

Ledbury Town Council: 16th April 2015

Herefordshire Councillors' Report

Cllr Elizabeth Harvey & Cllr Terry Widdows

Core Strategy - lead Cllr Harvey

Herefordshire Council have commenced the 6-week consultation on the major and minor modifications to their core strategy. This includes the damaging change agreed with land owners' agents regarding the access point to the viaduct housing site moving from the Hereford Road to up the Bromyard Road. Also the change in wording used regarding Ledbury's housing growth target which was previously 'around 800' houses and now states 'a minimum of 800' houses. Very different prospect and potentially has serious implications for future development applications unless the Neighbourhood Plan defines the essential upper limit to development.

Planning Committee - lead Cllr Widdows

Gladman's resubmission of application for 321 houses south of Leadon Way. As councillors are well aware with no core strategy and no five year housing supply then the current administration has left us all open to speculative developments not in keeping with the area. This application has been resubmitted after it was rejected and is open for consultation now. We have raised concerns that the consultation period is being held at a time of election and ward changes but this has not had any effect on the consultation. So I would urge anyone who has comments on this application to register individually their concerns about it. This development remember is in addition to the viaduct site not instead off and is also in addition to the 100 homes approved for the cricket pitch.

Tourism Workshop - lead Cllr Harvey

Meeting Held with Visit Herefordshire, Eatsnor, Hellens & Westons' representatives. Indicative costs have been received for production of a leaflet to promote the cluster of visitor attractions in the Ledbury area.

I will be working with traders, local groups and - hopefully the new Town Council to secure funding to produce a high quality leaflet showcasing the fixed and seasonal places of interest.

BBLP Annual Plan - lead Cllr Widdows

Grass cutting schedules are out and whilst the good news story being painted is additional cuts it should be noted that at present the cuts are just scheduled once a month with no additional cuts etc to take into account growing season etc. we will be looking at this with Neil from BBLP who is obviously back after his period of absence and have fed back that this does need amending. In terms of trees it's disappointing that the fact trees grow has once again escaped the annual plan with no planned works to be carried out once again reactive which is a short sighted way of doing things and will end up costing more in the future. We have once again raised our concerns on record about this.

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.

The End of an Era

With the advent of elections for the town council, albeit as a result of the town having been split into 3 illogical wards as a result of Conservative policy to have one-member, one ward, we are at the end of an era of public disengagement and disinterest in the workings and activities of Ledbury Town Council.

This is to be welcomed and applauded and we congratulate those current councillors who have gone out of their way to exemplify the role of councillor over the last 4 years. We would like to say how much we have enjoyed our role as your ward members as well as your councillor colleagues. We say thank you to those hard working councillors who are taking the opportunity to stand down at this time; and wish those of you who are standing for election, and the members of the public nominated to stand as candidates for the first, all the success you deserve.

Councillors Liz Harvey & Terry Widdows

It's Our County - Ledbury Ward Members - 16th April 2014