

Much Birch Parish council

Ward member report, April 2018

Local matters

Nothing specific to report apart from some planning matters which MBPC will be aware of

Potholes

Herefordshire Council have been awarded more cash to help with potholes. This funding, which totals £1,252,647, will be used to repair more roads, addressing the equivalent of 23,000 potholes and build in protection to help make the county's roads more resistant to future severe weather. According to BBLP we have seen an 84% increase in dangerous potholes since the Beast from the East and her slightly smaller but equally irritating sister.

This money is in addition to monies flowing from the AMEY contract plus usual council spending all of which will see a considerable improvement to the county's road network this summer. To manage expectations there are thousands of miles of roads in Herefordshire and not all will be improved but we will certainly to the maximum possible with the money available.

Economic news

We have been asking local businesses in rural Herefordshire to come forward and make applications to the EU run LEADER scheme. We were in the bottom quartile of English counties for take up of this grant six months ago but following a call for projects I'm delighted to report that we are now in the top 3 English counties. LEADER is a grant scheme offering grants of up to £100k for businesses and communities in the county looking to start or grow.

If there are any projects you know of in the rural part of Herefordshire this is perhaps the last chance to get them included. For more information please contact Dawn Turner on 01432 383023

Poppies

Just a quick update on the poppies, visitor numbers are above expectation at approx. 2200 – 2400 per day (even during some poor weather) and should the daily numbers remain constant we will exceed the 100,000 visitor mark. This is clearly excellent news for the city and specifically the hard pressed retailers struggling in the face of changing national shopping patterns. So far no major traffic or parking problems to report so this truly is a good news story.