

# Ledbury Town Council: 12<sup>th</sup> March 2015

## Herefordshire Councillors' Report

### Cllr Elizabeth Harvey & Cllr Terry Widdows

#### Core Strategy – lead Cllr Harvey

Examination in Public of Herefordshire's Core Strategy was completed to schedule in February.

At least 4 major modifications are required by the inspector and we await her report – some weeks away, to see whether the points raised regarding unacceptable and damaging changes made to the Ledbury policies are acknowledged and addressed.

As already reported to councillors over email - a 'statement of common ground' was whipped out of the council's metaphorical pocket and slapped down on the table at the front end of the meeting scheduled to examine the Ledbury policies. Long story, short ... it seems to be a deal cut with the agents for the landowner to avoid needing to follow the policy and have primary access to the viaduct site via the Hereford Road roundabout. The plan at the back is interesting if you want to see how they envisage laying out the site. Note they are also proposing to move the employment land about as far away from the station as it's possible to get and stay on the page.

Blencowe-HC common ground: [https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/media/1620224/CG5\\_Blencowes.pdf](https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/media/1620224/CG5_Blencowes.pdf)

I also provide links to the developers Bovis and Gladmans and land agent James Spreckley's submissions to the inspector. If the town council, via its Neighbourhood Planning Group are going to have a consultation on housing options, perhaps these will be useful.

Blencowe statement:

[https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/media/7963380/rs26\\_blencowe\\_iro\\_lfp\\_matter7.pdf](https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/media/7963380/rs26_blencowe_iro_lfp_matter7.pdf)

Spreckley statement: [https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/media/7963357/rs7\\_spreckley\\_matter7.pdf](https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/media/7963357/rs7_spreckley_matter7.pdf)

Bovis Statement:

[https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/media/7963365/rs16\\_rps\\_iro\\_bovis\\_homes\\_matter7.pdf](https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/media/7963365/rs16_rps_iro_bovis_homes_matter7.pdf)

Gladman Statement:

[https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/media/7963382/rs31\\_gva\\_iro\\_gladmans\\_matter7.pdf](https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/media/7963382/rs31_gva_iro_gladmans_matter7.pdf)

Anyone interested to see the issues identified by the inspector relating to Ledbury (Matter 7) can view the 'matters' published here alongside the council's response:

[https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/media/7963327/ms7\\_1\\_lb1\\_lb2.pdf](https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/media/7963327/ms7_1_lb1_lb2.pdf)

#### Planning Committee – lead Cllr Widdows

The development of 100 houses on the current cricket pitch was approved subject to further consultation at Herefordshire Council's planning committee on 4th March. The replacement facility received planning approval at committee on 11th February. The 'further consultation' required for the housing site relates to proposed changes to the Full Pitcher roundabout which have not been properly consulted upon previously and which impact on the proposed access to the development site and to the pubic house. Councillors are

advised to consider carefully the implications of the changes being proposed and it is recommended that this council provide a formal response. The consultation runs until 2nd April.

This development will have implications for the Neighbourhood Plan. It may also have implications for football in Ledbury, as may the asset transfer of the Rugby Pitch on the Ross Road into the hands of the Rugby Club. Representatives of Sport England will be meeting with council officers and ward members to discuss the strategic issues relating to sports provision in the town during April.

#### **Love Ledbury – lead Cllr Harvey**

No news yet on whether this **Wellbeing bid** has been successful. Apparently other bidders are requiring some coaching in terms of the council's expectations as regards outcomes for such projects – so there will be a delay in any decision while other bids are improved and resubmitted.

A **fund raising event** in support of Ledbury Football Club will be being held in 'The Royal Hall', the old masonic hall adjacent to the Royal Oak on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March. The venue has been donated by the publican and Terry 'The Bull' Jenkins has agreed to participate in 'Challenge Terry' exhibition darts matches to raise funds. Raffle prizes are welcome and councillors are all invited to attend and to spread the word. Admission £5/head.

**Charitable objects** are almost ready for approval and adoption. Long-overdue grant process for awarding **Portas Pilot** funds has been drafted and selection panel members approached. Grant application process is proposed to run during April with grants approved during May.

#### **Tourism Workshop – lead Cllr Harvey**

Following on from the success of the Big 'Business Breakfast in January, Cllr Hadley and I are working with Alan Curless, chief executive of Visit Herefordshire and James Hervey-Bathurst to arrange for a workshop to be held involving Visit Herefordshire's key members from what they refer to as their 'Ledbury Cluster'. The aim being to formalise the cluster into a leaflet or mini brochure, subject to funding from the attractions and local businesses.

#### **BBLP Annual Plan – lead Cllr Widdows**

Ward members are invited to a briefing on 24<sup>th</sup> March at BBLP's headquarters on the Thorn Business Park to discuss the finalised annual plan for service delivery throughout 2015/16. Neil James is back on duty as our locality steward but please can any suggested additions/amendments from the Town Council be sent/copied to ward members so we can make sure everything is joined up at the other end.

We have not been involved in any discussions nor received any correspondence from Town Councillors or staff regarding maintenance of green spaces since full council last month. It would be helpful to receive a summary of the understood position locally w.r.t. street scene and green spaces in case there remain areas requiring clarification: e.g. working party action for Rugby Club under grass cutting grant scheme.

#### **Standing Orders**

Please may we remind Councillors and Officers that under Standing Order No. 28(c) of the Town Council it states: "Unless the Council otherwise orders, a copy of each letter sent to the Unitary Council shall be sent to the Unitary Council councillors representing Ledbury's electoral ward." This practice appears to have fallen into disrepair and we would respectfully request that it be adhered to in order that ward members may be best placed to be your advocates.

*Councillors Liz Harvey & Terry Widdows*