

Ledbury Town Council: Thursday 6th March 2014

Herefordshire Councillors' Reports – Elizabeth Harvey

Market Town Precepts	Precept	Tax Base	Band D 2014-15 gross	Band D 2014-15 net	Inc% on 2013-14	£Inc p.a. on 2013-14
Ross-on-Wye Town Council	242,852	3,213	82	76	35%	21
Leominster Town Council	249,867	3,439	84	73	20%	14
Hereford City Council	722,738	15,273	53	47	13%	6
Bromyard & Winslow Town Council	160,802	1,317	142	122	9%	12
Kington Town Council	58,861	855	81	69	9%	7
Ledbury Town Council	246,438	3,316	82	74	2%	2

Average precept increase in towns = 14%. Average precept increase in rural parishes = 9%.

Please find above a summary of the parish precepts to be set on Friday 7th March at full council for the market towns and city of Hereford. The range of precept increases over those charged in this financial year vary from 2% to 35%, translating as being from £2 per year to £21 PER YEAR and being directly related to the range of devolved services that these parishes have been prepared to take on from Herefordshire Council for the benefit of the communities they each serve.

I include a table on the following page outlining what comprises the services secured by each council and an indication of the additional services under discussion for the coming year. You will note that in a number of cases councils have also been able to secure the transfer of council-run car parks to provide something of a revenue stream with which to partially offset the cost of the services and facilities being secured.

Public Loos in Ledbury

Following on from this council's decision not to accept responsibility for the running of one of the town's sets of public loos, I have been in discussion with Herefordshire Council regarding the possibility of making it the Church Lane loos that Herefordshire Council continue to maintain into the coming year, rather than those in Bye Street. This will ensure the most central facility (including its disabled unit) is available to local people and visitors, while interested local people progress the setting up a charitable vehicle capable of taking on and reopening the Bye Street loos as soon as possible.

I hope that this council will find itself able to support such a swap.

Councillor Liz Harvey

Summary of service devolution to Market Town & City Councils

Locality	First phase (Town Councils) Transfer during 2014 - 2015	Second phase (Town Councils) possible transfers 2015 - 2016
Bromyard	Community Asset Transfer (CAT) of Car park and toilet	Joining of Lengthsman scheme
Hereford	Pilot Public Toilet charging project (Union St – licence to operate, possible future asset transfer) May extend to other public toilets. Joint agreement with HC to find Buttermarket developer.	
Kington	Community Asset Transfer: Old Police Station (with tenants), Market Hall, Place de Marines, Coach House, Retail Market (Tues) Museum (with tenants), Public toilet Mill St, Car parks – inc transfer of Love lane lease. Open space	School dual use site (leisure section)? Library and Customer service centre? Cemetery?
Ledbury	Nothing (initial discussions had included additional markets, open space, car parks and toilets)	
Leominster	Retail Market, Corn Square, Public toilets currently closed (The Grange and Central car park)	Community Asset Transfer: Open spaces in the town with a local organisation esp. the Grange (LARC). Cemetery? The Pavilion? Sydonia Park? 11 Corn Square (LARC)?
Ross on Wye	Community Asset Transfer: The Market House The Old Chapel, Public toilets Retail Market service, Car parks – Homs Rd, Crossfields and Wilton Rd Open space	
Weobley	Management of public toilet and community library through a licence.	