further notice.

This is a good decision. Given the long history of poor performance and particular poor response to Ofsted reports since 2019, having external leadership, directly responsible to the Secretary of State, is the best way that this council's children's service can stabilise and sustain improvement. Giving vulnerable children, families and carers the proper standards of process and support.

Maintaining improvement will be a challenge, particularly given the pressures on the children's sector across the country, and will have a financial cost. The current budget for these services for 2022/23 which was 54.5 million pounds but is projected by the end of this month to have overspent and be 63.5 million. Most importantly however we have to secure better outcomes for these vulnerable children.

The Council Tax bills will be sent out this month and at its meeting on 10th February the council approved a budget requiring the amount to be raised from Council Tax was £127 million resulting in a 4.99% increase. A band D council tax for 2023/24 will increase to £1,786.61 – an increase of £86. Added to this is the Police precept ( 18.8 million is raised in Herefordshire towards West Mercia Constabulary) a band D charge of £264.50, an increase of £14.84 or 5.94%. Also the Hereford & Worcester Fire service ( 6.7 million raised from Herefordshire ) a band D charge £94.40 an increase of £5 or 5.59% . Finally the Parish precept is also added.

As Chairman of the Rural Services Network, which lobby on behalf of rural councils and organisations, we successfully lobbied to see an increase in funding to sparsely populated rural authorities with an increase in the Rural Services Development Grant. This meant Herefordshire received an extra 600K taking that grant to over six million pound towards rural service pressures.

Herefordshire Council has now published its proposed Masterplan and Transport Strategy for Hereford City which include several interesting features. The funding for all of this was City masterplan £1 million, Eastern bridge crossing 400k and 62K to local transport development. However the decision to reverse the decision on the Hereford western bypass and cancel the work the southern link road (from the A49 to the A465 Abergavenny highway) cost 22.4 million pounds ! So why build a eastern crossing when you threw out the Southern link road to A465.

A push towards more greener Hereford, walking, cycling and electric buses has some merit but what if you live outside Hereford City ? If Hereford is to remain our County service centre how do we get there and through there. Greening over car parks, reducing highway capacity with more green space and anti car measures ignore the reality of our lives in rural areas.

Some of the aspects have been aspirational for over 20 years like Transport Hub at Railway station, but others do challenge the wider thinking on the movement of people and business in and outside the City. There will be a fuller public consultation in the summer before submitting to Government.

Many of you will be aware that the Travellers site between Pembridge and Shobdon was illegally entered. HC has taken the matter to the Courts but as the travellers claimed that hadn't got legal representation the matter was adjourned till 7th March.

#### Phosphate Update

For most of you the moratorium on house building will not be an issue but it is a significant matter for the local construction businesses and tradesmen. It has been over three and half years since any planning permission has been granted for new dwellings in 40% of Herefordshire – the Lugg catchment area. While permissions can go through the system, pass all requirements they sit on an ever expanding list of permissions awaiting a phosphate credit to be granted.

You will know the council's plan was to deal with this by a wetland scheme of reed beds adjacent to certain village sewage works and some of the resulting phosphate removed in that process would be sold to developers to build homes. After 3 million pounds of expenditure only the Luston and Titley plus an emerging third site have been matured. The Luston works will produce 160 Kg of phosphate credit but each new house depending on size will require phosphate credit of 0.5 kg to 2 kg to purchase from Herefordshire Council.

I am supporting private initiatives which achieve the removal of phosphate and can allow therefore building including as well a clear betterment to our river quality. The Council has been dragging its heels on engaging with such schemes and I am beginning to believe they want to control the credit system for themselves.

Recently a Phosphate Commission was established by HC and their plans on improving river restoration of the Wye catchment area are emerging. They require the farming industry to come with a credible plan by July of this year to remove phosphate discharge into the watercourses of the catchment or the four councils involved- Herefordshire, Powys, Monmouthshire and Forest of Dean- will move to seek an implementation of a Water Directive Zone. This will mean a radical change in farming practices including a massive destocking in the catchment area of a reduction of cattle by 40% and over 30% reduction in sheep numbers. While Agriculture is a source of phosphate, it is far too easy at the moment to spotlight the blame on that Industry when other straight forward measures have not been pursued, i.e calculate the improvement to phosphate leakages of new farm muck stores and improved drainage, greater width of grass strips by watercourses etc. The Council also needs to engage in potential solutions to extract phosphate in the farming sector. I would also seek Welsh water to invest more to prevent their discharge of sewage from village and town plants into our local rivers and brooks.

The quality of our rivers and watercourses is a matter that needs attention but the approach needs to be constructive, supportive and inclusive – working with the farming community not driving them off the land to be replace by just large scale Agribusiness- sustainability and supply comes in many forms.

#### Highway Matters

Last Autumn these were the highways I submitted for resurfacing and investment consideration in 2023/24 programme – to repeat again – none have been accepted due to other highways elsewhere having a greater priority. The state of some of these highways has deteriorated still further over winter.

B4362 Shobdon village west – from Grove junction to the Birches

B4362 Shobdon Rock – the base is solid as it is rock but the surface is very rough.

C1035 – Eardisland legion cross junction with A44 towards 30 mph speed limit

Off C1032 - Parson walk in Pembridge off Bridge street

C1083 – Lower Bearwood crossroads to Luntley

U 91416 Noke lane

U91604 Horseway head to Staunton

U 91608 by Stansbatch chapel lane – Staunton

U94607 Broadford towards Stansbatch

U91602 bank to Oatcroft above Eywood Titley

U91408 Jack ditch lane – Lyonshall

C1031 at junction with A480 Royal George section to Bramley

In the proposed 23/24 budget Herefordshire Council is offering a match funding scheme to Parish Councils on minor maintenance on C and U highways. For reference I enclose the length of these highways in each of the parishes. Eardisland 17.4 km; Lyonshall 22.2 km; Pembridge 38 km; Shobdon 11.3 km; Titley Group 37.1 km. A reminder that the Government announced 60 million pounds to subsidise bus fares in England including Herefordshire. It will allow single bus journeys at £2 to help increase passenger numbers on our local services till 31st March. More information can be found <https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/public-transport-1/bus-travel>

Next week the council goes into purdah for the local elections. So to comply with regulations the next two updates will be sent from my private email address, but the confidentiality of your email contacts remains with myself alone, in accordance with GDPR regulations.

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](mailto: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.edgепilot.com/s/f452e836/Hy5YWk\\_SgEGkleekL2ROFQ?u=https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/info/200226/report\\_a\\_problem/98/fly\\_tipping](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](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](http://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](http://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](http://www.powercut105.com)

BT phone line issues: [www.downdetector.co.uk/status/bt-british-telecom](http://www.downdetector.co.uk/status/bt-british-telecom)

Gas leak: 0800 111 999 or visit [www.wvutilities.co.uk/services/smell-gas](http://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/](http://www.contact.dwrcymru.com/)

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

**PARISH CONTACTS**

Pembridge [clerk@pembridgeparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@pembridgeparishcouncil.gov.uk) Shobdon [shobdonparishclerk@gmail.com](mailto:shobdonparishclerk@gmail.com)

Lyonshall [lyonshallparishclerk@gmail.com](mailto:lyonshallparishclerk@gmail.com) Eardisland [parish.clerk@eardisland-pc.gov.uk](mailto:parish.clerk@eardisland-pc.gov.uk)

Titley Group [rachaeljones.titleypc@gmail.com](mailto:rachaeljones.titleypc@gmail.com)

If you want to discuss a planning matter please contact [Adam.Lewis@herefordshire.gov.uk](mailto:Adam.Lewis@herefordshire.gov.uk)

If you have a planning enforcement concern [mttansley@herefordshire.gov.uk](mailto:mttansley@herefordshire.gov.uk)

8.1, 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

Works due in April - Mechanical weed control. Check Drain Tops and Grips through parish – Clear as required.

9. Correspondence – as follows:

From and to parishioners

- Emails re Coronation

From other sources

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

Debbie Cottam – Parish Clerk

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