

£1.25m additional funding will help to tackle the issue of potholes

Balfour Beatty Living Places has scaled up their approach to combat the county's potholes through the delivery of a proactive pothole repair plan.

Herefordshire Council's public realm contractor recorded over five times the number of potholes in March 2018 compared with the previous year, mainly due to the combination of water on the network and extremely cold temperatures caused by the prolonged winter weather.

The challenge of tackling the increased number of potholes across the UK has been acknowledged by government, and Herefordshire Council recently secured £1.25m of additional funding to help tackle the issue. This is in addition to the £5m successful funding bid to the Department for Transport's Local Highways Maintenance Challenge Fund, which will see the second phase of road improvement work on the A4103 and A438 begin in August 2018.

Balfour Beatty Living Places' pothole repair teams have been working hard to overcome the high number of road defects and, since January 2018, have repaired over 13,700 defects, compared to around 3,000 this time last year.

The pothole repair plan sees more operational pothole gangs out on the network, and the use of a 'jetpatcher' machine enables higher volumes of potholes to be repaired quickly and effectively.

Essential work will begin on Lydbrook Black Bridge next month

Herefordshire Council is working with Gloucestershire County Council to ensure the long term sustainability of Lydbrook Bridge.

Built in 1875 Lydbrook Rail Bridge (known locally as Stowfield Viaduct or the Black Bridge) is a former railway structure which spans the River Wye. The rail line was closed in 1964 and the bridge deck was refurbished to form a walkway. The bridge was closed in 2016 due to safety concerns. Bridge work will begin on Monday 4 June to make sure that river traffic and walkers continue to be safe when passing underneath.

The safety work is expected to continue until October. Once the work is complete, there will be a risk-free passage under the bridge for water traffic and walkers however the bridge itself will still not be accessible on foot.

As the work progresses, updates will be available on the Lydbrook Bridge webpage - <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/roads-parking-and-rights-of-way/major-projects/lydbrook-bridge/>

Success in bid to open new free school

Herefordshire Council has been successful in its bid to create a new free school. Barrs Court Academy Trust have been appointed to lead this new school, for 16 to 19 year olds with Special Needs, which will be located on the former site of Broadlands Primary School.

Bright Sparks Early Years, which is rated 'Outstanding' by Ofsted, has been running for nearly 39 years on its current site, alongside Broadlands Primary School. In September 2015 Broadlands Primary School relocated to a new site, and over the last few months the council has been actively working with Bright Sparks to find them a suitable new home.

Herefordshire Council is one of only 19 councils across the country to be successful in its bid to create a new special free school. The school is planned to open by 2020.

Blandford Fly bites on the increase in Herefordshire – how to protect yourself

Herefordshire is set to bask in warm temperatures and residents and visitors are being reminded to protect themselves against the Blandford Fly.

The Blandford fly is a 2 to 3mm bloodsucking black fly, which lives near areas of water and gives a particularly nasty and painful bite. The fly normally bites ankles and legs, as it flies low to the ground and is most common during May and June.

Healthcare professionals have advised that bites can be preventable if the correct precautions are taken. Take precautions if they're out and about on our rivers and streams, especially by covering up and using a good quality insect repellent. If you do get bitten, it can often feel very uncomfortable with swelling, blistering, joint pain and sometimes a high temperature.

However, there's normally no need to visit a GP. If you do feel unwell after a bite, please call NHS 111 or visit your local pharmacy for advice on how to ease your discomfort. For the majority of people, the symptoms will only last a few days before clearing up."

For more information, read the NHS advice - <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/insect-bites-and-stings/>

Weeping Window experienced by nearly 200,000 visitors

Herefordshire Council and Hereford Cathedral are delighted to have welcomed so many visitors to the city

Over 196,000 people visited Poppies: Weeping Window, by artist Paul Cummins and designer Tom Piper, when it was displayed at Hereford Cathedral between 14 March and 29 April. The sculpture came to Hereford Cathedral as part of 14-18 NOW's UK-wide tour of the iconic poppy sculptures Wave and Weeping Window, which have

been seen by over 3.75 million people to date. The artwork is carefully being removed from the cathedral and will shortly be presented at Carlisle Castle from 23 May to 8 July.

Coach business fined for not disposing of their waste legally

Keith Buchanan, trading as Buchanan Coaches, received fines and costs of just over £2k

A local coach business has received fines for not disposing of waste legally in a case taken to Hereford Magistrates Court which concluded on Monday 16 April 2018. Keith Buchanan, 66, trading as Buchanan Coaches, of Stretton Sugwas, Hereford, pleaded guilty to failing in his duty of care to transfer his business waste, which included hazardous waste oil from commercial vehicles, to an authorised person and securing the transfer with a written description of the waste. He received fines and costs totalling £2068.88.

Officers from Herefordshire Council's Community Protection Team found evidence of coach and commercial vehicle parts at Hereford Household Recycling Centre, and investigations led officers to Buchanan Coaches. Following this it was determined that Keith Buchanan did not have any documentation to show he had transferred his commercial waste to an authorised person between 20 February 2015 and 20 February 2017.

All businesses must ensure appropriate duty of care measures are in place so the waste they produce is disposed of correctly. Businesses must also have documentation to show who they have transferred the waste to and keep those records for at least two years.

Household Recycling Centres may only be used by residents in Herefordshire wishing to dispose of their own household waste. The deposit of commercial waste (any waste associated with a business) is unlawful at Household Recycling Centres and can result in prosecution. Herefordshire Council's Community Protection Team will investigate unlawful waste disposal and fly tipping cases that are reported online at www.herefordshire.gov.uk/flytipping

There is further information about responsible waste disposal for residents and businesses online at www.herefordshire.gov.uk/recycling

Herefordshire Council's broadband delivery project, Fastershire, has been shortlisted for the Connected Britain Awards 2018.

The inaugural awards aim to recognise the innovation and achievement of those companies who are at the forefront of Britain's digital transformation. Fastershire, one of the first pilot broadband projects, was created in partnership with Gloucestershire County Council to overcome commercial market failure to provide access to faster broadband and has been shortlisted for the Superfast award.

Fastershire is also leading the way in the deployment of the new optimum fibre technology, fibre to the premise (FTTP), with 13% of properties able to access ultrafast broadband, four times higher than the national average.

Phase 2 of the Fastershire rollout sees BT continuing to deliver for Fastershire in Cheltenham, Gloucester and Hereford, while in rural areas Gigaclear will build a new full fibre network and provide access to ultrafast broadband. For remaining, hardest to reach properties, Fastershire is using a mix of solutions, including bespoke grants to local businesses, and significant property clusters or possible contract extensions with BT and Gigaclear for any remaining properties.

The Connected Britain Awards 2018 forms part of an annual conference that will discuss future telecoms and broadband connectivity needs and is due to be held in London, 19-20th June.

News from the parishes.

Woolhope

23/5. I attended at the start of a large oil spillage at The Nurdens in Woolhope, which ultimately extended for nearly 1.5 miles; although not as badly as at the main discharge point. The main discharge was at the Nurdens on the bend and I contacted BBLP for the attendance of their emergency crew. They attended and dealt with the spillage in the first instance. The Locality Steward attended the following day. The road cleaning vehicle attended on 24th and cleaned the highway.

Ward

Highways review:

21/5 I had a 'drive round' the ward with the Locality Steward to review defects in the highway. He made not of the locations and later returned to address the defect and report them to BBLP central office. The defects have been categorised and will be dealt with in the usual prioritisation procedure.



Barry Durkin
Old Gore Ward
May 2018

Report it

Please note that Herefordshire Council strongly encourages Balfour Beatty to promote all service requests and queries should be logged via the HC website at

<https://myaccount.herefordshire.gov.uk/report-a-pothole> or call through to the call handling team on 01432 261800.

Please use the website or call the customer services call handling team. This will help ensure that everything is logged in to the operating system known as CONFIRM where it can be responded to in a timely way.

For any PROW (Public Rights of Way) maps or problems, you can report these via the following link on the Herefordshire Council's website:

https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/info/200136/travel_and_transport/248/public_rights_of_way_map

You can search for PROW information on the map using: - Footpath references, Postcodes, Addresses and Grid References e.g. 354000 254000

General Data Protection Regulations Statement

Ward Report

Old Gore Ward – Herefordshire Council

May 2018

The General Data Protection Act places obligations and responsibilities on any company, organisation and individual who hold and process personnel information, and it comes into force on the 25th May 2018; superseding the Data Protection Act 1998. As a County Councillor I hold a list of emails of local people that I have built up over the years which I retain and use on my council computer and email. I can give you all the reassurance that I do not and will not share those email addresses with any third party. **In seeking legal compliance as a data controller I am requesting that if anyone is unhappy with my holding their email contact that you please advise me so that I am able to remove you from the list.** Otherwise I will retain your email contact and continue to send you monthly updates, emails as required and occasional key information.