

Herefordshire Councillor's Report. Parish Council meetings May 12th 2025.

Leysters Speed Limit

It was a pleasure to see "Village speed limit to be cut" as a headline in the Hereford Times on May 1st. There were no objections in the recent consultation process and so I hope that we are nearly there and the 30mph scheme will be implemented soon. The recent welcome resurfacing of the road introduced signs, new road markings and repeater signs and these are intended to improve traffic calming for the new limit.

The West Mercia Police have expressed some reservations about the scheme, mainly about enforceability and have requested that the new speed limit is monitored. The Council has agreed that the speed limit will be monitored one year on and additional measures may be considered if necessary. I know the new limit will not solve all speeding problems but overall, there should be a reduction in vehicle speeds which will improve safety in Leysters for drivers, pedestrians, horse riders and other road users. It also establishes a consistent 30mph limit through the three villages on the A4112 between Leominster and Tenbury. Many thanks to the Parish Council and all others who have been engaged in this lengthy process which I think began during lockdown.

More highway matters

The recent resurfacing on the A4112 at Leysters Pole is part of the programme of resurfacing works being carried out across Herefordshire this financial year. £ 10m is being spent on A and B roads, £1m on C and U roads and £2.5m on a surface dressing programme. The total of £ 13.5 million is an increase on £11.5 m spent last year. The backlog of potholes is also being addressed helped by this recent spell of dry and relatively warm weather. As Jonathan Lester the Leader of Herefordshire Council has said, "this is a significant investment in the highway network. "Council finances are under constant pressure so this investment including money from the Government's pothole fund is all the more welcome. We all want to see further improvements locally but please bear in mind Herefordshire has 2,000 miles of roads to maintain.

Contact details

My regular request to report potholes, blocked drains and fly tipping by going on the Council website or phoning Balfour Beatty on 01432 261 800. Please give an accurate location so that time is not wasted looking for the defect and please don't wait for someone else to report the problem. Fly tipping which costs the Council over £ 1m a year to clear needs to be dealt with quickly before it becomes a dumping ground.

I hope the Parish Council will apply when new drainage grants become available from June as this will help protect our road network next winter and beyond. Many thanks to Boris, Parish Lengthsman for all the good work carried out on Ludlow Lane and elsewhere in the parishes in the last financial year. £ 445,000 is being made available for ditching and minor drainage projects across the county this year and additional money for Public Rights of Way.

Household Waste Collection

The Council Cabinet has approved two additional services to help meet its recycling targets. There will be a new domestic food waste collection which all councils are

required to have in place along with an optional paid for garden waste collection service. Existing household waste and non-food recycling collections will be unaffected. It is hoped that the new measures will increase recycling rates from the current 40% to 58%. Details are awaited on timing and other aspects but I hope the new services will be as efficient and popular as the current ones. I hardly ever receive any complaints, just compliments. When you think what has been happening with the bin strike in Birmingham, Hereford and Worcester can take a lot of credit for the delivery of our waste collection service.

VE Day 80

VE Day was commemorated across the nation and in Europe last week with thousands attending local events or watching the TV coverage from London, The Arboretum and elsewhere. I attended the special Civic Service at The Priory Church Leominster and it was so good to seeing the teenage Air Cadets from 151 (Leominster) Squadron parading and also reading the prayers. The service was followed by fish and chips courtesy of Leominster Town Council and lighting of a beacon on The Grange followed in the twilight. It was all very moving. Fish and chips was the only food not rationed in the Second World War which says a lot for the trawlers and fishermen who risked their lives to help keep the country fed. The King spoke so well about the sacrifices the wartime generation made which have resulted in 80 years of peace, but not in all of Europe of course. The Ukrainian contingent in the London march past reminded us of the price Ukraine is currently paying so we can never be complacent. We owe so much to our Armed Forces for keeping us safe. It is now up to younger generations to maintain the peace and freedom which was so hard won in the 6 years of the Second World War.

Kimbolton St James Primary School

Congratulations to the pupils and teaching staff following the good news that their SATs results (for numeracy and literacy) were the second best in the entire county! As was stated in Roundabout, "everyone's commitment to excellence has paid off and we couldn't be prouder of the progress our pupils have made. "I have served as a school governor for some time and am always impressed by the enthusiasm of the staff and the good buzz one notices whenever visiting. Our village primary schools are so important and there will be the school fete and lots of other events for families, e carers and governors to look forward to during the busy summer term.

And finally.....

My apologies to anyone who tried to contact me during my recent long spell out of action due to illness. I am grateful to Councillor Carole Gandy and other colleagues who have stepped in to help. I am now "working from home "to use the dreaded expression so please phone me if I can be of any assistance or phone Herefordshire Council direct. Meanwhile my thanks to the Group Parish Council for all they do for the local community. All volunteers of course. Boris Pearson has also done a great job as Parish Lengthsman reporting potholes, looking after grit bins and dealing with flood water. I hope everyone will enjoy the summer to come and all the events which bring our villages and market towns to life. I also appreciate more than ever due to my recent surgery how important it is to look out for our neighbours and to help each other. Many thanks.

Councillor John Stone Leominster North and Rural ward 01584 711 227 May
12th 2025