



August 2026 Ward Report – Old Gore Ward

Parishes of: Brampton Abbots with Sollers Hope and Yatton, Brockhampton with Much Fawley, Foy (East), Foy (West), How Caple, Kings Caple, Much Marcle, Upton Bishop and Woolhope

From your local County Councillor: Barry Durkin

Dear Residents

The recent heatwave continues and along with it the drought affecting all our gardens. And us! It is certainly a challenge for us all and we need to improve our preparation and ability to cope with high temperatures better. The exceptional dry weather is bringing several problems of wild and outdoor fires as we are witnessing in Europe and at home. Just over the Welsh border saw a large fire on Hanter Hill



which lasted several days. Several of the Herefordshire fire crews supported the Mid Wales fire authority and played an important role in protecting a house on the edge of the hill. Our local Fire service has been involved daily with many fires in the open, farm and crop fires throughout our County. The picture is taken from the Hergest Hill racetrack

walk which I know many of you will be familiar with. Please be careful when walking or traveling in our countryside the vegetation is so dry and highly at risk of fire.

In closing may I invite you all to subscribe the council's news updates service.

www.herefordshire.gov.uk/news

Should you need to contact me, please feel free.

Kind regards

Barry

Mob. 07792882 054

Barry.durkin@herefordshire.gov.uk

Council News

Highways

Our highways surface dressing and strengthening and resurfacing programmes continues we appreciate that there are still highways that need investment with over 2,000 miles of highways in Herefordshire, I think it is important to understand that the degree of investment into our highways over recent years is a choice of the current political administration in office at the council, largely paid by borrowing capital with the revenue account paying the interest and capital over a substantial period. If we relied on central government funding, we could not do the programme we have and are doing.

Childrens' services

I am delighted to report that the Department for Education has made the decision to end government intervention in Herefordshire children's services and has revoked the statutory direction issued to the council in September 2022 issued under the previous administration. This decision follows significant improvements across children's services over the last three years and represents a major milestone in the council's work to deliver better outcomes for children and young people across Herefordshire. The latest decision builds on the progress recognised by Ofsted, which announced Herefordshire's children's services to be "Good" with "Outstanding" leadership in January this year. This is a significant achievement and tribute to the work of staff, partners and the council's political leadership.

[Government intervention in children's services ends as Herefordshire's improvement journey reaches major milestone - Herefordshire Council](#)



The Council has a statutory duty to address homelessness, supply suitable accommodation of vulnerable residents across Herefordshire. Demand for temporary accommodation has increased steadily, with the number of households accommodated rising from 93 in January 2023 to 184 in January 2026. The costs of providing emergency accommodation continue to rise, with a single room in a local hotel costing the council around £85 per night, equivalent to more than £31,000 per year, while housing benefit payments do not fully

cover these costs.

Recently the Council approved a 4.1 million capital funding programme to improve experience and save money. A key element of the new programme is the introduction of an Empty Properties Grant Scheme to bring long-term vacant homes back into use. Herefordshire currently has more than 1,800 empty properties, including over 600 homes

that have been vacant for more than a year. Grants of up to £50,000 per property will be available to support refurbishment, with funding tied to agreements that make homes available at below-market rents. This will enable the council to move families out of temporary accommodation and into more stable housing. The funding will also support the development of accommodation for groups whose housing needs are particularly difficult to meet, including large families, disabled residents and households requiring accessible homes.

The programme also provides transitional accommodation for homeless young people and care leavers, helping them move towards independent living. The council intends to purchase at least four properties for this purpose, creating a stepping stone between supported accommodation and permanent housing. Supported housing placements for looked-after children cost the council on average £61,000 per year. Investment in transitional accommodation has the potential to improve independence while delivering significant long-term savings.

Picture above; John Venn building purchased by the council to place homeless people rather than expensive local hotels.

Food Waste Collection

Herefordshire Council's Cabinet has approved the introduction of a new weekly food waste collection service from September 2027, helping residents recycle more of their household waste while meeting new national recycling requirements.

[Cabinet approves new weekly food waste collection service for Herefordshire](#)

New Parking Strategy

Herefordshire Council's Cabinet has adopted a new 15-year strategy to improve parking across the county, following a public consultation which showed strong support for safer, more accessible and better-managed parking.

[Herefordshire Council's Cabinet adopts new 15-year parking strategy](#)

Safer Walking and Crossing Routes

Communities across Herefordshire will benefit from safer walking routes, improved crossings and traffic calming measures as Herefordshire Council delivers a programme of road safety improvements from early August.

[School journeys and community routes set to improve as summer highways programme begins](#)

Herefordshire Museums & Galleries receive funding

Herefordshire Museums & Galleries has been awarded £170,000 from Paul Hamlyn Foundation's Teacher Development Fund to deliver an innovative programme supporting creative learning in primary schools.

Museums project secures £170,000 to support creative learning in Herefordshire schools

Enjoying Arts, Heritage and Cultural Activities

More than 25,000 people enjoyed delivered by local organisations across the county thanks to UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) funding secured by Herefordshire Council.

Culture grants bring 26 new projects to thousands of people across Herefordshire

Championing Rural Communities



As Chairman of the Rural Services Network (RSN) Cllr. Phillips was delighted to respond to the publication of Defra's [Future of Rural England Report](#), having contributed to the Rural Taskforce which informed the development of the report. Bringing together government departments and organisations from across the rural sector, the Rural Taskforce was established to identify the opportunities and challenges facing rural communities and businesses, helping to ensure rural considerations are embedded much earlier in policy development.

The RSN recognises the report as an important milestone in strengthening the cross-government approach to rural policy. In particular, it welcomes the commitment to establish a new cross-government Rural Board, bringing together senior officials from across Whitehall to oversee rural proofing, alongside the introduction of clearer measures, metrics and annual reporting to strengthen accountability and monitor progress on rural priorities.

These commitments have the potential to improve how rural considerations are embedded across government and how outcomes for rural communities are measured over time.

The report also reinforces the important contribution that rural communities make to the nation's economy, environment and society, recognising that thriving rural areas are essential to the UK's future prosperity with a new Prime Minister who talks about growth in every postcode!

Above: Kerry Booth-C. EX of RSN and Roger Phillips Chair Herefordshire Council

Leominster Heritage Action Zone

Herefordshire Council is working closely with local partners, traders and market organisers as completion works take place for the Leominster Heritage Action Zone public realm improvements.

[Council working with partners to minimise disruption as Leominster town centre improvements are completed](#)

Council Enforcement

Non-Payment of Council Tax Prosecution

A Hereford man has been jailed after repeatedly refusing to pay council tax despite years of recovery action and multiple opportunities to settle the debt.

[Hereford man jailed for non-payment of council tax](#)

Banned From Site for Anti-Social Behaviour

A man has been banned from entering any Council-owned traveller sites after Herefordshire Council secured a civil injunction following repeated incidents of anti-social behaviour.

[Council takes action to ban man from traveller sites for anti-social behaviour](#)

Animal Funeral Services

Several Herefordshire veterinary practices have sought to distance themselves from allegations made against an animal crematorium which are now the subject of a multi-agency inquiry. Herefordshire Council's Animal Health and Animal Welfare Team is continuing to work with other relevant statutory agencies, including the Animal and Plant Health Agency and the Environment Agency, where appropriate within the Council's regulatory responsibilities. Council officers have visited the site and spoken with those involved as part of the ongoing enquiries. Herefordshire Council will contact any pet owners identified as being directly affected by this issue and will provide information and support as further details become available.

[Investigation underway into alleged malpractice at an animal cremation site](#)



A man from Herefordshire has been handed an eight-month prison sentence, suspended for twelve months, 300 hours of unpaid work and ordered to pay full costs of £8,290.25 after being caught short of the law by fly tipping human waste produced from his Portaloo rental business. The prosecution followed an investigation by Herefordshire Council after members of the public reported seeing blue chemical toilet waste being discharged from a vehicle towing portable toilets on the A449 at Much Marcle in July 2023. Council officers attended the scene and found evidence of human waste, toilet tissue and chemical residue, with waste entering a roadside drain.

[Neil Griffiths of Three Counties Toilet Hire sentenced | Hereford Times](#)

Seizure of Large Quantities of Illegal Tobacco Products

Herefordshire Council's Trading Standards team, working with West Mercia Police, have carried out enforcement action in Hereford this week, resulting in the seizure of large quantities of illegal tobacco products and the closures of two shops.

[Major illegal tobacco seizures in Hereford as enforcement action continues across county](#)

Fly Tipping

Fly Tipping continues to be prevalent in Herefordshire, and it is a criminal offence with maximum penalty of £50,000 fine and/or 5 years imprisonment.



In 2025, the council received 859 reports of fly-tipping incidents, which varied from single bags to lorry loads of waste. Of these, 75 cases were investigated by the Community Protection Team, resulting in 13 prosecutions for fly-tipping and breaches of duty of care, as well 18 Fixed Penalty Notices being served.

Fly-tipping causes serious harm to local communities and the environment. A significant proportion of incidents are linked to household and business waste, including garden waste, being passed to unlicensed or rogue collectors. These operators often advertise cheap "tip runs" or waste removal services on social media. However, if that waste is later dumped illegally, the householder or business that handed it over could still face enforcement action.

If you spot someone fly tipping:



- Make a note of any vehicle used, including model, colour and registration number. If it is safe to do so without being seen, take a photograph or video of the activity
- Note the fly tippers' clothes, and distinguishing features. If you can hear the fly tippers, take note of anything which was said along with the speakers' accents
- Make a note of what they dumped, the location, weather conditions and how far away you were at the time

Never touch any waste which has been dumped. It may be hazardous and contain harmful substances, chemicals, glass or needles. Our officers are specially trained and equipped to deal with this waste. There may also be clues which could help identify the perpetrator, so please treat the waste as a crime scene.

Report Fly Tipping

<https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/rubbish-and-recycling/report-a-problem/>

Nordic Walking Courses

Lace up your boots and grab your walking poles, because Herefordshire Council's free Nordic walking courses are back this autumn, with three beginner courses now open for booking.

[Free Nordic walking courses return to Herefordshire this autumn](#)

Year 10 Students get taste of college Life



Over 1500 Year 10 students from across the county attended this year's Three Colleges Open Day in June, to sample college life. Students from 18 Herefordshire schools were able to take part in a huge range of activities including agriculture, business, childcare, construction trades, computing, criminology, design, engineering, fashion, health and social care, music, sport, creative media, animation and photography to name but a few.

[Students get a taste of college life in Hereford - Herefordshire Council](#)

Children's action-packed summer

Children across the county can look forward to an action-packed summer, as bookings open for Herefordshire Council's Here for Herefordshire holiday activities programme – offering free fun activities and a free healthy meal at every session.

[Free summer holiday activities for children – with a free healthy meal at every session!](#)

Police - Targeting all farmers and rural communities!

West Mercia Police want to hear the views of our rural communities around how you would like West Mercia Police to communicate with you. This includes farmers and anyone living in a more remote or rural location. If that's you, please take a few minutes to complete this short survey which will close on Monday 31st August. Copy and paste -- <https://survey.neighbourhoodmatters.co.uk/Survey/HASH/FE2A0BCBFEBD9ADBD9930CF973D894AF>

Free awareness sessions for mature drivers in Herefordshire



**Mature Driver
Awareness Session**



West Mercia Police Road Safety Team are running free Mature Driver Awareness sessions in Ross-on-Wye and Kington very soon. If you haven't booked a place yet and are interested in attending one, events are taking place on the following dates:

- Ross-on-Wye (Tuesday 11th August)
- Kington (Tuesday 25th August)

Two sessions are available on each date: morning (10:00am-12:00pm) or afternoon (1:30pm-3:30pm). Events are delivered in partnership by West Mercia Police, Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue Service and West Mercia Police & Crime Commissioner.

Places will be allocated on a first come first served basis, and full joining instructions will be provided when your place is confirmed. The sessions are aimed at drivers aged 65+. Attendees will experience a virtual reality film which has been developed specifically to help drivers understand the changes that happen as we age and how it can affect our driving. After watching each film, there will be the opportunity to ask any questions and discuss any concerns you may have.

Sessions are free to attend but places are limited and must be booked in advance.

TO BOOK: Please email West Mercia Police Road Safety Team (RoadSafety1@westmercia.police.uk) and specify which location you would like to attend and your preference for an AM (10am-12pm) or PM (1:30pm-3:30pm) session.

Police - information



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.edgipilot.com/s/bb21d405/UARq0VNajkqv1vLf0zKSJQ?u=http://www.neighbourhoodmatters.co.uk/>

Report a crime Police 101 Ext 61216

Ross on Wye Safer Neighbourhood Team - Neighbourhood Matters



Meet your safer neighbourhood team

Officers can be contacted on the below numbers concerning community issues. To report a crime in progress call 999 and for non emergencies, report online at www.westmercia.police.uk/report. If you are unable to report online, you can contact us via the 101 non-emergency number.



You can read the June newsletter by clicking here - <https://mailchi.mp/westmercia-pcc/pcc-newsletter-june2026-8425907>

Or sign up to receive it regularly and direct into your inbox here - [Newsletters | West Mercia PCC](#)

Public confidence in West Mercia Police is on the rise

According to the results of the PCC's latest perception survey, 81% of people say they have confidence in West Mercia Police – up 2% from last year.

Other results include:

- ✓ 70% believe they would receive a good level of service from the force
- ✓ 58% think West Mercia Police is doing a good or excellent job

 Confidence in how roads are policed has jumped by 10%, with 72% of residents now feeling assured

 Visible policing remains consistent, with more than 1 in 5 residents saying they see an officer or PCSO at least once a week

You can find out more, including the results specific to your area, by clicking on the link below:

[Confidence in West Mercia Police continues to increase | West Mercia PCC](#)

Local Emergency Numbers

Reporting Highway Issues –

Potholes, Defects, and dog poo reporting, blocked gullies, etc. online

If you have a general service request, i.e. if you want to report a pothole etc., please use the link above, or call us, rather than emailing your steward. Using the link or the phone number ensures that the enquiry is dealt with promptly and efficiently. Locality Stewards do not have the resource to be able to deal with service requests via email although of course they are happy to provide general guidance and support to you through email. As always please continue to make use and encourage the use of established reporting methods for any highways defect; online, or using the telephone app – for potholes, dog poo - Telephone customer services on **01432 261 800**.

Please note that Herefordshire Council strongly encourages Balfour Beatty to promote all service requests and queries should be logged via the HC website at Herefordshire Council website - also download the pothole App to help report potholes as you see them.

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

[https://link.edgepilot.com/s/e3b2b34e/ttjzBlvIfEewR-](https://link.edgepilot.com/s/e3b2b34e/ttjzBlvIfEewR-39NN73dA?u=https://myaccount.herefordshire.gov.uk/report-a-pothole)

[39NN73dA?u=https://myaccount.herefordshire.gov.uk/report-a-pothole](https://myaccount.herefordshire.gov.uk/report-a-pothole)

<https://myaccount.herefordshire.gov.uk/report-a-pothole> - or

https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/info/200196/roads/190/report_problems_on_the_road

Please use the website or call the customer services call handling team. This will help ensure that everything is logged in to the operating system known as CONFIRM where it can be responded to in a timely way.

For all Highway related defects report via:

24hr Phone – 01432 261 800

Website - Click Below

Report a problem



Dedicated Inboxes

Response within 10 working days

Members and Parish Inboxes:

for additional service information

Communities Inbox:

Social Value Support

Gullies

A basic map of known gullies for which Herefordshire Council at:

<https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/flooding-2/flood-management/3#gulliesmap>.

Gullies are individually marked on the map with latitudes and longitudes being displayed along with a site code, which is used to identify the length of road where the asset is located.

Reporting gullies that need attention:

Report issues with the highway drainage network through the Council's online reporting system at <https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/roads-1/report-problems-road>.

Issues reported are investigated by the relevant Locality Steward, who assesses the report against the Highway Maintenance Plan in order to determine the level of intervention required. Where necessary a job for a reactive cleanse is then raised and passed to a crew to attend.

Planned Roadworks

For information on current and future planned roadworks by utility companies www.roadworks.org

If you wish to make a claim because of damage to your vehicle.

https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/info/200196/roads/206/highway_claimsplease use.

Report fly's tippers -

Report illegally dumped rubbish by filling out the official Herefordshire Council Fly Tipping Form. You can also use the council's [Fly Tipping Report App](#). For urgent waste blocking a public road, call 01432 261761

If you spot someone fly-tipping

- ◎ Make a note of any vehicle used, including model, colour and registration number. If it is safe to do so without being seen, take a photograph or video of the activity.
- ◎ Note the fly tippers' clothes, and distinguishing features. If you can hear the fly tippers, take note of anything which was said along with the speakers' accents.
- ◎ Make a note of what they dumped, the location, weather conditions and how far away you were at the time.
- ◎ You may report fly tipping on an app on the website and available for download.

Bins not collected

For info and for helping with constituent enquiries in the future, if any resident goes online and tries to log a missed bin collection the systems are set up to tell you whether there is a problem in your area. Or indeed, if the road hasn't yet been signed off by the collection crew.

This would give an immediate response to the enquiry; this is the correct and quickest route for anyone to find out about their collection or report it as a problem.

[Report a problem with household bins - Herefordshire Council](#)

Report Footpaths issues –

Footpaths and Public Rights of Way

For any PROW (Public Rights of Way) maps or problems, you can report these via the following link on the Herefordshire Council's website: [Report a public right of way problem | Herefordshire](#).

- PROW - PROW@herefordshire.gov.uk
- PROW No – [01432 383 550](tel: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_SgEGkleekL2ROFQ?u=https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/info/200226/report_a_problem/98/fly_tipping

Flooding: emergency contact details – please share with your networks

Flooded road or highway obstruction: [Report a flood - Herefordshire Council](#) 01432 2618000

By letting us know where and what happened, especially if it hasn't been reported, we and our partners can use the information which may help reduce the future impacts of flooding.

Flood alerts: Flood line 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.

Has your property been affected by flooding? – Please share with your networks

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

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

Severn Trent water: [0800 783 4444](tel:0800 783 4444) www.stwater.co.uk/in-my-area/check-my-area/

Household incidents contact details – please share with your networks.

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:0800 052 0130) (Water emergencies) or [0800 085 3968](tel:0800 085 3968) (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.

Council tax reduction or exemption

You can get money off your Council Tax bill, or even pay nothing, in certain circumstances. A discount or exemption depends on your current situation and circumstances but does not take account of income or savings. If you are on a low income, you may also be able to get help to pay your bill through Council Tax Reduction. We will need to assess your financial and other circumstances to see what help you qualify for.

https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/info/200146/council_tax/39/council_tax_reduction

Ukraine relief - Local teams continues to organise supplies - details can be found on

<https://www.talkcommunitydirectory.org/ukraine>

<https://www.facebook.com/drivingsuppliestoukraine/>

Community needs contact details – please share with your networks.

Talk Community

Email: Talkcommunitycovidresponse@herefordshire.gov.uk

Telephone: [01432 260027](tel:01432 260027)

The highways maintenance plan – which sets out the council's system of road inspection, maintenance and repairs, including timescales:

https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/5210/highway_maintenance_plan_october_2016.pdf

Litter picking

https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/14134/community_litter_pick_toolkit.pdf

Did you know...?

Parishes Councils have their own inbox for emails which are monitored by teams in the office to ensure cover at all times. If you have an emergency to report, please use **01432 261800** as this is answered 24/7.

To identify road numbers, or to see if publicly maintained or to view Public Rights of Way:

https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/info/200136/travel_and_transport/716/highways_and_public_rights_of_way_map

You can follow our Twitter feed @HfdsStreets for 24/7 updates for all things highways; or log on to <https://roadworks.org> to see any live traffic incidents as well as current and planned road closures, diversions, traffic restrictions and roadworks.

Toolkits:

Community commissioning

https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/18820/community_commissioning_model_toolkit.pdf

Traffic Regulation Orders

https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/2891/application_toolkit_for_traffic_regulation_orders.pdf

Speed Indicator Devices - SIDs

https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/1859/speed_indicator_device_toolkit.pdf