



Late Summer/Autumn Update

Goodrich and Welsh Bicknor
Walford

Whitchurch and Ganarew Group
Parish Councils

From
Kerne Bridge Ward County Councillor
Simeon Cole

Dear Residents

As you now know, we were all allocated duties within the Council's activities and, in addition to my full council responsibilities (2), I continue to sit on the following committees.

- Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee (2)
- Planning Committee (4)
- Scrutiny Management Board (2)

The figures in brackets indicate the number of meetings attended. The frequency of meetings has now settled into a routine.

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Ward Activity

The volume of emails and telephone calls relating to ward matters continues. During this latest period drainage issues have receded a little but potholes, footway clearance and stile replacements have dominated activity with the Locality Steward and Balfour Beatty.

Close cooperation with Monmouthshire and Gloucestershire continues to be important.

If you think I can help with any matters relating to Herefordshire Council please do not hesitate to contact me, my email address is simeon.cole@herefordshire.gov.uk

With best wishes

Simeon

Council news

The long established h.Art week exhibition of local artists' work took place during September. It gave everyone the opportunity to see the work of individual artists in their homes or local places against the backdrop of the Herefordshire's beautiful landscape.

Herefordshire exams results last month continued to be at and above the national average. The A level success pass rate was 97.1% particularly helped by Hereford Sixth Form College, which continues its outstanding achievement of being one of the most successful non selection sixth forms in England for well over the past 20 years. At GCSE 68.5% of our young people achieved grade 4 or above. Performance in science was strong with Herefordshire outperforming nationally in physics, biology and chemistry.

Just recently Walford Primary school was able to release the report of its recent Ofsted inspection...I have included an extract from it here

- *Overall effectiveness - Outstanding*
- *The quality of education - Outstanding*
- *Behaviour and attitudes - Outstanding*

- *Personal development - Outstanding*
- *Leadership and management - Outstanding*
- *Early years provision - Outstanding*
- *Previous inspection grade - Good*

And these are the opening remarks

What is it like to attend this school? The moment you step over the threshold at Walford Nursery & Primary School, you know this is a school that values education; a place where pupils are happy, confident and immersed in their learning. In lessons, pupils are highly engaged and have an evident thirst for knowledge, which they love sharing with visitors. The school's motto is 'every child, every opportunity, every day', and this really matches what is seen here. Not a moment that can be spent learning and developing is wasted. Pupils' behaviour is exemplary, and on the rare occasion it falls below the high expectations, pupils have absolute confidence that adults will help put it right. Both in lessons and around the school, pupils are respectful, kind and welcoming. Staff have high ambition for how well pupils achieve. In response to these demands, pupils work diligently and achieve well across the curriculum. For pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), staff are expert at making adaptations to the curriculum or the way they teach it. Pupils with SEND are helped to access all the opportunities open to their peers, and they are thriving. Equality and equity are always high on the agenda at Walford.

Huge congratulations are due to headteacher Louise George and her team and to Chair of Governors Paul Deneen and his fellow Trustees. We are very fortunate to have such a superb school for our children.

Housing

Some important news has been received from the new government on increasing house building.

The Government expects Herefordshire to increase its house building by 80% from a projected 773 per year over the next 20 years to 1,375.

Herefordshire currently has 82,800 homes (of which 27,000 are in Hereford City) and will have to build an extra 27,500 over the next 20 years to meet the Government's new target. Given our ageing population the problem will be building more homes suitable for elderly and enough affordable houses for those working, given the restraints on our housing market.

These changes have significant impact on the emerging Core Strategy which was due to be advanced next year. This is bound to impact on the timetable and require more consultation on where these extra homes should go and what they should be.

The charity 'Community First in Herefordshire and Worcestershire' has commenced a DEFRA contract entitled 'Rural Housing Enabler' and is working on how and where to facilitate affordable rural housing across the County

Waste collection

A new waste collection contract was recently awarded to the existing contractors. The understanding is there is virtually no change to collections so please continue to put out your bins out as normal. A timetable of collection days can be downloaded from the Herefordshire Council website. There will be a roll out of some new collection vehicles including two electric ones for the City.

Highways

Last month saw extensive resurfacing and surfacing dressing works across the county.

The works were part of an £8m capital budget spend which was part of the 2024/25 budget and follow the commitment given by the council in last year's local elections to spend more on our highways. There will continue to be many surfacing and dressings across the County so look out for diversions.

Neighbourhood matters

Sign up to police alerts, you can choose which areas you want to hear about and what activity is taking place in that area. You'll also hear about positive police action, good news stories and be able to play an active part in helping us with our public appeals.

<https://link.edgepilot.com/s/bb21d405/UARq0VNajkqv1vLf0zKSJQ?u=http://www.neighbourhoodmatters.co.uk/>

Report a crime Police 101 Ext 61216

Other Council matters

The Council regularly issues news of important issues some of which are included here

[**Stop smoking services to receive national funding**](#)

[**Hereford Register Office has moved**](#)

[**Join us to help make museums more accessible**](#)

[**Beware parking fine scams**](#)

[**A new electric vehicle strategy for Herefordshire**](#)

[**Herefordshire set to welcome Baton of Hope in 2025**](#)

[**Design next step in museum and art gallery development**](#)

[**Special guest officially opens Luston wetland**](#)

Please report potholes and concerns

<https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/reportingapp/>

Report a serious pothole, flooded road or highway obstruction- Balfour Beatty Living Places : **01432 26180**

Footpaths issues –

- **PROW - PROW@herefordshire.gov.uk**
- **PROW No – 01432 383 550**

Report fly tipping it will be dealt with in a much quicker time frame. by either calling the Contact Centre on 01432 261800 or by logging the fly tipping via the council website on the links below as your

https://link.edgepilot.com/s/f452e836/Hy5YWk_SqEGkleekL2ROFO?u=https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/info/200226/report_a_problem/98/fly_tipping

Local Emergency Numbers

Environment Agency: 0800 80 70 60 (24-hours) or visit www.gov.uk/report-an-environmental-incident

Flood alerts: Floodline 0345 988 1188. Sign up online at www.gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings to get Flood Warnings from the Environment Agency by phone, email or text message. If you live by a river or stream, keep a watch on current and expected water levels. In the event of flooding... 'financial first aid' help may be available from the Herefordshire Community Foundation

<https://www.herefordshirecf.org/funds/hcf-emergency-relief-fund/#:~:text=The%20HCF%20Emergency%20Relief%20Fund,or%20any%20other%20natural%20disasters.>

Power cut: Call 105 or visit www.powercut105.com

BT phone line issues: www.downdetector.co.uk/status/bt-british-telecom

Gas leak: 0800 111 999 or visit www.wvutilities.co.uk/services/smell-gas

Welsh Water: [0800 052 0130](tel:08000520130) (Water emergencies) or [0800 085 3968](tel:08000853968) (Sewer emergencies) or visit www.contact.dwrcymru.com/

The Citizens Advice Bureau Online

at advice@citizensadviceherefordshire.org.uk for initial contact by email. Please also give a contact phone number in case we need to contact you for more information.

Parish Council Contacts

Goodrich and Welsh Bicknor Parish Council - clerk@goodrichandwelshbicknor-pc.gov.uk

Walford Parish Council - clerk@walfordparishcouncil.gov.uk

Whitchurch and Ganarew Parish Council - clerk@wagpc.org.uk