

Ledbury South (Eastnor and Donnington) Ward Report October 2024 – Cllr Stef Simmons

Herefordshire Council News

Consultation on Wraparound Childcare Provision - closes 4th November. Wraparound care is childcare before and after the school day, such as breakfast clubs from 8am or earlier and regular after school provision that runs until 6pm or later. Wraparound childcare is expanding in Herefordshire to provide extended availability and hours, allowing greater flexibility for parents. The purpose of this survey is to collect information about the needs, experience and views of parents and carers regarding wraparound childcare in Herefordshire. The survey is open to all, but we especially want to hear from you if you are a parent or carer. Your answers will help us to plan and work towards enabling all parents who need it, to access wraparound care in their local area.

<https://consultations.herefordshire.gov.uk/consultations/article/118/wraparound-childcare-requirements-survey-for-parents-and-carers>

Homes for Ukraine Scheme. Since the scheme was launched in 2022 hundred of sponsors in the county have opened their doors to guests escaping conflict. While the war in Ukraine may no longer be hitting our daily news headlines, the need for sponsors is ongoing. If this is something you or someone you know could consider there are further details on the council website <https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/ukraine>

Planning. Council officers are still working through the consultation responses on the local spatial plan and local transport plan review, and implications of the change of government on plan policy. Currently the housing targets for Herefordshire as a whole, as announced by Deputy PM Angela Rayner, have increased from 16,200 over plan period to 27,000. This in my view is neither deliverable or sustainable given the constraints both in terms of retaining land for food production and the environmental impact (e.g. two National Landscape areas in the County). I have raised these concerns with our MP Dr Ellie Chowns, and Herefordshire Council have responded to the government's consultation on revisions to housing numbers and planning policy.

New Street/Leadon Way/Little Marcle Rd Flooding

Friday 20th September saw a highly localised rain storm pass over Ledbury delivering a month's worth of rainfall within a very short timeframe. This resulted in the pumping station at New Street being overwhelmed and subsequent significant flooding of gardens, residents unable to use water, and closure of highways. Severn Trent emergency team responded promptly with tankers pumping over 3 days. The contributory factors are being examined including CCTV surveys and mapping of connection pathways. I am also waiting for a response from Severn Trent as to capacity at New Street pumping station.

A438 Eastnor Resurfacing

After regular reporting of carriageway defects on the A438 I've had notification that some resurfacing works have finally been scheduled. The road will be closed from 21st-25th October from its junction with A449 to Hollybush, although I am awaiting information on access arrangements during this time and extent of works.

Ledbury Area Youth

The work with multiple local organisations and schools supported by Herefordshire Council's Talk Community team is continuing. Rural Media and young people involved will be presenting the findings of the survey of over 650 young people to Ledbury Town Council on **Saturday 12th October 11am to 1pm** at St Katherine's Hall. There will be a panel discussion with Ward Councillors and our MP, and the new Youth Worker for Ledbury's new youth club will be introduced. All welcome to attend.

Parkway

New speed indicator signs have been requested and are in process of being approved and procured via Ledbury Town Council. In addition highways engineers have approved my request for placement of hazard warning signs for pedestrians crossing. Funding is being looked at to deliver these.

Dymock Road – B4216

Following drainage and carriageway works earlier this year to remove standing water it was disappointing to see that the recent heavy rains resulted in further carriageway flooding. The severity, extent and duration of this was improved however. Under the Parish Drainage Fund Ledbury Town Council have submitted a bid for funds to conduct work to prevent detritus from being carried down from Upper Highbridge Coppice from blocking the culvert.

Planning Committee

My work on the Planning and Regulatory Committee continues. I have been scrutinising all local planning applications, holding discussions with planning and enforcement officers, s106 and highways officers.

Contact details

I am holding a Ward Surgery monthly at Ledbury Rugby Club on Tuesdays 6:30 – 7:30pm by appointment, or I can visit individuals if mobility an issue. I am contactable via email stef.simmons@herefordshire.gov.uk or phone 07792881706

Please send any written correspondence to:

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