

## **Second phase of Challenge Fund road improvements decided**

On Friday 4 May 2018, Herefordshire Council's Cabinet Member for Transport and Regulatory Services, decided on the timescale and method of works to improve local roads, as part of the Local Highways Maintenance Challenge Fund project.

The second phase of works follows last year's major resurfacing programme carried out on the A4103 Hereford to Worcester road, the A465 Hereford to Abergavenny road, and the A438 Hereford to Brecon road. The works are made possible by a successful funding bid to the Department for Transport's Local Highways Maintenance Challenge Fund.

It is proposed that the remaining works, on the A438 and A4103, to be completed over two short periods in 2018 and 2019, which will minimise disruption to road users and businesses along the routes. The works themselves would use a combination of daytime and overnight road closures, and 7 day working (including weekends).

To enable each work window to be as short as possible, an extra £0.5m would be reallocated to this £8 million project, from the additional £4.6 million that is allocated for investment in highways in the 2018/19 capital programme. It is anticipated that the completed works will bring £146m of economic benefit to Herefordshire through improved road conditions which will make the county more attractive to residents, visitors and businesses.

These works are part of an investment of more than £25m into the county's roads and public spaces in 2018/19 which in turn will have a positive impact on the health, wealth and wellbeing of all who live, work and travel in Herefordshire.

## **Highway maintenance**

In the coming year Herefordshire Council have budgeted £6.55m of revenue and £21m of capital to spend on 2000 miles of our roads. Those 2000 miles are split 11% A, 10% B and 79% C and Unclassified. 92% of our roads are deemed "rural". These numbers exclude the A49 which is maintained by Highways England along with the M50.

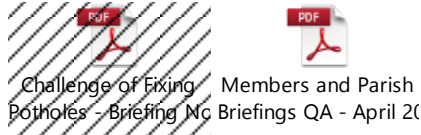
A,B and some C roads are actively scanned to determine a risk rating for them; 323 miles of the network are now deemed at high risk with 68 miles being resurfaced or top dressed in 2017. The additional £1.25m from the government's pothole fund will be used to target the worst of what the winter weather has caused.

A recent internal performance review highlighted that although Herefordshire spends £46/head on its roads, putting it in the highest quartile for England, that investment represents only £2063/km of road which is in the lowest quartile. Regular capital and revenue expenditure was the lowest per km in England, bar the Isles of Scilly! All a reflection of the amount of road per head of population. So do encourage our MPs to keep asking government for more assistance in road funding for our rural county.

Although statutory inspections of strategic main roads are carried out monthly, some local and rural roads only get a statutory inspection annually. Even with the presence of our BBLP locality stewards they really need us to report issues with the roads (potholes, gullies, branches, drains etc.) as soon as we see them. There are some of you that do that regularly, and I thank you. There is a majority however that leave it for someone else to report. Please do make the effort to report a problem as each issue reported can help not only get a temporary fix, but help in prioritising the limited funding for long term resurfacing, or costly culvert repairs.

### Challenge of fixing potholes

Balfour Beatty Members and parish Council briefing notes.



### Velocity Patching

We have a velocity patching machine mobile on our roads. I'm hoping that the Council's velocity patching will soon make a difference to our rural roads before next month. Please look at the Youtube video of a velocity patcher at work.

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=7WN8uQnE8VE](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7WN8uQnE8VE)

### Council tax Youtube video

Here is a brief Youtube video showing how our council tax is spent.  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1oSYdke7MSg>

### A rogue company and director preyed on elderly Herefordshire residents fined £20,000

A rogue company and director, which preyed on elderly residents in Herefordshire, has received fines for 'unfair trading' in a case taken to Hereford Magistrates Court, concluding on Friday 27 April 2018.

GER (Southern) Ltd and its director Martin Hancox, 43, from Bournemouth, pleaded guilty to unfair trading charges following a case taken to Hereford Magistrates Court by Herefordshire Council's Trading Standards team. GER (Southern) Ltd and Hancox received fines and costs totalling £20,343.

The company used databases to cold call elderly residents, and one victim was an 87 year old gentleman from Bartestree, Hereford. In 2014, the gentleman was mis-sold spray foam insulation work at the inflated cost of £5,000. A further unsolicited phone call followed in June 2017, where the gentleman was coerced into agreeing to an appointment where he was falsely told that moss on his roof had caused a leak. Eventually he was deceived into agreeing to further work to the value of £3,200, when in fact the work was unnecessary and worthless.

Director Martin Hancox stated to the court that he was unaware of the incident and it was the actions of rogue staff in his company that led to the offences, but as director he felt he had to take responsibility.

There is further advice on being scam aware at [www.herefordshire.gov.uk/scams](http://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/scams) and those who believe they have been affected by rogue trading can call Herefordshire Trading Standards on 01432 261761.

### Hereford Football Club promotion

Great news about Hereford Football club topping their league and being promoted for the third year running. Four years ago the old Hereford United went bankrupt and the new club had to start at the bottom of all the football league tables. They have risen three divisions in three years and last month

Herefordshire Council confirmed a new lease for the club till 2030 and potential redevelopment of the Blackfriars end stand.



### Recycling and Waste 2017/18 Update

Herefordshire council recycles **41%** of the waste it collects, most of the waste that remains is sent to an Energy from Waste plant in Worcestershire under a joint contract between the two County Councils. There it is burnt in controlled conditions to generate electricity to be fed into the national grid.

- **75,000** tonnes of household waste is collected by the council last year (2017/18)
- The average amount of waste produced by each household in Herefordshire is **900kg** per year
- The Energy from Waste plant accepts 200,000 tonnes of waste from councils in Herefordshire and Worcestershire each year, it generates around **17 Megawatts per hour**, enough to power **30,000 homes**.

For a nominal fee the council also provides:

- A large item collection service
- Garden waste collection (in pre-paid green sacks)

Our local recycling centres are

Hereford                      Open 7 days a week

Ross-on-Wye                Open Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays

*Barry*

**Barry Durkin**  
**Old Gore Ward**  
April 2018

#### Report it

Please note that Herefordshire Council strongly encourages Balfour Beatty to promote all service requests and queries should be logged via the HC website at

<https://myaccount.herefordshire.gov.uk/report-a-pothole> or call through to the call handling team on 01432 261800.

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 any PROW (Public Rights of Way) maps or problems, you can report these via the following link on the Herefordshire Council's website:

# Ward Report

## Old Gore Ward – Herefordshire Council

April 2018

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[https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/info/200136/travel\\_and\\_transport/248/public\\_rights\\_of\\_way\\_map](https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/info/200136/travel_and_transport/248/public_rights_of_way_map)

You can search for PROW information on the map using: - Footpath references, Postcodes, Addresses and Grid References e.g. 354000 254000

### General Data Protection Regulations Statement

The General Data Protection Act places obligations and responsibilities on any company, organisation and individual who hold and process personnel information, and it comes into force on the 25th May 2018; superseding the Data Protection Act 1998. As a County Councillor I hold a list of emails of local people that I have built up over the years which I retain and use on my council computer and email. I can give you all the reassurance that I do not and will not share those email addresses with any third party. **In seeking legal compliance as a data controller I am requesting that if anyone is unhappy with my holding their email contact that you please advise me so that I am able to remove you from the list.** Otherwise I will retain your email contact and continue to send you monthly updates, emails as required and occasional key information.