

Much Birch Parish council

Ward member report, July 2016

TRO update

I recently attended a BBLP update at which they talked about the possibility of giving more power to Parish councils with regard to 'sponsoring' TROs to speed them up. See below, more detail to follow as & when released.

Traffic Regulation Orders

Improving delivery of TRO

- Full review of end to end process to reduce time to deliver a TRO
- Assessment of existing backlog
- Capacity built within team and outsourcing options
- Developing fast track applicant funded service option – commissioning process to be developed

Key process changes

- Early assessment of requests
- Establish local support prior to applying
- Applicant to conduct informal and formal consultation – Toolkit and workshop planned
- Early approval (HC) prior to applying
- Grouping requests into collective orders

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Balfour Beatty Herefordshire Council
Working for Herefordshire

The Tump Lane petition

I have spoken with Cllr Willcox (Chairman of the council) who received the petition & with Cllr Paul Rone (to whom it was passed), I believe that Cllr Rone's department have the petition on file and will use it to prioritise the TRO's from around the county.

Bus services

The council will be undertaking a further public consultation this summer on the county's bus services. Details will shortly appear on the council's website.

The background is that 39% of the 3.1 million journeys undertaken last year were subsidised at a cost of £1.3M. On top of this there is the cost of reimbursing private bus operators the 'free fares' for the concessionary travel offered by bus passes for the elderly and disabled; this is a further £1.4M. In the context of disappearing central government grants these figures are material.

The routes in this area most likely to come under pressure are 412/413 Garway – King's Thorn – Hereford. Services are likely to come under pressure if they are not better supported.

City of culture bid

A group of Herefordians led by the Courtyard's Roger Morgan are putting together a bid for Hereford to become the UK's city of culture in 2021. Unlike many of the other bids, our bid will effectively be a 'county of culture' bid and will be organised and submitted entirely by a group of enthusiasts passionate about Herefordshire.

According to the group: 'Herefordshire has a significant net outflow of young adults who leave the county each year. Research shows that young people leave the county for education and alternative employment opportunities due to the relatively low paid and low skilled jobs available locally, but also because of a perceived lack of wider social and cultural activities.....Bidding for the City of Culture will play a major part in the overall positioning of the county as a place to live, work, play, study and visit. The City of Culture would provide Herefordshire with a strong and influential brand which would support local enterprise and inward investment.'

If anyone wishes to volunteer for the bid team then please contact Roger at the Courtyard, Hereford.