Ledbury Town Council: Thursday 6th February 2014

Herefordshire Councillors' Reports – Elizabeth Harvey

Potholes and Street Works
I have reported 17 potholes, 4 blocked drains and 2 broken or dangerous kerbs around Ledbury over the last 2 months.

Any councillor or member of the public interested to do likewise can register to use the council's online map-based tools. This site also enables you to track the progress on assessing and repairing the potholes you have reported. Please find the link to the site below:
https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/transport-and-highways/maintenance/potholes/cg-report-a-pothole/

Polling Stations
Any councillors considering standing for election in May 2015 may wish to comment on the polling station proposals already circulated for the new ward arrangements which will come into effect at that time.

Parks and Ground Maintenance
As the result of a written question to ward councillors from Cllr Francis on the future plans for flower bed planting and maintenance I have requested a briefing note to be prepared for town and parish councils. This will be released this week. Please see attached.

Councillor Liz Harvey

It's Our County – Ledbury Ward Member
6th February 2014

Briefing Note: Parish / Town Council Liaison – floral displays and planting

The Cabinet Member decision was taken in October to replace the programme of annual bedding with a review of Council maintained beds and the establishment of perennial planting where appropriate. It is planned to discuss this with Parish/Town Council and in-bloom groups to enable them to consider whether to provide additional local support. The following briefing is to be provided to these groups this week in line with the overall approach of the Devolved Services project which is looking at a whole range of services which could be delivered through greater involvement of local communities.

TOWN AND PARISH COUNCIL BRIEFING

As part of the Council's on going savings plan the decision was taken in October to change the regime of annual bedding in Council maintained flower beds to sustainable permanent perennial planting, perennial wildflowers or the decommissioning of some beds with their return to grass. This change is now being implemented through the Public Realm contract and our partners Balfour Beatty Living Places.

The following options are currently available:

1. Parish/Town Councils and local groups do nothing and Balfour Beatty Living Places plant up the seasonal beds identified with perennials, wildflower or grass seeding as per the October Delegated Officer Decision. This 'one-off' cost will be funded through the Council's Public Realm contract. A list of affected beds is available on request from Geof Tarring (Herefordshire Council's Parks Manager).

2. Parish/Town Councils and local groups identify areas within their town/area that they would like to see continue being planted with seasonal bedding. Then having identified budget contact and discuss and contract directly with Balfour Beatty Living Places to plant and maintain area. There is no Herefordshire Council budget to support this; however Geof Tarring is available to answer technical questions. With a limited supply of bedding plants in the market it is essential that discussions with BBLP are initiated by week beginning 10th February 2014. The BBLP contact is Keith Lloyd, the first contact is keith.lloyd@bblivingplaces.com followed by sean.pockett@bblivingplaces.com

3. Town Councils and local groups can apply to HC Asset team for a Community Asset Transfer of, or Licence to Occupy/Manage, areas of Public Open Space including identified beds. Once transferred or Licenced it is up to the community group to agree and fund the full management of the area to their specifications. There is a specific process for undertaking this which would not be completed in time to undertake planting this Spring – but is a longer term option that could be considered.

The Balfour Beatty Living Places contact is: Keith Lloyd presently Operations Manager.

Geof Tarring works part-time and can be contacted by emailing gtarring@herefordshire.gov.uk or phoning/voicemail 01432 260084

The Parks Service is available to support local councils in considering the best way forward for their locality.

4th February 2014