

Much Birch Parish council

Ward member report, January 2016

Petition

I was proud to be with Eric Joseph and almost a dozen residents of Tump Lane as he presented his 330+ name petition to the full council on 18.12.15. The Hereford Times were also present and the story appeared on their website. We must now keep the pressure on to improve road safety not just in Tump Lane but across the parish.

Neighbourhood development plan

I made the point at the last Parish council here that 'Not having a neighbourhood development plan means losing influence over where the housing growth in your area will take place.' This appears to be coming true with a highly contentious planning application on Tump Lane in the pipeline. Even though the application has not yet been submitted it has generated considerable interest both in support of and against the proposal.

I would once again urge the Much Birch parish council to move forward with any plans to commence a Neighbourhood development plan. Help is available from Herefordshire Council in the form of grants and also advice and there are now several parishes almost at the stage of adoption. Getting an NDP to the stage of adoption takes many months of work and consultation with the local community. The final plan needs to be put to a referendum with a 50% majority in favour in order to adopt an NDP and the community therefore needs to be fully involved in the process.

I will try to ensure that both sides of the proposal (Larkrise) have the opportunity to put their side of the argument across so that residents can make an informed decision. With the Parish council's blessing I will try and organise a meeting at the village hall whereby both sides get the chance to have their say.

There will be pressure on Much Birch for new homes and I urge the PC to start the process of writing an NDP either with another parish or alone.

Local transport plan 2016 - 2031

Herefordshire's new Local Transport Plan covering the period 2016-2031 is currently in draft form undergoing consultation. The Local Transport Plan sets out the council's strategy for supporting economic growth, improving health and wellbeing and reducing the environmental impacts of transport.

We are seeking your feedback from a questionnaire which will help to prioritise Herefordshire Council's objectives and spending priorities over the next 15 years. This survey will conclude on 29 January 2016 and we would urge you to take part by using the link below:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/LTP-Consultation>

Bus Service No: 33 Hereford to Ross on Wye (evenings) Mondays to Saturdays; Sunday am and Service

Herefordshire Council managed to continue to fund a number of bus routes for an additional twelve months following the original proposal to reduce service levels. The additional journeys will cease to operate with effect from 10th April 2016 unless further funding can be found. There are pressures to withdraw a further £250,000 from the budget for 2016-17.

We would therefore encourage parishioners to use the service, or lose it. This may have the effect of making the service commercially viable.