

CLERK'S INFORMATION SHEET FOR
EARDISLAND PARISH COUNCIL MEETING ON 16 JUNE 2016

- 4.1 Safer Neighbourhood Teams work with local people and partners to identify, tackle and solve issues that matter to the community where you live. Your team: PC 3911 Jo ELLIS Mobile 07977 098394; PCSO 6115 Dick ALLFORD Mobile 07968 462523; PCSO 40067 David BODEN 07970 176814.

Get in touch: Tel:101 to talk to your local SNT or report a crime. Email: kw.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk
Website: www.westmercia.police.uk Facebook /Twitter @NHfdShireCops

- 4.2 Roger Phillips, Email: rjphillips@herefordshire.gov.uk

Dear Residents

Its 12 months since the General and Local elections and the pressure and pace of reductions and re arrangements of local services continues. The Council set its medium term financial strategy in March and rose the Council Tax by 1.9% plus the 2% social care levy. The Fire and Police precepts rose by 1.9%.

The Government confirmed its settlement to local Government for the next four years. This will mean that Councils will have all Government grant withdrawn by 2020 and their income will come only from Council Tax, Business rates, fees and charges. Clearly a system of balancing business rates between authorities will need to take place as the likes of Westminster Council income is significantly larger than ours. Since 2010/11 the Council has had to make £59 million of reductions as a result of cuts in government funding and increased social care costs. From 2016/17 to 2019/20 a further 28 million will need to be found. The scale of reduction in services, increase in charges and selling off of capital assets is concerning. The fact that we are a small authority over a large geographical area with a higher than average mature population puts us in a difficult place. Locally this will mean the PC taking on the lengthsman and footpath schemes, reduction in highway budgets and less financial funding to support local initiatives.

Last Autumn saw the adoption of the Core Strategy and the identification of Pembridge, Shobdon, Lyonshall, Eardisland and Titley together with Staunton on arrow and Holmes Marsh as areas for potential development. The Core Strategy and the National Planning Policy Framework together with Neighbourhood Plans (NP) form the legal basis for the determination of planning permissions. Four of my Parishes have been involved for some time in developing NPs with Eardisland and Shobdon reaching an advanced stage. Following recent Appeals this year Inspectors have determined that Herefordshire does not have a 5 year land supply and as such we remain very vulnerable to developers. Recent changes by Govt on rural buildings have also brought a far more flexible approach to residential conversion. The indicative increase in housing numbers over the period of the strategy from 2011-2031 is 12% across the whole of the parishes. Managing that development will be problematic.

If you want to discuss a planning matter please contact simon.rowles@herefordshire.gov.uk

If you a planning enforcement concern Debbie.Crowley@herefordshire.gov.uk

HEREFORD BY PASS

Following the planning inquiry in the early 90s which refused the eastern bypass on environmental grounds and the removal of any scheme from Government Programmes in 1998, Herefordshire Council has regularly pushed for a reinstatement of the project. In 2008 when I was Leader we managed to get the Rotherwas access road built to support the Rotherwas and Skylon Business parks with over 2,000 jobs. This had considerable opposition but as a result we gained Enterprise Zone status. The building of any highway around the City still gets enormous protest while I sure the silent majority would wish to support such a project. The Planning Core Strategy last year confirmed the need to deliver a western route to support the future development of the City. The Strategy requires 6,500 houses to be built in Hereford City by 2031 and new infrastructure will have to be built to support.

In June the next phase will be going to the planning committee for consideration. This is from the A49 to A465 (Abergavenny) and has the financial backing of the Government. Following this the plan for the delivery of the rest of the road is as follows - Option considerations October 2016; Business Case by February 2017; Alignment consideration June 2017; planning application submitted April 2018; Public examination sept 2018-March 2019; Construction 2020.

The highway will run from Belmont across the river Wye through Breinton, cutting across Kings Acre road and coming between the new Livestock Market and the Mobile Home site at Three Elms, before turning right to the A49. Current cost estimates are £110 and would be financed from Government, Infrastructure Levy and additional revenue from new homes. Without it the City and County will not be able to cope with the extra housing, existing business could not expand, the large military presence in the county would be frustrated, and the expansion and job creation at Rotherwas restricted severely. Perhaps afterwards we can turn attention to our local villages!

Following two significant years of highway infrastructure investment the Highway budget is now considerably reduced with only 1.5 million for 2016/17 compared to an expenditure of 20 m in 2014/15 and 15/16. We have also benefitted from two exceptionally mild winter with very limited surface damage. I work with my Parish Councillors and our Balfour Beatty steward involved on a weekly basis on such matters, but I am genuinely concerned about the future of our highways.

I have organised a meeting of main haulage users in my ward again and work with the Police and local community on issues of heavy traffic. I continue to have the monitoring of traffic through Pembridge, Shobdon and Lyonshall and use the information to get extra funding for our highways and safety issues. The A44 continues to have a high level of accidents and I am arranging a meeting with Monkland PC and dealing with various safety spots issues.

Ten years ago I had monitoring boxes installed in Shobdon, Pembridge and Lyonshall and I enclose the traffic numbers and types of vehicles that went passed the boxes in the month of October in 2015 and 2014. I wasn't representing Eardisland at the time and they do not experience the volume and scale of traffic of the other three. The figures are a seven day average and during the working week the figures are higher particularly in Shobdon figures. Both the usage and speed figures I share in detail with all my parish councillors.

October 2015

SHOBDON had 3,579 vehicles travelling per day (including motorcycles) on east side of the village, with 2,896 cars, 506 Ridged lorries, large vans and minibuses, 150 Articulated HGVs/Buses.

PEMBRIDGE 2,626 vehicles per day (incl Motorcycles) on the western exit of the village, wWith 2,057 cars, 403 Ridged lorries, large vans and mini buses, 129 Articulated HGVs\Buses

Lyonshall had 2,031 vehicles per day (including motorcycles) at the Curl Bridge, with 1,608 cars, 324 Ridged lorries, large vans and mini buses, 53 Articulated HGVs/Buses.

OCTOBER 2014 FIGURES

SHOBDON had 4,027 vehicles travelling per day (including motorcycles) on east side of the village, with 3,243 cars, 552 Ridged lorries, large vans and minibuses, 204 Articulated HGVs/Buses.

PEMBRIDGE had 2,587 vehicles per day (including motorcycles) on the western exit of the village, with 2,012 cars, 413 Ridged lorries, large vans and mini buses, 135 Articulated HGVs/Buses.

Lyonshall had 1,995 vehicles per day (including motorcycles) at the Curl Bridge, with 1,585 cars, 308 Ridged lorries, large vans and mini buses, 54 Articulated HGVs/Buses.

Please report any problems on highways or footpaths using the links below

<https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/transport-and-highways/maintenance/potholes>

<https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/transport-and-highways/footpaths-byways-and-bridleways/cg-report-prov-problem>

Our local schools continue to perform well despite the challenge of reducing budgets and national policies. Both Pembridge and Shobdon are performing well but the lack of affordable property for younger people will continue to be a concern for them.

We recently saw the opening of the recycling centre in Kington on Fri – Sun, which compliments the larger facility in Leominster.

I would like to place on record my thanks to Parish Councillors, Chairmen, Clerks and members of the community who have supported me over the last twelve months. I will continue to work on behalf of the community I represent in these very challenging times.

7.1 Lengthsman work in June – Hitrees will finish May list of work this week and invoice for July

7.2 PFO report for June – This month we have concentrated on improvements to ED 1B. We are hoping this will ultimately form part of a circular walk (ED1A, 1B, 2 and 3) from the bowling club, past the oak, across the farmland on to Burton Court Lane, then through Home Farm to the A44, across more fields up to the Round House at Lower Burton and then back along the minor road passing Pigmore Common and Lower Burton Farm back to the A44, along Burton Court Lane and across the field on ED 1 A back to the Village Green. At present some sections of the walk are in a poor state so we are intending to make the path more inviting and accessible to all walkers.

The stile where the path leaves Home Farm and crosses the A44 to be improved with extra steps and a hand support.

Damaged finger post to be repaired and re- erected. Stile on opposite side of road also to have extra steps - Mr Watkins to be asked if he has any scalplings or extra soil to firm up the area below the stile - large puddle even in quite dry weather, ground rutted by cows. Mrs Hanson offered quantity of wood for both stiles, work to be carried out by Hitrees.

Finger posts needed for Home Farm drive, the slurry pit and the Bowling club gate. Herefordshire Council unable to provide these but hoping the Locality Steward can locate some. Especially important in the case of the one diverting walkers away from the slurry pit.

Provision of metal gate by the PC much appreciated - will be used to replace particularly dilapidated stile further along ED1B. Also responded to complaints about state of a stile on ED7. Met the land manager who agreed to put in extra bars to make stile easier to climb, although gate would be preferable. Landowner had also removed the logs which were obstructing access to the stile and had put down loose chippings to form a better surface. Will check the stile shortly and also surrounding area next winter to make sure it remains accessible.

We have also been checking government guidelines for PROWs. Ideally all stiles should be replaced by gates or kissing gates as this is recommended by Defra. We are intending to record the number of gates which would be required on Eardisland footpaths and put them in order of priority. It will take time and money to replace them but ultimately the Disability Discrimination Acts and the Equality Act require easy access to the countryside for all but the most infirm. There should be "the minimum number of structures and the least restrictive necessary".

Sue Wallis and Jo Watson

ED1B PROW furniture – cost of metal gate with posts from BB is £212, cheaper by £13 than IAE Gates. Finger posts £15 each, 3-4 required, total £60. When gate and posts purchased will leave £123 from P3 budget to get Lengthsman to install finger posts, as Cllr Weir installing gate

7.3 Eardisland in Bloom – On behalf of those members of the Eardisland in Bloom team (E Team) I'm writing to express our disappointment at the decision taken by the parish council at last week's meeting to seed the area adjacent to the dovecote without first finding a costing for turf. This may have been as a result of me being absent from the meeting and unable to present our thoughts as indeed I will also be for the June meeting following its rescheduling. I would therefore like to take this opportunity to correctly state the thoughts of the E Team, backed by a number of residents who give us their opinions whilst we work in the village.

E.I.B. through its own endeavours and hard work, has raised a significant sum of money and the team would have liked to contribute a significant sum of this money to turfing the area concerned for instant impact. Further, the area by the Manor House wall would contain by 2' border with plants that could cope with flood water. A border would also be created by the millstream which would be planted with marginal / bog plants. Possibly a small fruit tree somewhere in the area, dedicated to the memory of Peter Glenn, a loyal servant to both the E Team and the community. In time a picnic bench would be added giving residents and visitors alike somewhere to picnic.

We feel this has for too long been a neglected and often unsightly area, which is at the heart of the village and in need of an urgent facelift. Our vision, subject to costings, would have brought it to life with still much of the summer for it to be enjoyed, which will not be the case with seeding.

We do respect the decision made by yourselves, but feel this may have been an opportunity missed. I yesterday met with Cllr Weir and further discussed the plan for seeding and thank him for his continued voluntary efforts on behalf of the parish. With the parish councils permission I am sure the E Team would still like the opportunity to follow through its plans and looks forward to you giving it its full backing. For your information the manager of the Manor House confirms the wall causing

problems by the millstream is being worked on from next week and new coping stones will be added along its whole length in future weeks.

Personally I am away on holiday from now for 2 weeks and look forward to meeting again at our July meeting.

Regards, Phil

- 7.7 The new website went live on 10 June. Please encourage parishioners to sign up for email alerts about new news or articles/minutes etc on the website.
Please contact the Clerk if you want items in the News or Don't Forget sections on the home page. Or if you wish to advertise events or offers on the Visitors home page.
- 7.8 Callout systems – Community Heartbeat Trust VETS system costs £45 set up fee and £100/yr to run – CHT are covering first year's £100 charge
WMAS – Numbers plus system costs £99
Emergency phone - £341 for unit + £1/wk to run. Landline roughly £450 + BT line rental.
- 7.10 The PCC are running a choral concert in the Church on the evening of the 18th June. The PCC ask the PC if the rec could be available for use as overflow parking for that evening (weather allowing). PCC to police.
Thank you
- 7.11 Email from Phil Milchard – The whole thing has been removed so nothing to photograph hence no proof. To me it was criminal damage but I feel it is too late to both report it and claim for insurance, in any case it was old and hardly in good order.
- 7.12 Parishioner reported loose stone on top of Mill Stream bridge in the village. If you standing on main road nearest to the village shop it is one of those nearer to the shop. Reported online by Clerk, Locality Steward has passed to bridges team for repair.
- 7.13 Recent feedback from an advertiser – I recently took an advert out with you for the Eardisland Parish magazine under Gardening Services. I just want to say thank you as I have received quite a few jobs from it! Amazingly, I am now fully booked with customers so sadly don't think I will be needing another advert until later on in the year or early next year! But hope to be in touch as it is obviously a great magazine!
Thank you again! I've been surprised how quickly things have happened. Brett Ayres/Brettsmowingservices.
10. Correspondence – received as follows:
- From HC – Good Neighbour Scheme event
 - From HC – Police and Crime Commissioner consultation