

Much Birch Parish council

Ward member report, December 2017

TRO outside Much Birch school

The consultants have sent out a revised consultation document to address the issues outside Mr Padden's house and the school. We expect to have their recommendations early in the new year.

City link road

The City Link Road will open to the public on Monday 11 December 2017. The actual cost of construction of the CLR is less than the original forecast with land acquisition and professional fees above forecast. Taking into account the risk and inflation allowance the scheme comes within the business case budget agreed.

The road will mark a significant milestone in the regeneration of Hereford City following on from the successful opening of Old Market in 2012.

Once open the new road will provide an east to west route and a direct walking and cycling link from the Great Western Way to the hospital, railway station and colleges. The road's opening will also reinstate a second entrance to Merton Meadow car park in time for the Christmas shopping period.

Shopping in Hereford this Christmas

Herefordshire Council has decided to issue vouchers for free parking to encourage customers to visit independent businesses in Hereford this Christmas. The scheme is in partnership with the Hereford Business Improvement District (BID) team and aims to promote independent businesses during the busy Christmas period.

The parking vouchers are available for local independent businesses to issue to customers. They can be used throughout December for 3 hours free weekend car parking at the Town Hall car park (access via East Street) and Greyfriars overflow car park (the section under the bridge) on Saturdays and Sundays. They can also be used for 2 hours free parking (Monday to Saturday) in the limited waiting bays on Castle Street. These locations are a short walk from the Independent Quarter on Church Street and the surrounding area.

Don't forget: Herefordshire Council car parks in Hereford city centre, including the Old Market and on-street pay & display, are free for shoppers after 4pm every Wednesday until Christmas

Speed in rural villages

Last week was National Road Safety Week, organised by the national road safety charity Brake. This year's campaign encourages everyone to be more aware of their speed and slow down. In the UK and particularly in villages like Much Birch speeding is still a major problem. It causes needless collisions, untold suffering and stops people living safe and healthy lives as we have seen in our area over the last twelve months.

Over the last ten years, Herefordshire saw an overall decrease in serious road accidents across the county, however in the last two years, these number have started to rise. Research suggests that if the speed of traffic is reduced by just 1mph, there would be a 5% reduction in casualties. Drivers who reduce their speed will also save money by using their car more efficiently.

Please help everyone stay safe this winter by being speed aware, and drive appropriately for the weather conditions. Follow @HfdsStreets on Twitter for the latest winter road updates, including gritting.

DGH December 2017