



LEOMINSTER TOWN COUNCIL

FULL COUNCIL

Tuesday 23rd November 2021

To: All Members:
Councillors Rumsey (Mayor), Marsh (Deputy Mayor), Bartlett, Davies, Hanna, Herschy, Marshall, Murdoch, Norman, Preece, Rosser, Smith-Winnard, Sutcliffe, Thomas and Williams (1 Vacancy).

NOTICE OF MEETING

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Leominster Town Council to be held on **Monday 29th November 2021** commencing at **19:00 hours** in the Council Chamber, 11 Corn Square, Leominster HR6 8YP.

Julie Debbage

Julie Debbage
TOWN CLERK

AGENDA

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
Schedule 12 of the Local Government Act 1972 requires a record be kept of the members present and that this record form part of the minutes of the meeting. Members who cannot attend a meeting should tender apologies to the Town Clerk as it is usual for the grounds upon which apologies are tendered also to be recorded. Under Section 85(1) of the Local Government Act 1972, members present must decide whether the reason(s) for a member's absence are acceptable.
2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
Under the Localism Act 2011 (sections 26-37 and Schedule 4) and in accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct, members are required to declare any interests which are not currently entered in the member's register of interests or if he/she has not notified the Monitoring Officer of it.
3. **REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS**
To consider requests for dispensations (must be notified in writing).
4. **CO-OPTION**
To consider co-opting one Councillor to fill the vacancy in the South Ward.
5. **QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC (maximum 15 minutes)**
To receive questions and statements from members of the public.

6. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

To receive and approve as a correct record the minutes of the Leominster Town Council meeting held on 27th September 2021.

7. CLERKS REPORT

To receive the Clerk's Report on matters outstanding that may not appear on the agenda.

8. FINANCES

(a) Accounts paid and invoices for payment - To receive an accounts paid and invoices for payment statement.

(b) Income and Expenditure Report Month 7 - To consider the Income and Expenditure Report for Month 7 and accompanying notes.

(c) Budget Update - A verbal update on 2022/23 budget setting.

(d) Transfer of bank account balances - To consider approving the movement of a sum of money from the current account to the savings account.

9. GRANTS

(a) Welcome Back Fund - To note the award of the grant of £20000 from the Welcome Back Fund and the list of projects to be funded under the scheme.

(b) Great Places to Visit Fund – To consider the completion of the deed in respect of the grant and to note the list of potential projects to be funded under the scheme.

10. CULTURAL CONSORTIUM MEMORANDUM OF ASSOCIATION – To review the terms of the Leominster Cultural Consortium Memorandum of Understanding and either:

- subject requests for edits to Leominster Cultural Consortium for consideration; or
- approve the agreement for signature.

11. MODEL PUBLICATION SCHEME – To review and re-adopt the Model Publication Scheme. Please see attached documents.

12. REPORTS

To receive update reports from:

- Representatives on outside bodies (verbal)
- Herefordshire Council Ward Members (text)

13. MAYORAL APPOINTMENTS

To receive an update on Mayoral appointments attended by the Mayor.

14. CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

Certain items are expected to include the consideration of exempt information and the Finance Committee is, therefore, recommended to resolve "That, in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded during the discussion of the matters referred to in the items listed below, on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information, as defined in the respective paragraph of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act, and the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information".

- (a) Staff Review –** To consider the clerks verbal report and the recommendations from the Personnel Sub-Committee.

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Town Council meeting will be held on Monday 24th January 2022 commencing at 19:00 hours in the Council Chamber, 11 Corn Square, Leominster HR6 8YP.

LEOMINSTER TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Leominster Town Council Meeting held on Monday 27th September 2021 commencing at 19:00 hours in the Council Chamber, 11 Corn Square, Leominster HR6 8YP

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillors Rumsey (Mayor), Marsh (Deputy Mayor), Bartlett, Davies, Hanna, Herschy, Murdoch, Norman, Smith-Winnard, Sutcliffe, Thomas, and Williams.

OFFICERS PRESENT: Town Clerk, Democratic Services Officer.

ALSO PRESENT: Ward Cllr Stone, a member of the press and 3 members of the public.

55/21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Marshall (Work) and Cllr Rosser (Work).

56/21 CO-OPTION

Four prospective candidates applied to be co-opted on to Leominster Town Council following the resignation of a previous Councillor. No election had been called. Each candidate gave a brief personal statement during the meeting. Following the completion of the personal statements, a vote was taken as to which candidate to appoint. Council **RESOLVED** to formally co-opt Jill Hanna on to Leominster Town Council to represent the South Ward.

Cllr Hanna signed her Declaration of Acceptance of Office, which was received by the Proper Officer.

Council **RESOLVED** to appoint Cllr Hanna to sit on the following Committees:

- Planning & Highways Committee
- Finance & General Purposes Committee

57/21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

58/21 REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

No requests for dispensation had been received.

59/21 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no questions from the public.

60/21 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Council **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Leominster Town Council Extraordinary meeting held on 20th September 2021 be agreed and signed as a correct record.

61/21 CLERK'S REPORT

Council noted the following Clerk's Report:

- **Mayor Making Ceremony** – During the ceremony, held in The Priory on Saturday 25th September 2021, the following appointments were made:
 - Sergeant at Arms – Mr Mick Meredith
 - Mace Bearers – Mr Frank Barber and Mr Ken Jones
 - Official Ale Taster – Mr Alan McEwan
 - Official Flesh Taster – Mr John Stirling
 - Official Bread Weigher – Mrs Gill Bullock
- **Hester Clark's Charity** – The trustees of Hester Clark's Charity, which is responsible for the management of four almshouses in Leominster, have advised that they require two Councillors to be representatives on the board. Council **RESOLVED** to appoint Cllrs Thomas and Williams to be representatives.
- **Footpath ZC143** – A request has been received from a member of the public for the Town Council to apply for the footpath that starts at The Broad and joins ZC143, along with any other unrecorded paths, to be recorded on the Definitive Map. The clerk will contact Balfour Beatty regarding protection and recording of the path.
- **Broad Street Lorry Park** – Cllr Thomas reported the lack of facilities for lorry drivers and requested that consideration is given to the installation of a shower. The clerk will contact Herefordshire Council to find out if they can install a shower.

62/21 FINANCES

- (a) **Accounts Paid and Invoices for Payment** – It was **RESOLVED** to ratify the payment of invoices for August and September 2021, as outlined on the payment statements provided.
- (b) **Income & Expenditure Report Month 5** – Council **RESOLVED** to accept the Income & Expenditure Report for Month 5 and accompanying notes.
- (c) **External Audit** – Council noted the result of the External Audit for 2020/21.

63/21 GRANTS

- (a) **Welcome Back Fund** – Council noted the potential grant of £20000 from the Welcome Back Fund and the eligible activities for the grant.
- (b) **Great Places to Visit Fund** - Council noted the grant of £90000 from the Great Places to Visit Fund and the eligible activities for the grant. Council **RESOLVED** to appoint a working group comprising of Cllrs Hanna, Murdoch and Thomas to consider proposals and prepare a list of projects for submission to Herefordshire Council. Councillors should submit any suggestions for the grant to the clerk by Monday 4th October 2021.

Council noted the availability of 2 further grants:

- Climate & Nature grant – a potential grant of £15000 is available if it is match funded, or £5000 without match funding;
- Herefordshire Community Foundation Covid-19 Recovery grant – a potential grant of £10000 is available.

64/21 STANDING ORDERS AND FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

Council reviewed and **RESOLVED** to adopt Standing Orders and Financial Regulations for 2021/22.

65/21 REPORTS

The following reports were received:

Leominster North Ward Report from Ward Cllr Stone

The council noted the report contained in the agenda.

Cllr Stone passed on his congratulations to the Mayor and Deputy Mayor (following the Mayor Making ceremony); the Civic Award winners; Leominster in Bloom for their Gold award; and Leominster Town Council for their Armed Forces Covenant Silver award.

Cllr Stone requested a list of projects for the Great Places to Visit Fund in order that he can consider them. The clerk will forward a list.

Leominster South Ward Report from Ward Cllr Marsh

The council noted the report contained in the agenda.

Cllr Marsh added that the Nutrient Management Board held a meeting on 27th September 2021. It is the responsible body for ensuring the delivery of the conservation objectives for the River Wye Special Area of Conservation.

Cllr Marsh also thanked Cllr Williamson for her service to Leominster Town Council especially in relation to climate working.

Leominster West Ward Report from Ward Cllr Norman

The council noted the report contained in the agenda.

Cllr Norman thanked Leominster Town Council staff for their help in watering the plants for Leominster in Bloom.

Cllr Norman emphasised the importance of maintaining local footpaths for both visitors and residents.

Leominster East Ward Report from Ward Cllr Bartlett

The council noted the report contained in the agenda.

Cllr Bartlett congratulated Leominster Town Council on the Mayor Making ceremony.

Cllr Bartlett advised that a lot of families have been using the free bus service at weekends to Hereford.

66/21 MAYORAL APPOINTMENTS

Council received the following appointments attended by the Mayor:

- Tuesday 14th September – Herefordshire Council Parish Council Summit meeting
- Thursday 16th September – Zoom business meeting
- Thursday 16th September – ECHO Community Garden
- Friday 17th September – Meeting with High Sheriff at Lyonshall, Kington
- Saturday 18th September – Leominster in Bloom Plant Fair

- Tuesday 21st September – Mayors meeting (Hereford Town Hall)
- Wednesday 22nd September – Polish Society meeting
- Wednesday 22nd September – HSHAZ Steering Group meeting
- Thursday 23rd September – Mayor’s Macmillan Cancer Support event (Stourport)
- Friday 24th September – Leominster in Bloom Coffee Morning
- Sunday 26th September – Chairman Civic lunch (Kington)

Ward Cllr Stone, the member of the press and the 3 members of the public left the meeting.

67/21 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

As certain items to be discussed included the consideration of exempt information, Full Council **RESOLVED** that, in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded during the discussion of the matters referred to in the items listed below, on the grounds that they would involve the likely disclosure of exempt information, as defined in the respective paragraph of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act, and the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information.

(a) Grants – Following consideration of the grant application Council **RESOLVED** to allocate a grant of £400 to the Royal British Legion for expenses incurred in respect of the Remembrance Parade.

68/21 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Council noted that the next Town Council Meeting would be held on Monday 29th November 2021 commencing at 19:00 hours in the Council Chamber, 11 Corn Square, Leominster HR6 8YP.

There being no other business the Mayor thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 20.11 hours.

MAYOR: _____ **DATE:** _____

WELCOME BACK FUND		AGENDA Item 9a
Project	Details	Completion Date
Greening Leominster's Bus Station: working in collaboration with Leominster in Bloom to improve Leominster bus station through planting.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leominster's Bus Station is a key entrance point for visitors, yet has no planting and little visitor appeal. Project funds 2 large beehive planters and planting/compost, which will be donated to LiB at the end of March 2022. 	March 2022
Leominster Independent Shops – promotional event: supporting Leominster's independent businesses during covid recovery.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A freelance project manager will work with businesses to create an event to promote Leominster's Independent retailers, supported with promotional leaflets and bags. Project includes establishing a Business Group to support future collaboration. 	March 2022
Providing additional temporary toilet facilities in Central Car Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project funds temporary toilets, while Central Car Park facilities are being refurbished. Covers 2 units for 12 weeks. 	March 2022
Additional Street Cleaning on Saturdays	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The town doesn't currently have any cleaning or bin emptying on Saturdays. Additional activity will support local businesses and tourism. 	March 2022
Through the Wardrobe - Free Children's Event	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding provides a budget to run this popular children's event in Dec 2021. 	Dec 2022
Tree Works in Leominster Town Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project funds pollarding of 4 trees on Etnam Street and 4 trees on West Street. Trees on both streets are in need of pollarding, as maintenance work is overdue and overgrowth causes problems for visitors, businesses and property owners. 	March 2022

GREAT PLACES TO VISIT FUND		AGENDA ITEM 9b
Area	Projects	Completion Date
Town centre public realm improvements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tree replacements in Broad St, Dishley Street: and Arkwright Close. • Includes work to remove existing tree stumps. 	March 2022
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Central Toilets – renovation of toilet facilities in Central Car Park, to ensure covid-safe provisions. • Specifically the installation of self-contained, uni-sex cubicles, enabling social distancing and ease of sanitation. 	June 2022
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved seating in Corn Square and Broad St - installation of 5 new benches. 	June 2022
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grange Open Space – 3 new picnic tables located by the Grange play area. 	April 2022
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Directional signage –Fingerpost sign from Leominster Station towards Town Centre. • Complements signage improvements made in 2020. 	June 2022
Grants for shop front enhancements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shop Front Grant Scheme: 20 grants of up to £500 for redecoration and improvement of shop fronts. • Complements Leominster HSHAZ grant scheme. 	Jan – June 2022
Infrastructure for events and / or markets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Temporary Rights of Way closures for Party in the Park and Medieval Pageant 2022. • Promotional signage at town entrances for both events. 	June 2022.
Improvements to public rights of way/ cycling routes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grange Open Space – Public Rights of Way Improvements. Replace and repair public rights of way around and from/into Grange Open Space. • Primarily resurfacing works. 	June 2022
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aida’s Accessible Amble - install accessible all-weather surfacing. 	June 2022

LEOMINSTER TOWN COUNCIL

CULTURAL CONSORTIUM MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING REPORT – NOV 2021

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Historic England has awarded £95m to high streets across the country to revitalize local areas, preserve heritage and engage communities with their history. The High Streets Heritage Action Zone (HSHAZ) programme runs until Spring 2024, with Leominster's HSHAZ Scheme being one of over 60 projects throughout England.
- 1.2 Each High Street Heritage Action Zone (HSHAZ) must be accompanied by a cultural programme, run by a consortium of local cultural organisations.

Leominster Cultural Consortium is a community collective of local artists, creators, crafters, performers, event organisers and community groups, supported by Leominster Town Council and Historic England.

- 1.3 Leominster Cultural Consortium has successfully secured £85,000 of funding from Historic England's High Street Heritage Action Zone Cultural Programme Scheme to promote and engage local communities in art, heritage and culture. Leominster Town Council is the accountable body responsible for administering Cultural Programme funding on behalf of Leominster Cultural Consortium.
- 1.4 Current membership of the Leominster Cultural Consortium includes:
 - Leominster Town Council (accountable organisation)
 - Leominster Festival (lead organisation)
 - About Face
 - Earl Mortimer School
 - Everybody Dance
 - The Fetch
 - Forbury Chapel
 - Grange Court
 - Infinity Media
 - Leominster Meeting Centre
 - Leominster Museum
 - The Prioory
 - Salt Road
- 1.5 Between Autumn 2021 and March 2024, the Leominster HSHAZ Cultural Programme will provide a range of events and activities designed to celebrate the voices of Leominster's past and present, stirring up local creativity, pride, passion and community spirit.

2. MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

- 2.1 Leominster Cultural Consortium has developed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to support and underpin delivery of Leominster's Cultural Programme. The

MOU is not legally binding, but is an agreement signed by all Cultural Consortium members in a spirit of cooperation and honest commitment.

- 2.2 The MOU sets out the purpose and vision for Leominster Cultural Consortium, together with procedures for facilitating collaborative working on Leominster's Cultural Programme.
- 2.3 The funding agreement between Leominster Town Council (on behalf of Leominster Cultural Consortium) and Historic England is a legal contract. The MOU sets out the obligations and commitments that Cultural Consortium members must adhere to in order to operate within the terms of the funding agreement.
- 2.4 The MOU has been drafted using a framework recommended by Historic England HSHAZ Programme Officers.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 That members review the terms of the Leominster Cultural Consortium MOU and either:
 - subject requests for edits to Leominster Cultural Consortium for considerationor
 - approve the agreement for signature

Ward Councillor report Leominster North & Rural November 2021

Flood Alleviation Scheme

Work on the Flood Alleviation Scheme along the River Lugg behind The Mallards has now been completed. A small event with short speeches and the unveiling of a plaque organised by the Environment Agency will have taken place on November 26th. This project, carried out since last December has seen works to increase the existing embankment levels with a combination of retaining walls and embankment. These improvements will help to protect 381 homes and businesses in the Marsh area of the town from flooding. A recent site visit with Toby Whitehouse and his colleagues showed the extent of the works and the planting of many trees which will be good for the environment and wildlife. I welcome this significant investment to prevent flooding and as I commented “the result will be increased protection for properties in the Mallards area and the Ridgemoor estate.” A community orchard and seating area is a further enhancement and it will be good to have the footway open again. Meanwhile the Environment Agency continues works to repair the flood wall along the Kenwater in Osborne Place. Delays have caused inconvenience to some residents but the improvements will bring the wall up to modern standards and as the EA has said “these repairs are essential to ensure the flood wall continues to be fit for purpose.” Overall, both these schemes are very positive news for Leominster.

Covid-19 news

Case numbers continue to be high in the county but the week ending November 13th saw a small decrease and the number of Covid patients in Hereford Hospital has also fallen compared with the previous week. Visiting continues to be restricted at the hospital. There were 408 cases per 100,000 in Herefordshire compared with 386 per 100,000 in England. First and second vaccinations at 88 and 85% are similar to national figures and the data now includes 12 to 15 year olds. Booster jabs can now be booked a month in advance and the roll-out has accelerated recently. I was pleased to hear the news that a walk-in clinic was held on Sunday 21st at the Community Centre for booster jabs for anyone over 50 and second jabs for anyone over 16. Leominster residents have been called to Bromyard, Kington and Hereford for vaccinations and this is very difficult for those without transport. I hope there will be more clinics held in Leominster so that everyone eligible can receive their vaccinations.

From this week 40 to 49 year olds can book appointments and bookings can now be made after 5 months have elapsed. The booster roll-out is essential in protecting the NHS this winter and avoiding the need for further restrictions and I hope as a result all families will be able to enjoy Christmas this year. Regular testing using lateral flow tests continues to be recommended and these kits can be ordered online or obtained from Council buildings or some pharmacies. Flu vaccinations are also important this winter and can be obtained at pharmacies and some GP surgeries.

Christmas Holiday Activities and food programme

Free activities are being offered to the most vulnerable children in our local communities in the school holidays. Parents and carers of a child aged between 5 and 16 who is eligible for free school meals will be able to book up to 16 hours of free activities during the Christmas break. There are currently 850 free places available and each child who attends will receive a free nutritious meal. For questions about this programme please contact HAF Team at HAF@herefordshire.gov.uk This and other initiatives should help take the pressure off families who have faced so much disruption over the past 18 months.

Calling all Year 11 to 13 students

Halo Leisure and the Council are offering all students in years 11 – 13, 16 to 18 year olds who live in Herefordshire the chance to enjoy free membership at leisure centres in the county during this academic year. Those who sign up will enjoy free access to gyms, swimming pools and group exercise classes. Over 3,000 students have already signed up. This follows a similar initiative for free swimming lessons for many children in the summer holidays. It is good for health and wellbeing for children and teenagers whose education and social life was so disrupted during three lockdowns.

Balfour Beatty update

It's been a quiet spell recently but all grit bins should now be full and the 15 gritters ready to be deployed on about 40% of the county road network. Let's hope for a kind winter in spite of the recent drop in temperatures! Please continue to report potholes, blocked drains and fly tipping on the Herefordshire website or by phoning 01432 261 800. Please don't wait for someone else to report a defect and please give an accurate location. A photograph helps too. Balfour Beatty are giving priority to drainage schemes this year and we are still waiting for a scheme to prevent flooding on the C1055 which was closed for over 6 weeks last winter. Decisions on a couple of lower speed limit schemes are still awaited in Leysters and Brimfield.

Remembrance Sunday

It was good to see such a high turn-out at the War Memorial in Leominster last week with all local organisations well represented. This year marked the 100th anniversary of the Royal British Legion and it was such a contrast to 12 months ago when the Remembrance parades and services were severely curtailed. Everyone this year was pleased to have the opportunity to pay tribute to those who gave their lives in two World Wars and many conflicts since. I also attended the Remembrance service in Brimfield later in the afternoon, also well attended and it is always so moving when the bugler plays the Last Post. The previous Sunday the Town Council was well represented at a ceremony at the Polish graves in Leominster Cemetery. Many thanks to Joe Cocker for organising this event and for all he does for the Polish community in Leominster. It is easy to forget the Polish contribution in the Second World War when Britain was alone. Polish pilots flew in the Battle of Britain and thousands of Polish troops were deployed on the east coast of Scotland to stop a possible invasion across the North sea. Polish soldiers stationed in Herefordshire are remembered at this annual service and the 12 Polish war graves are now well looked after. The close friendship between the UK and Poland continues as we see in recent events in Eastern Europe.

Pauline Davies

I was sorry to hear the sad news about Pauline. Her many years of service to the Town Council and to the town of Leominster will long be remembered and I always enjoyed working with her. She was a champion for Leominster and was always totally committed to the town and the residents she represented. She will be greatly missed by us all.

And finally

I am sure we will all be supporting our local shops, businesses, cafes and pubs in the important run up to Christmas as well as events that could not take place a year ago such as the Victorian Market in Leominster (I hope with free parking). Hospitality outlets everywhere are suffering from shortages of staff and will be depending on the next few busy weeks after their lockdown losses. It will also be good to see choirs like Little Hereford

Voices singing again and holding concerts. I wish the Mayor, Town councillors and staff a Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year and please stay safe and well.

John Stone Leominster North and Rural 01584 711 227

November Ward Report from Councillor Felicity Norman

Residents have asked why I have recently stepped down from Cabinet. To clarify the situation, this is due to a conflict of interest between Herefordshire Council and a Charity that I am a trustee of. I am very disappointed not to be able to continue in the role that I had taken on in Cabinet, and hope that the conflict will be resolved soon.

Congratulations to members of Transition Leominster who have worked hard to establish a car club here. Leominster Car Share went live on 1 November with the purchase of an electric car, a Renault Zoe, made possible through a grant from Herefordshire Council, and the donation of a Renault Kangoo. This has been achieved with support from Malvern car club, which has been running for many years and has been very generous with time and expertise, helping with the setting up of car clubs in Leominster, Kington and Fownhope. Many thanks to all those involved in helping to get this initiative off the ground. It will substantially reduce the number of cars on the road, and support our carbon reduction aspirations.

Following my gentle rant in September's report about footpaths and walking, I am pleased that there is enthusiasm for re-activating Walkers are Welcome in Leominster, an initiative that promotes the economic benefits, as well as many others, that walking can bring to a town. In addition, I warmly welcome the appointment of Abigail Davis as our Town Council Footpath Officer, and of Richard Rice who leads Walking for Health, both roles held for many years by Dennis Downey, who recently moved away. We are keen to re-establish a network of volunteers who will help keep an eye on the state of our footpaths and report in defects and problems. If you would like to join this team, please contact Abigail through the town council. I am also delighted to see that footpath ZC 143, leading north from Mill Street and part of the Herefordshire Trail, closed during the Environment Agency flood defences work, is now open again.

There has been considerable concern at the recent lack of access to vaccinations in Leominster. For many elderly or disabled people, or those who don't drive, the expectation that they should travel to Malvern, Bromyard or even the far side of Hereford has caused great anxiety. After lobbying by Leominster Town Council and ward members, a pop-up clinic was recently made available, which attracted huge numbers, some coming quite long distances, and led to queuing for over two hours for many on a sunny but quite cold and windy day. Those running the clinic did an excellent job but the vaccines ran out before everyone had a jab, so more opportunities will be needed, preferably without frail and elderly people having to queue outside for so long.

It is wonderful to see the continued return of many of our local events and activities across the county, and especially in Leominster. The Apple Fair at the Priory was well attended and with doors open, was large enough to enable sensible distancing. For many stall holders and visitors, it was the first event they had attended since the lockdown, and was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Remembrance Sunday turned out bright and sunny, and attracted a large crowd to the war memorial where the service was held, glad to be able to attend once again after the minimal service last year. As always, a very moving event, as was the Polish Remembrance service which was held at the cemetery the week before. Several families of the Polish soldiers buried in Leominster were able to attend, and the information that we now have about these soldiers is growing, thanks to Joe Cocker and the local Polish Society who have restored and look after the graves.