

## **Much Birch Parish council**

Ward member report, September 2017

### **Tump Lane**

You may have read recently that the Tump Lane speed limit will soon be reduced to 30mph, I will keep you informed as to when this might happen. Rural road safety is an ongoing issue as recent tragic events have shown

### **Customer Services hub**

Herefordshire Council's central customer services team moved from Franklin House to the newly-refurbished Blueschool House, and opened to customers on Monday 4 September 2017.

The joint customer services hub is hosting the central customer service team, Jobcentre Plus, Home Point and Housing Solutions. This enables customers to access a variety of services in one place, with digital access to service available between 9am-5pm Monday to Friday

Franklin will now be used as the university's base now that this project has moved onto a more secure footing.

### **Heritage weekend**

Herefordshire will be opening up its fabulous historic sites for Heritage Open Days, which run from Thursday September 7 to Sunday 10.

Herefordshire will be partaking in Heritage Open Days, England's biggest heritage festival that celebrates our fantastic history, architecture and culture.

A highlight will be the Shire Hall in Hereford celebrating its 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary and opening up its doors to the public on September 9

### **Herefordshire Leader grants**

Although we are leaving the EU there is still some European money allocated to rural areas such as ours. Please let any small business owners know about these grants as the money will simply be reabsorbed by EU if not spent.

Organisations including Parish councils can apply for grants – see <http://businesssolutionscentres.co.uk/hereford/> for more details

The Herefordshire LEADER Programme provides grants (funded by the European Union and managed by DEFRA) to rural businesses in the county. These can be used for farm diversification, tourism, cultural and heritage activities, forestry and other rural services. Qualifying small and micro businesses, social enterprises, voluntary organisations, community groups and parish councils in rural Herefordshire can apply for grants of up to £35,000. Larger grants may be available for exceptional projects. You will need to self-finance 60 percent of the project costs and grants can only be used to cover capital costs and not training, skills development, printing, or running costs.

You can read more information on previous LEADER projects in our VITAL Herefordshire LEADER booklet.

The programme provides grant funding to support:

- Micro and small enterprises, including farm diversification
- Rural tourism
- Increasing farm productivity
- Increasing forestry provision
- Provision of rural services
- Cultural and heritage activities