

Ledbury Town Council: 11th June 2015

Herefordshire Councillors' Report

Cllr Elizabeth Harvey & Cllr Andrew Warmington

Hello and Good-bye

We would like to extend our thanks and gratitude to our colleague Terry Widdows who has made a hugely positive contribution to both Town and County Council operation since being first elected in 2011 championing democratic participation, Neighbourhood Planning and leading on street scene and planning issues since joining the county council in 2014. We wish him well in his new management role at B&M and thank him for his hard work on behalf of the town over the last 4 years.

We welcome Emma Holton as our ward councillor colleague representing Ledbury South at county level and look forward to a positive and productive working relationship as we work collectively in the best interests of Ledbury residents.

Briefings and Induction – joint

All county councillors are receiving briefings on council services and committee remits as part of an induction programme at the start of this period of administration. Cllrs Harvey and Warmington are both members of the General Overview & Scrutiny Committee and Cllr Harvey is also a member of Audit & Governance.

Core Strategy – lead Cllr Harvey

It's Our County managed to negotiate an extension to the public consultation period on the Core Strategy through to 22nd May. There were a large number of responses received from the Ledbury area regarding the last-minute changes made to the access options for the strategic housing site north of the viaduct. These now sit with the planning inspector who will decide what if any changes are to be made to the policies before they are returned to the council for approval. The timetable for approval at full council is expected to be Sept/Oct 2015.

Planning Committee – lead Cllr Holton

Gladman's resubmission of application for 321 houses south of Leadon Way: Cllr Holton is now the lead ward councillor for this planning application.

Tourism Workshop – lead Cllr Harvey

Indicative costings for printed material and literature distribution have been obtained and meetings held with representatives working on economic development and tourism from the Town & Neighbourhood Planning groups. Ledbury Traders are developing plans for literature showcasing the retail offering of the town which will complement promotional material focussing on the Eastnor-Ledbury-Much Marcle area.

Visit Herefordshire is being passed as an entity into the hands of the H&W Chamber of Commerce with effect from 1st July and contact has been made with their MD, Mike Ashton, to explore what ongoing advice and assistance they will be able to provide.

BBLP Annual Plan – joint

BBLP have fallen behind on their published grass cutting schedule with the second cut in Ledbury coming some 10 days behind the planned date. This is disappointing. Issues regarding the knock-on effect of these

delays and the lack of communication on the matter between the BBLP team and ward/town councillors and community groups have been flagged.

Currently ward and town councillors are undertaking a review of the condition of the grass and shrub/bed areas throughout the town, to include identifying where local residents are already maintaining grass areas on an ad-hoc basis. The intention being to identify where BBLP effort scheduled for grass cutting can be redirected to areas of greater need. A meeting with ward councillors is arranged with the Locality Steward to discuss this further next week.

Cllr Harvey is also meeting with senior officers to discuss learning and best practice emerging from parishes across the county committing to the lengthsman scheme. Locally Cllr Harvey is working with the clerks to expedite the licences we have been seeking for the town council, U3A & Ledbury in Bloom to undertake works in the Walled Garden, Queen's Walk and elsewhere in the town.

Cllr Warmington has been working with officers, the Locality Steward and residents on New Mills to address grass cutting and pest control issues.

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.

For the avoidance of doubt – letters should be taken also to include emails and faxes.

Car Parking – Cllr Harvey

Herefordshire Council has published its intention to increase car park charges throughout the county in July.

I have received information on the ticket sales and revenue generated across Ledbury car parks following the changes implemented last year. Use of all car parks is up including Bridge Street, and income has not been detrimentally affected by the changes made to stay durations.

Ledbury's approach to matching car park tariffs and stay durations to community use, and to securing the only free evening car parking in the county and retaining free parking on Sunday is seen as an exemplar.

Representatives from the market towns will be being asked to join officers for a discussion of the planned charge increases over the next month. It would be good for the town council to consider doing some work in preparation for this as part of the work programme for the Traffic Management Working Party. I am happy to provide an analysis of the ticket sales and car park usage if this would be of assistance.

Councillors Liz Harvey & Andrew Warmington