

Much Birch Parish council

Ward member report, November 2015

Road safety

Outside the school –

- *I spoke with Revd Mark Johnson and Mother Superior on 21.10.2015 with regard to potential solutions to the parking problems outside the school; the sisters will be having a discussion about possibly allowing parents to park their cars at school times in their car park at Poor Clares. This partial solution, if accepted by the sisters, should mean fewer cars from Poor Clares onwards up the hill.*
 - **Email Update received on 02.11.15 below. Using the convent is not an option.**

Good afternoon David, I am not quite sure if it was you or one of the other councillors who rang the convent regarding the use of our present Car Park for the school. I have not as yet mentioned the matter to the sisters as I doubt very much if it would pass Health and Safety. Cars coming down the drive and children running up would be rather dangerous. The main reason is in the winter the drive would be unsafe for parents and children. Even our chaplain, Fr. Antony, leaves his car at the top of the drive in the bad weather. I well appreciate the problem but I do not think the use of our car park would be a safe or sensible solution. We were not long here when we had to enlarge the existing car park to enable a fire engine access. I tried to phone you but without success, we as a community care very much about the children and are sorry not to be able to have some positive contribution to offer. You would be most welcome to call to see me, if it would be helpful.
Sincerely yours

Sr. Anne Magdalen (Mother Abbess)

- *I visited Mr Padden at Fairview on 27th and 29th October to explain the delay in sorting out the road issues outside his house but he was away. I left a note, he has been in touch and we are due to have a meeting in early November.*

Tump Lane –

- *I met up with Eric and Doreen Joseph together with Keith James on 27.10.15 to discuss road safety on Tump Lane and to collect the signatures on Eric's petition. Eric will be attending tonight's PC meeting so that he can present the Parish council with a copy of the petition. He will be handing the original to Herefordshire Council in December.*
- *BBLP have a traffic regulation order list and Tump Lane/Wormelow features at numbers 7,18,63 on the list. I have asked them to consider merging these three proximate TROs as a way of getting some forward momentum. I am awaiting a response although they will probably say that the main road through Wormelow (A466) is a different class of road and therefore my suggestion is not possible.*

Core Strategy

The full council met on 16.10.15 and adopted the core strategy; an adopted neighbourhood plan is now vital but will take time. It may be worth considering joining forces with another parish such as Little Birch. I have shared an existing final stage plan with Cllr Turner.

Can Parish councils do more?

This is a strategic question that I was asked at the last MBPC meeting and one that is being discussed at Shire Hall. The short answer is that PCs will be asked to do more and have the ability to raise council tax precepts by an unlimited amount, it is possible that locals will be far happier to pay more tax if they see the money being spent on their own doorsteps. How far these extra powers go is what I need to clarify...

Kings thorn bus stop

I chased the councillor for Much Dewchurch about the bus stop issue, see comment below in response:

[‘the survey has confirmed that there is asbestos on site of the bus stop, therefore there will be a meeting that BBLP will contact us both about in due course’](#)

County news...

High Town fire damaged building

Herefordshire Council met with representatives of the owners of the fire damaged buildings in High Town, Hereford on Thursday 1 October and is encouraged by their willingness to facilitate a sale to enable the site to be redeveloped.

The council can confirm that Hereford based architect Hook Mason Ltd has now been instructed to seek pre-application advice from the council’s planning service to obtain a more marketable development with the aim of selling the property and bringing the buildings back into use as soon as possible.

Hereford Library

Herefordshire Council is reviewing its position following the unexpected discovery of asbestos at Hereford Library.

As traces of asbestos have been found at the venue, it is in the best safety interest to remove it completely and that work will start later this year. As yet there is no firm date as to when those works will be completed.

There has been a considerable increase in the use of Belmont Library to compensate for the closure of Hereford Library, and a drop-off point is available at the Shire Hall. In addition we plan to open a temporary provision at Hereford Town Hall as soon as we can. Options for temporary relocating the Museum and Arts Gallery are being explored.