

Much Birch Parish council

Ward member report, September 2016

Wormelow shop

There is widespread disappointment in the community that the Wormelow village shop has not yet transpired. The many comments on Facebook show the frustration felt by many.

I have alerted Herefordshire Council's economic team to the opportunity and they will be promoting the site to their database. It may be worth the residents of the parish also proactively promoting the opportunity to any business contacts they may have.

Meeting the new Police and Crime Commissioner

The new Police and Crime Commissioner, John Campion was recently in town. He was well informed and very interested in the issues that affect people in Herefordshire. He discussed areas where public services can work together to address issues eg reoffending rates, domestic violence, harm from alcohol and drugs, anti-social behaviour and hate crime, and road safety. He is keen to ensure the Police service is efficiently run and recognizes the importance of feeling safe which can be different to simply just considering crime statistics. I was reassured that speed of police response and police visibility are important to him in rural areas, and he made it very clear that rural areas would not be seen as the poorer cousin to urban areas.

A49 Roadworks

Paul Rone (Cabinet member roads) and I were contacted by a Much Birch resident in Late August with regard to the continuing A49 roadworks and the sloppy signage sending motorists on long detours unnecessarily. We are awaiting a response from the contractors (Kier) as well as Highways England.

As the PC will be aware, Highways England is outside the control of Herefordshire Council and I would urge concerned residents to take this up with our MP as well as making any direct comments known to Highways England. I will keep you informed of any response.

Do you use buses in Herefordshire?

Herefordshire Council would like Herefordshire residents' views on buses across the county to help shape how they will operate in the future.

The council's medium term financial strategy, approved by council in February 2016, includes proposals of £890,000 for passenger transport savings for the period 2016 to 2020.

Following public consultation in spring 2014, the council has saved £1 million on passenger transport provision through a combination of effective planning, integration of services, close working with operators and reductions in subsidy. We are now looking to update that consultation by seeking views from the public, bus users, parish and town councils, transport stakeholder groups and transport providers.

The consultation is to gauge a range of views from those who use these services and those who currently don't. Comments will be part of a published report that will help Herefordshire Council make decisions on the best way of using the buses and prioritising services most important to residents.

Details available at <https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/transport-and-highways/public-transport/travelling-by-bus/bus-review-2016>