



LEOMINSTER TOWN COUNCIL

ANNUAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday 18th May 2022

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

NOTICE OF MEETING

You are hereby summoned to attend the Annual Town Council meeting of Leominster Town Council which will be held on **Monday 23rd May 2022** commencing at **19:00 hours** in the Council Chamber, 11 Corn Square, Leominster HR6 8YP.

Julie Debbage

Julie Debbage
TOWN CLERK

AGENDA

- 1. ELECTION OF TOWN MAYOR FOR THE 2022/23 CIVIC YEAR**
To ratify the decision made, at the Leominster Town Council Meeting held on Monday 28th March 2022, that Cllr Marsh be elected Mayor of Leominster for 2022/23.
- 2. DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE**
To receive the Declaration of Acceptance of office from the newly elected Mayor of Leominster.
- 3. ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR FOR THE 2022/23 CIVIC YEAR**
To ratify the decision made, at the Leominster Town Council Meeting held on Monday 28th March 2022, that Cllr Williams be elected Deputy Mayor of Leominster for 2022/23.
- 4. DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE**
To receive the Declaration of Acceptance of Office from the newly elected Deputy Mayor of Leominster.

5. 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.

6. 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.

7. REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

To consider requests for dispensations (must be notified in writing).

8. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC (maximum 15 minutes)

To receive questions and statements from members of the public as provided for in Standing Orders.

9. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

To receive and approve as a correct record the minutes of the Leominster Town Council meeting held on 28th March 2022.

To note the draft minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on Monday 4th April 2022. These will be formally adopted at the next Town Meeting to be held in April 2023.

10. CLERK'S REPORT

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

11. APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES

To appoint the following Committees in line with the Council structure to assist in conducting the business of Council:

- Planning & Highways Committee
- Environment & Services Committee
- Finance & General Purposes Committee
- Communications & Events Committee

12. APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

To appoint members to sit on the following Committees.

- Planning & Highways Committee (9 plus Mayor and Deputy Mayor)
- Environment & Services Committee (9 plus Mayor and Deputy Mayor)
- Finance & General Purposes Committee (9 plus Mayor and Deputy Mayor)
- Communications & Events Committee (7 plus Mayor and Deputy Mayor)

- 13. APPOINTMENT TO OUTSIDE BODIES**
To consider the appointment of Council representatives to represent Leominster Town Council on Outside Bodies.
- 14. INSURANCE COVER**
(a) Local Council Insurance – To confirm the Annual Insurance cover for the Parish Council for the next year which will be provided by Zurich Insurance.
(b) Vehicle Insurance – To confirm the Annual Insurance cover for the Parish Council’s vehicles for the next year which will be provided by Zurich Insurance.
- 15. VEHICLE REPLACEMENT** – To authorise the purchase of a new vehicle for the Grounds team.
- 16. DISPOSAL OF VEHICLE** – To consider the disposal of the Council’s Mitsubishi L200 vehicle.
- 17. EXTRAORDINARY MARKET TOWNS MAINTENANCE FUND**
To review the proposed list of items to spend the funds on to support the maintenance of the town.
- 18. FINANCES**
(a) Accounts Paid and Invoices for Payment – To receive an accounts paid and invoices for payment statement.
(b) Income & Expenditure Report Month 12 – To consider the Income and Expenditure Report for Month 12 and accompanying notes.
- 19. RURAL MARKET TOWN GROUP** – To consider continuing membership of the Rural Market Town Group at a cost of £130 + VAT.
- 20. MAYORAL CHARITY FOR 2022/23**
Announcement of the Mayor’s Charity for 2022/23.
- 21. OLD PRIORY**
(a) Old Priory Asset Transfer – To receive a verbal update on the asset transfer and to agree the signing of the final documents.
(b) Old Priory Development Report – To consider the development report and make a decision on the recommendations in section 3 of the report. Please see attached documents.
- 22. REPORTS**
To receive reports from Representatives on Outside Bodies (verbal), Herefordshire Council Ward Members (text) and the outgoing Mayor (verbal).

23. CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

Certain items are expected to include the consideration of exempt information and Full Council 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) Grant Applications** - To consider any grant applications.
- (b) High Street Heritage Action Zone** - To receive a verbal update on the HSHAZ.

LEOMINSTER TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Leominster Town Council Meeting held on Monday 28th March 2022 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, Jacquet (19.04), Murdoch, Norman, Preece, Rosser, Smith-Winnard, Sutcliffe, Thomas and Williams.

OFFICERS PRESENT: Town Clerk, Democratic Services Officer

ALSO PRESENT: Ward Cllr Stone and a member of the press

100/21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received and accepted by the Council for Cllr Marshall (Holiday).

101/21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following declarations of interest were received:

- Cllr Murdoch - Walkers are Welcome and Allotments
- Cllr Norman – Walkers are Welcome
- Cllr Sutcliffe – LARC Development Trust
- Cllr Herschy – LARC Development Trust

102/21 REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

No requests for dispensation had been received.

103/21 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

No members of the public were present. No matters were raised.

104/21 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Council **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Leominster Town Council meeting held on 24th January 2022 be agreed and signed as a correct record.

105/21 POLICE REPRESENTATIVE

A representative from the local Safer Neighbourhood Team was unable to attend the meeting.

106/21 CLERK'S REPORT

Council noted the following Clerk's Report:

- **Community Seed Funding Grant** – the Town Council has been awarded a community seed funding grant to develop the Team Leominster outreach work at Barons Cross by connecting it to the Talk Community hub. The seed funding will be used to raise awareness of the Barons Cross Talk Community hub, and to enhance the levels of support that it is able to provide, through the purchase of a community

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noticeboard, a tablet for use at hub support surgery services and promotional banners, posters/leaflets and pop-up flags.

- **Get Active Green Spaces Fund** – the Town Council has been awarded a grant of £1904 to install a seasonal circular 4 lane 400 metre running track (and a rounders pitch if possible) at Sydonia and a 50 metre straight track with additional hopscotch or long jump activity at Ginhall Green.
- **Welcome Back Fund** – Spending has been completed on the projects covered by the Welcome Back Fund. There was a small underspend on the projects and this will be used, if possible, to purchase deckchairs (to be used on the Grange), additional copies of the Leominster Town map and tote bags.
- **Leominster Food Bank** – The Food Bank are planning to update a 40-page booklet containing recipes for food bank and food share users. The Food Bank will be applying for a grant of £900 from the Town Council to update the booklet and print 500 copies.

107/21 FINANCES

- (a) **Accounts Paid and Invoices for Payment** – It was **RESOLVED** to ratify the payment of invoices for February and March 2022, as outlined on the payment statements provided.

The clerk will ask the Finance Assistant to produce the list in date order in future.

- (b) **Income & Expenditure Report Month 11** – Council **RESOLVED** to accept the Income & Expenditure Report for Month 11 and accompanying notes.

108/21 VEHICLE REPLACEMENT

One of the Council's L200 trucks failed its MOT and the cost of repairs is likely to be in excess of the value of the vehicle. Council **RESOLVED** that the clerk investigates purchasing a relatively new vehicle and also purchasing a new vehicle on HP. The clerk will report back to Council in order that a decision can be made on which vehicle to purchase.

109/21 WELCOME BACK FUND

The deadline for the submission of claims for the grant from the Welcome Back Fund is 7th April 2022. A list of invoices will be submitted for approval by the Finance & General Purposes Committee at the next meeting on 25th April 2022.

Cllr Hanna requested that total figures are shown on the bottom of invoice lists in future.

110/21 ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

Council **RESOLVED** to ratify Council's annual subscriptions to the National Association of Local Councils, Herefordshire Association of Local Councils, the Society of Local Council Clerks, the National Association of British Market Authorities, Hereford Green Network, Rural Services Network and any other

subscriptions as considered appropriate.

111/21 MEETING CALENDAR 2022-23

Council noted the meeting calendar for 2022-23 and **RESOLVED** to accept the calendar.

112/21 THE OLD PRIORY ASSET TRANSFER

Two surveys on the Old Priory, including a measured survey are currently in progress and are being funded by Herefordshire Council. The transfer is working its way through the legal process and will be completed shortly after 31st March 2022.

113/21 MAYOR AND DEPUTY MAYOR ELECT

Nominations were invited for the Mayor Elect for the 2022-23 civic year.

Cllr Marsh was nominated by Cllr Rumsey and seconded by Cllr Williams. There being no other nominations Cllr Marsh was formally appointed as Mayor Elect.

Nominations were invited for the Deputy Mayor Elect for the 2022-23 civic year.

Cllr Williams was nominated by Cllr Bartlett and seconded by Cllr Norman. Two further nominations were made but declined by the nominees. Therefore Cllr Williams was formally appointed as Deputy Mayor Elect.

114/21 MAYORAL APPOINTMENTS

Council received the following appointments attended by the Mayor:

- 17th March 2022: Meeting with Cllr Stone and residents at Porters Mill Close regarding the proposed new health hub
- 24th March 2022: Three Choirs Festival (Hereford)

115/21 DRAFT CIVIC EVENTS LIST 2022-23

Council noted the draft Civic Events list for 2022-23.

116/21 REPORTS

The following reports were received:

ShopMobility

Cllr Thomas advised that ShopMobility will be closed this week as a number of volunteers have Covid-19.

Waste Recycling Management

Cllr Thomas requested that the clerk organises a briefing for Full Council on the changes to waste recycling management.

Leominster North Ward Report from Ward Cllr Stone

The council noted the report contained in the agenda.

Cllr Stone congratulated the Mayor Elect and Deputy Mayor Elect and advised that he was looking forward to the Mayor Making ceremony on 21st May 2022.

Cllr Stone added that:

- Shop Local cards – The Shop Local campaign is due to end on 31st March 2022. Cards have been topped up by £10, giving households a total of £25 to spend in local businesses.
- Leominster Food Bank recently commemorated their 10th anniversary. Many villages around the town send contributions to the Food Bank.
- Brimfield & Orleton parishes hold a monthly Community Library and coffee morning, in the village halls, which provides a useful service to residents unable to visit Leominster. The books are provided by Leominster library.

Leominster South Ward Report from Ward Cllr Marsh

The council noted the report contained in the agenda.

Leominster West Ward Report from Ward Cllr Norman

The council noted the report contained in the agenda.

Cllr Norman requested that Councillors contact her if they have any suggestions to help keep ShopMobility operating in the town.

Leominster East Ward Report from Ward Cllr Bartlett

The council noted the following report:

At its March council, Herefordshire Council unanimously passed a motion in support of Ukraine and its people. *‘This motion calls on the executive to consider and put in place whatever facilities as may be reasonably expected to receive Ukrainian refugees, subject to direction from national government and an evaluation of council resources required, to ensure that schooling and health services are alerted and to inform the government in Westminster, immediately, that Herefordshire will not be found wanting in our welcome. And to extend a wider request to our residents to be willing to welcome any refugees that they can into their homes, and to be ready to facilitate such organisation and support as these actions may require’.*

There is a drop off collection point in Bridge Street Sports Centre for anyone who wants to donate essential supplies. All the information about how to help can be found on the Herefordshire Council website and on the Talk Community Directory, which gives clear and useful advice [Talk Community Directory Ukraine](#)

There is also a dedicated email address for residents who have spare accommodation to offer refugees, once they arrive - housingdevelopment@herefordshire.gov.uk

The next Talk Parish event takes place on Tuesday March 22nd the topic is the new Integrated Waste Strategy. Significant changes to our waste policy is in response to the Resource and Waste Strategy 2018 and the Environment Bill 2019-20. New policy and legislation will influence everything from packaging design & production to how local authorities provide their waste management services. This will introduce the requirement for councils to provide weekly food waste collections to all households from 2023. Reducing the amount of waste we produce, and reusing and

recycling where possible, benefits the county and the environment, and is the aim of a new waste strategy for Herefordshire.

HALO free gym memberships and swimming lessons in Leominster and across the county were a great success over the February half term. All the swimming lessons were sold out and over 2,700 free gym memberships have been provided to youths in years 11, 12 and 13 across the HALO county sites. A resounding success.

Congratulations to the Town Council and everyone who took part in making Leominster's Independents Day on Saturday 12th March such a brilliant day. The town was buzzing and the weather was definitely on our side.

Fastershire's free monthly 'Introduction to the Internet' digital inclusion workshops are continuing in main libraries, offering help using smartphones, tablets, WhatsApp, email and Facebook. Details of the following workshops are here. Community venues or organisations who would like to host a free workshop to help local people or groups get more from the internet – by learning how to make video calls, send emails, shop online, search the internet safely, etc. – email jennie.morgan@herefordshire.gov.uk to find out more.

Herefordshire Council is asking residents for their views on the introduction of measures to enforce moving traffic regulations (TRO's). This includes stopping in yellow boxes at junctions, ignoring no-entry signs, making banned turns and contravening 'access only' routes and parking on yellow zig-zag lines outside schools. Traffic regulations act to make the roads safer for all users and to help keep traffic flowing in busy areas. Changes in Government legislation (implementation in full of Part 6 of the Traffic Management Act 2004) mean that councils in England will have control of enforcement powers for moving traffic contraventions, previously held by the police.

The consultation asks a range of questions about the impact of driver behaviour, and for views on proposed locations for camera enforcement. This is a very targeted list of 23 locations and categories in the county. The question around camera locations includes the Ginhall Lane / Green Lane banned turning in Leominster.

All schools yellow non stopping zig zags are also included, which may be relevant to Leominster residents depending on which school they use. The consultation can be found here [Moving Traffic Consultation](#) and it closes on the 15th April 2002.

117/21 ALLOTMENTS RENTAL INCREASE

Council considered a rental increase per plot for 2023-24 and **RESOLVED** to increase rents by 20%. The increase will be shown on invoices for 2022-23 but will not be implemented until 2023-24.

Ward Cllr Stone and the member of the press left the meeting.

118/21 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

As certain items to be discussed included the consideration of exempt information, Full Council **RESOLVED** that, in accordance with Section

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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) Grant Application – Following consideration of the grant application, Council **RESOLVED** to allocate a grant of £119.60 from the General Grant budget to Walkers are Welcome to pay for public and employees liability insurance. This will enable Walkers are Welcome to lead walks in and around the town and organise ‘clean up’ sessions on specific footpaths.

(b) Civic Awards – Following consideration of the nominations received Council **RESOLVED** that five nominees be presented with a Civic Award. The Civic Awards ceremony will be held prior to the Mayor Making ceremony on Saturday 21st May 2022.

Council **RESOLVED** to organise a retirement party for the Sergeant at Arms and Mace Bearers.

Council noted that an event to celebrate the life of Mike Thornhill will be held at Grange Court on 18th and 19th June 2022. The event on the 18th June will be an open to all day. The event on the 19th June will be for invited guests where the Civic Award (posthumously awarded by the Town Council in 2021) will be presented. All Councillors are invited to the event on 19th June and should advise the clerk if they would like to attend.

(c) Clerk’s report – The clerk updated Council on the Cultural Consortium’s application for funding from the Let’s Create Jubilee Fund.

119/21 DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

Council noted the dates of the following meetings:

- **Annual Town Meeting** - the date for the Annual Town Council meeting will be 4th April 2022 at 7:30pm in the Council Chamber, 11 Corn Square, Leominster HR6 8YP.
- **The Mayor Making** ceremony will take place on Saturday 21st May 2022 commencing at 7:00pm in The Priory, Church Street, Leominster HR6 8NH (Councillors to arrive by 6.30pm).
Councillors to advise the clerk if they require any adjustment to robes.
- **The follow-on Annual Town Council Meeting** will be held on Monday 23rd May 2022 commencing at 7:00pm 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 20.20 hours.

MAYOR: _____ **DATE:** _____

LEOMINSTER TOWN COUNCIL



LEOMINSTER ANNUAL TOWN MEETING 2022

Minutes of the Leominster Annual Town Meeting held in the Council Chamber, 11 Corn Square, Leominster HR6 8YP on 4th April 2022 at 7.30pm.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllrs Rumsey (Mayor), Marsh (Deputy Mayor), Bartlett, Davies, Hanna, Herschy, Jacquet, Marshall, Murdoch, Norman, Smith-Winnard and Sutcliffe.

ALSO PRESENT: Cllr Stone (Herefordshire Council Ward Member) and 10 members of the public.

OFFICERS PRESENT: Town Clerk, Democratic Services Officer

1. WELCOME & INTRODUCTION

Cllr Rumsey welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked everyone for attending.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs Preece, Thomas and Williams.

3. MINUTES

The meeting **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Meeting held on 19th April 2021 be adopted and signed as a correct record.

4. ANNUAL REPORT

Cllr Rumsey presented Leominster Town Council's annual report for 2021-22 and thanked everyone for their support. Cllr Marsh outlined the work undertaken by the Town Council and the Chair of each Committee outlined the work undertaken by each Committee.

A copy of the report is attached.

5. QUESTIONS

Questions were invited from the electors present.

The Royal Oak Hotel

- An elector advised that he attended the annual town meeting on Zoom last year and had raised concerns regarding the poor condition of the Royal Oak Hotel. He advised that he had contacted the building inspector at Herefordshire Council and considered that a repair notice should have been imposed on the building. The elector wanted to know whether any progress had been made over the past 12 months with regard to the preservation of the building.

Cllr Bartlett advised that the Town Council are working with Herefordshire Council to look at ways of improving the condition of the building. The building inspector has served repair notices on the building but they have not been enforced. The last time the building was inspected was in July 2021 when some maintenance work to the outside of the building, to make it safer, was carried out. Cllr Bartlett said that she believed that the owners of the hotel have submitted an expression of interest to the HSHAZ scheme although further details are not known. Cllr Bartlett advised that repair notices should be enforced by Herefordshire Council if improvements to the building are not made this year.

High Street Heritage Action Zone

- An elector queried why there was a lack of information regarding the progress of the HSHAZ scheme on the Town Council website. The elector has carried out research on listed buildings in the town, that are in poor condition, and advised that a number of owners are not local and may not be aware of funding available through the HSHAZ scheme.

The clerk explained that delays to the project have occurred due to the impact of COVID-19, although the timelines for the project have not changed. Town Centre Wifi is now in place and the Web-based heritage app will be launched shortly. Consultation with the public, businesses and other organisations is planned to commence in April/ May 2022.

There is a long list of expressions of interest for funding through the scheme but owners of listed buildings can still apply. Assistance is available to complete the forms if required through a consultant from Berrys.

Maintenance of roads

- An elector asked who owned the roads in Leominster and expressed concern at the way roads had been repaired.

The clerk advised that Herefordshire Council were responsible for the maintenance of the roads. Recent repairs have been temporary as the HSHAZ scheme will consider work required to roads in the town centre and works on the “Reimagination of Corn Square” is due to commence in January 2023.

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Cllr Marsh advised that further funds are available through the Extraordinary Market Towns Maintenance Fund and the funding will be prioritised on town centre roads not already covered by the HSHAZ. scheme.

Cllr Stone advised that potholes should be reported on the Balfour Beatty website.

- An elector raised concerns regarding the positioning of bollards on Buckfield Road, that vehicles were regularly travelling at 40mph and that the road was used as a rat run.

Cllr Marsh advised that the issues should be raised with Herefordshire Council as they are responsible for the road and that speeding issues should be reported to the police.

Cllr Norman advised that the funding from national to local government had been drastically reduced in recent years and therefore the budget for road maintenance has been cut. Electors should consider lobbying their local Member of Parliament regarding any issues.

New housing at Barons Cross

- An elector expressed concern regarding the impact that the proposed development of 300+ houses at Barons Cross will have on local services such as doctors surgeries.

The elector was advised that planning permission has been granted for a new health centre, including a pharmacy, in the town.

Tree maintenance works

- An elector considered that recent maintenance works carried out on trees in Etnam Street and West Street was too severe.

Cllr Bartlett advised that the tree maintenance work was carried out through funding from the Welcome Back Fund. The Tree Officer was consulted and the advice given was to pollard the trees as this will extend their life. The trees had not been pollarded for 15 years.

Cllr Bartlett advised that the Town Council will be arranging to stump grind empty tree pits in the town and then plant replacement trees in the pits.

National map for defibrillators

- An elector requested that the Town Council ensures that defibrillators in the town are listed on the national database.

The clerk advised that the defibrillator in Corn Square is listed on the national database and will investigate recording other defibrillators in the town.

6. SUMMARY AND CLOSURE

Cllr Rumsey, Mayor of Leominster, thanked the Town Council staff and volunteers for their work over the past 3 years. Cllr Rumsey thanked the clerk for her excellent organisation and for taking on numerous tasks, and the Projects and Grants Officer for her work in obtaining grants for various projects.

There being no other business, the Mayor thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 8:25pm.

MAYOR OF LEOMINSTER:

DATE:

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING REPORT 2021-22**INTRODUCTION:**

This past year has been another very different year as a result of COVID-19 pandemic. I became Mayor in May 2021 with a delayed Mayor Making Ceremony in September 2021 following the relaxation of social distancing measures. Public meetings were no longer held remotely after 6th May 2021 and we, as a council, returned to relative normality.

One of the most interesting parts of last year was attending the National Memorial Arboretum to collect the Silver Armed Forces Employer Recognition Award on behalf of the town council. It was a very memorable day.

The Mayoral Charities this past year have been Marches Family Network and Services for Independent Living. Various events have been organised over the year to raise money for these very worthwhile charities and they will each be presented with a cheque at the end of my term as Mayor.

I have summarised the achievements of the town council by committee.

BULLET POINTS:**Full Council 2021-22**

- Continued to support the operation of CCTV provision in the Town Centre;
- Continued to facilitate weekly Team Leominster operational meetings and monthly tactical meetings remotely;
- To deliver monthly surgeries at the Barons Cross Community Room with Team Leominster partners;
- Gained the Armed Forces Covenant Silver Award under the Defence Employer Recognition Scheme;
- Completed a business plan for the asset transfer of The Old Priory from Herefordshire Council to Leominster Town Council so that it can continue to support the local community with services such as ECHO, Leominster Meeting Centre, Leominster Food Bank and the Youth Hostel;
- Gained General Power of Competence. The town council met the criteria for eligibility with 2/3rds elected councillors and a CiLCA-qualified clerk;
- Delivered a range of projects through the £20,000 Welcome Back Fund to include a free child's, Through the Wardrobe Event at Christmas, Greening the Bus Station with new planters and Leominster Independents Day to support local independent businesses in the town;
- Gained and planned the delivery by June 2022 a number of projects under the governments Great Places to Visit Fund of £90,000;
- Continued to be part of Team Leominster, the High Street Heritage Action Zone project and the Cultural Consortium programme;
- Provided the Christmas Lights and Christmas Tree in the town centre;
- Continued to administrate two local charities.

Environment & Services Committee 2021-22

- Continued to undertake footpath maintenance under the P3 scheme;
- Recruited two new Volunteer Footpath Officers;

- **ATM MINUTES (AGENDA Item 9)**

- Submitted a grant application for £16,813 to enable drainage works in the rural areas of the parish that have been affected by flooding;
- Continued support for Leominster in Bloom including watering, spraying and planter sponsorship;
- Continued to deliver the Business Cardboard Waste Recycling Scheme in the town centre in partnership with Binit;
- Continued to supply and maintain 117 allotments at the Ginhall Lane site;
- Trained and supported a Grounds & Environmental Trainee through the government Kickstart Scheme;
- Gained a grant of £1904 through the Herefordshire Community Foundations Get Active Green Space Fund to provide several running tracks and events in Leominster on the town council owned green spaces;
- Liaised with the Environment Agency on flood prevention works and planting/reseeding of the new bund at the rear of The Mallards;
- Produced a tree statement through the Environmental Working Group to protect the future of Leominster's trees;
- Doubled the size of the wildflower area on Ginhall Green and planted other identified verges with wildflower plugs;
- Held a number of community planting events for the Queens Green Canopy in association with the Environment Agency and Leominster in Bloom;
- Carried out a number of energy saving measures to the town council building including new wool loft insulation and the fitting of thermal blinds;
- Adopted the telephone box on Worcester Road to prevent removal and the committee are currently investigating the installation of a defibrillator;
- Continued maintenance of The Priory churchyard;
- Overseeing the repair and reinstallation of the damaged Priory gate;
- Continued the town verge maintenance programme.

Finance & General Purposes Committee 2021-22

- Carried out a budget consultation with residents at both the Friday Market, Farmers Market and via an online survey;
- Overseen staff recruitment and a staffing review via the Personnel Sub-Committee;
- Budget development by a working group with the final increase being set at 3.9% for 2022-23.
- Provided Grant support for the following organisations:

Community Centre	£8000.00
LARC	£7000.00
Leominster Meeting Centre	£1000.00
Royal British Legion	£400.00
Everybody Dance Project	£920.00
Kid Kitchen Collective CIC	£1000.00
Priory Holiday Club	£530.00
Jenny Pipes Morris	£700.00
Walkers Are Welcome	£229.60
Three Choirs Festival	£1000.00

Communications & Events Committee 2021-22

- Continued to oversee the Friday Market and the monthly Farmers Markets;
- Continued to manage the Tourist Information Centre and its activities;
- Continued to support Leominster News with our monthly pages;
- Worked in partnership with Herefordshire Council and Historic England to deliver the High Street Heritage Action Zone programme including historic building grants, a web app, free town Wifi and the beginning of the public realm consultation;
- Supported the Leominster Festival events;
- Purchased a new Tourist Information Centre website;
- Developed the Secret Garden at 11 Corn Square as an event space;
- Took over the organisation and delivery of the Victorian Street Market;
- Continued support for the Cultural Consortium Programme of events with partners to run alongside the High Street Heritage Action Zone Project;
- Managed the free “Through the Wardrobe” children’s event;
- Held weekly and farmer’s markets;
- Delivery of Leominster Independents Day, a business promotion event to support small businesses in the town as a project with funding from the Welcome Back Fund.

Planning & Highways Committee 2021-22

- Submitted comments on planning applications to Herefordshire Council;
- Submitted comments on licencing applications;
- Submitted comments on tree works to trees in the Conservation area or with Tree Preservation Orders attached, to Herefordshire Council;
- Submitted comments on proposed Public Rights of Way Diversion Orders;
- Continued to report defects to Balfour Beatty and lobby Herefordshire Council regarding highway and parking matters;
- Compiled a s106 wish list;
- Been involved in the consultations of local Traffic Regulation Orders (TRO’s);
- Submitted comments on the following consultations:
 - Minerals & Waste Local Plan Consultation
 - Local Housing Strategy Consultation
 - The Herefordshire Air Quality Monitoring Station Project
 - The Herefordshire Local Plan Spatial Options Consultation
 - The Extraordinary Market Towns Maintenance Fund
 - Moving Traffic Offences Consultation

Over the next year we will see lots of exciting projects such as:

- Completion of the High Street Heritage Action Zone projects such as free town Wifi, the web app and footfall counters for the town;
- Consultation and design of the Re-imagination of Corn Square and the wider public realm;
- Grants to restore historic buildings within the Conservation Area;
- A cultural programme of events to run alongside the Heritage Action Zone;
- The continuation of the Grange Masterplan project with refurbishment of the play area as a priority;
- The refurbishment of The Grange and Central Car Park Public Toilets;
- The delivery of a number of projects as part of the Great Places to Visit funding totalling £90,000;
- The completed transfer and renovation of the Old Priory building as a community building.

LEOMINSTER TOWN COUNCIL**OLD PRIORY DEVELOPMENT REPORT – MAY 2022****1. BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 The Old Priory is a grade 2 listed building and scheduled ancient monument, located beside the Priory Church of St Peter and St Paul. In October 2021, Herefordshire Council approved a Community Asset Transfer application for the building, which is due to be transferred into the ownership of Leominster Town Council in Spring 2022.
- 1.2 The Leominster Town Council business case for the Community Asset Transfer proposes the following four core uses for the Old Priory building:
- Community Support Services
 - Incubation Hub and Office Space Rentals
 - Accommodation
 - Heritage interpretation

2. HIGH STREET HERITAGE ACTION ZONE GRANT (HSHAZ) HISTORIC BUILDING GRANT SCHEME

- 2.1 The Old Priory building is located within Leominster Conservation Area. The future development of the building has been identified as a project of interest within the Leominster High Street Heritage Action Zone Scheme. Leominster is one of a number of high streets in England to receive a share of the government's £95 million High Streets Heritage Action Zone (HSHAZ) Fund, which seeks to breathe new life into high streets that are rich in heritage and potential.
- 2.2 Until March 2024, Herefordshire Council and Leominster Town Council will be working in partnership with residents, businesses and community groups to deliver a range of projects, agreed with Historic England, that aim to renew and rejuvenate Leominster's High Street and conservation area. Capital works identified in the Old Priory Community Asset Transfer Business Plan as being necessary to bring unoccupied areas of the building back into use are potentially eligible for funding support via the HSHAZ Historic Building Grant Scheme.
- 2.3 Following the Community Asset Transfer of the Old Priory building, a number of surveys and studies are required to further develop the recommendations of the Old Priory Community Asset Transfer Business Plan and to support the advancement of the Old Priory capital works programme.
- 2.4 In March 2022 Herefordshire Council commissioned a measured survey and condition report of the Old Priory building. This work was funded by Herefordshire Council and Historic England, through the HSHAZ Grant Scheme, in order to support the rejuvenation of the Old Priory as a heritage asset and community resource.

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- 2.5 Town Council staff have liaised with Historic England and Herefordshire Council Conservation Officers to produce a brief that outlines the remaining development work requirements. A copy of this brief is provided in Appendix 1 - Project Brief: Old Priory Feasibility Study.
- 2.6 Market research has indicated that the development works outlined in Appendix 1 are expected to cost between £10,000 and £30,000. Initial conversations with representatives from Historic England and Herefordshire Council have suggested that the development works outlined in Appendix 1 would be eligible for a HSHAZ Historic Buildings Grant rate of 80%.
- 2.7 Costed proposals from eligible suppliers are required in order for a HSHAZ Historic Buildings Stage 1 Grant Application to be submitted. A stage 1 application covers development works required in advance of a capital works project commencing. A further application to support the capital works programme could be submitted at a later date, subject to successful completion of the development works.
- 2.8 The following HSHAZ Historic Building Grant opportunities are available for capital works:
- Restoration of shopfronts and frontages - grants of up to 95% of eligible costs
 - Building enhancements - grants of up to 80% of eligible costs
 - Restoration of lost features such as windows, railings and architectural details - grants of up to 80% of eligible costs
 - Conversion and repurposing historic buildings such as bringing empty space into use for flats, live/work units or visitor accommodation - grants of up to 50% of eligible costs

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

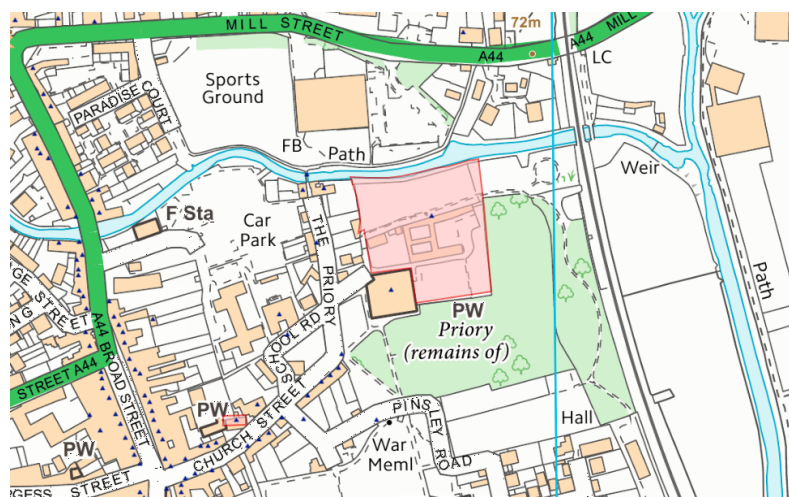
- 3.1 That costed proposals are obtained for the work outlined in the Old Priory Feasibility Study Project Brief provided in Appendix 1.
- 3.2 That the following procurement timeline is adopted:
- 30th May 2022: request for tenders is published
 - supplier proposals and draft HSHAZ grant agreement terms are presented at the Full Council meeting on Monday 27th June 2022.

4. APPENDICES

- Appendix 1: Project Brief: Old Priory Feasibility Study.

Appendix 1: Project Brief: Old Priory Feasibility Study.**PROJECT BRIEF: OLD PRIORY FEASIBILITY STUDY****SITE**

The Old Priory, Leominster, Herefordshire, HR6 8EQ. Scheduled Ancient Monument list entry number 1005529.

**BACKGROUND**

The Old Priory is a grade 2 listed building and scheduled ancient monument, located beside the Priory Church of St Peter and St Paul. It is the only conventual building of Leominster Priory to survive dissolution and was potentially the Prior's quarters or the Infirmary.

Architectural features suggest two main building periods of 1) c1200-1225, which included the building of the existing moulded arch present between the hall and chapel; and 2) modification in the early 14th century. Frequent royal visits to Leominster's Priory could have resulted in the construction of this building in the early 13th century to a suitable standard for monarchy. The second floor was added to the central and eastern structures around 1837-41, when it became the Leominster Poor Law Institution.

After dissolution, the Priory is believed to have been used as a hall for entertaining and as a gaol in the late 17th Century. From 1717 the Priory House was let by the Mayor

and Corporation of Leominster as a '*Mansion House*'; and in 1759 let for the '*Overseers of the Poor*' to use as a Workhouse. Eventually the Corporation sold the building to the '*Guardians of the Poor*' in 1837 and it was converted to a hospital in 1948, with some rooms being used for '*National Assistance housing*' as late as the 1950s and as an Old Peoples Home in the 1960s. In 1970s the County Council refurbished the building as offices; which on 5th October 2000 evolved as the very popular Leominster Old Priory Youth Hostel managed by the YHA.¹

¹ *The Grange Leominster Masterplan and Final Proposals (RIBA Stage 3): Appendix 2, Heritage Statement*, Red Kite Network Limited, 2019.

In October 2021, Herefordshire Council approved a Community Asset Transfer application for the building, which is due to be transferred into the ownership of Leominster Town Council in Spring 2022. The business case for the Community Asset Transfer proposes the following four core uses for the Old Priory building:

- Community Support Services
- Incubation Hub and Office Space Rentals
- Accommodation
- Heritage

Leominster Town Council seeks to ensure that plans for the future development of the Old Priory building will:

- be financially sustainable, generating at least sufficient income to cover the costs of ongoing building management, maintenance and conservation.
- utilise the full potential of the Old Priory as both a community resource and income generator to financially support town services.
- respect, preserve and celebrate the historical value of the Old Priory building and its significance within Leominster's heritage.
- support community organisations and support services by offering affordable, versatile and accessible office, meeting and outreach space.
- support the town economy by encouraging business development, innovation and diversification.
- support the town's tourism by providing high quality accommodation and enhancing heritage.
- be environmentally responsible, in line with the climate and ecological emergency declaration made by Leominster Town Council.
- complement existing town services and businesses, while minimising competition.

PROJECT PURPOSE AND DESCRIPTION

The purpose of the project is to support the development of preferred building use options identified in the Community Asset Transfer business plan produced by Leominster Town Council, through the commissioning of a heritage statement, options analysis and implementation plans.

REQUIRED OUTPUTS:

1. A costed maintenance plan, to include all buildings on the premises. A measured survey and condition survey will be provided by Leominster Town Council.
2. A statement of significance for the property, describing the significance of the buildings and outlining any contribution made by its setting in terms of its archaeological, historical, architectural and artistic interest. The statement is to be illustrated and researched to a similar level to that required by Historic England's building recording Level 3 and should include plans identifying areas of greater and lesser significance and sensitivity to change.
3. Options feasibility & viability report
 - To include:
 - an assessment of the feasibility, viability and impact of development proposals identified by Leominster Town Council, with particular reference to the significance of the building and

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recommendations for the avoidance, minimisation and mitigation of impact.

- proposals with sketched drawings for self-catering accommodation conversions on the second floor of the main Old Priory building and in the ground floor ancillary building. The ground floor ancillary building has been identified as a suitable site for a fully accessible self-catering unit.
- an accessibility audit of all buildings and assessment of the potential for improving access.
- analysis of the income generation options presented by the areas of the main Old Priory building currently occupied by the Leominster Youth Hostel, specifically addressing the potential for use as office space, long term accommodation, and short term temporary accommodation.
- costed implementation plans for all elements listed above.
- measures to ensure that all proposals are environmentally responsible, in line with the climate and ecological emergency declaration made by Leominster Town Council.

DOCUMENTS PROVIDED TO SUPPORT THE BRIEF

- Measured survey and drawings
- Condition survey
- Building use proposals developed by Leominster Town Council
- List of key stakeholders to be consulted

RESPONDING TO THE BRIEF

1. Set out a detailed programme for the delivery of all items.
2. Nominate personnel who will work on parts 1-4 of the project and the functions they will perform.
3. Provide evidence of previous experience in working with heritage sites, specifically scheduled monuments and listed buildings.
4. Provide a fees quote to cover all items.

Ward Councillor report Leominster North & Rural May 2022**May 2021 to May 2022 Summary**

It has been a difficult year for all councils. Last May we were just emerging from the third Covid lockdown with many restrictions still in place. The year saw cases rise and fall with different variants, but the continued success and high take-up of the vaccination programme meant restrictions could gradually relax and there was a welcome return to face to face meetings especially with parish and town councils. Herefordshire Council has had a busy year not only with distributing Covid Recovery grants running into millions of pounds from Central government but dealing with a number of crises including avian flu, Storm Eunice and other storms, phosphate pollution in our rivers and offering help for refugees from conflicts in Afghanistan and more recently Ukraine. Herefordshire is a generous county as was shown in the First World War, the first county to accept Belgian refugees. Many Herefordshire residents are now offering accommodation to Ukrainian families in the same spirit of generosity.

Balfour Beatty Update

The latest data from April

2,627 potholes repaired, 258 gullies cleaned, 58 fly tips removed. County wide figures. They are now clearing the backlog of potholes which grew during winter. Grass verges will be cut twice during the season as usual. There is a scheme called "Verging on Wild " to promote biodiversity by protecting selected verges by listing them as roadside verge nature reserves. A resident contacted me about the grass verge opposite to the A4112 road into Kimbolton from the A49. Rare orchids grow there and were decimated last year by the activities of National Highways or Balfour Beatty. It is important on the other hand to give priority to road safety at dangerous junctions. Always a question of striking the right balance.

C1055 Drainage Scheme

Some good news to report. The week beginning April 22nd saw the long awaited drainage improvements on the C1055 junction with Bache Lane in Kimbolton. This has been the scene of extensive flooding for many years and the road was closed for 6 weeks in early 2021. New pipes have been installed so that the water is diverted into the nearby field. There is still more work to be done in the field but it is a major step forward and many thanks to the Balfour Beatty drainage team. It should certainly alleviate flooding in that area.

Please continue to report potholes and blocked drains on the Herefordshire website or by phoning 01432 261 800. Please don't wait for someone else to report them. A photo or map reference also helps save time in finding the defect.

Speed Limits

I continue to work with Parish Councils to reduce traffic speeds. The use of SIDS supported by both parish councils has been welcome and effective in Brimfield and Kimbolton (near the school). Attempts to extend the 30mph limit in Brimfield and to reduce the 40mph limit in Leysters have met with mixed results. The main problem is how slow the process is and how long it takes for a decision.

Traffic Regulation Orders and Public Rights of Way have just been transferred from Balfour Beatty to Herefordshire Council so I hope we will see some faster action. There are often over 100 TROs in the pipeline so there is always a backlog. Traffic

speeds on the A44 in Mill Street continue to concern residents and meetings with the Police and Balfour Beatty are ongoing.

Council contact information.

PROW PROW@herefordshire.gov.uk

TRO TRO@herefordshire.gov.uk

PROW phone 01432 383 550

Mental Health Awareness

It was Mental Health Awareness week last week with the focus to raise awareness of the impact of loneliness on mental wellbeing and the practical steps we can take to address it. May is more generally mental health awareness month. It is increasingly clear that the three lockdowns and the pandemic generally affected many people's mental health, especially young people. We are fortunate to live in communities where people look out for each other and offer to help, but isolation in rural areas was made worse by the restrictions. It is also Dementia Action or Awareness week and many thanks for all that is done here in Leominster.

We are also in Foster Carers Fortnight when we thank foster carers for their help in transforming the lives of children and young people in care. Very relevant in Herefordshire with our high numbers of looked after children.

Council duties

I continue to serve on the Planning Committee and on SACRE, the committee which advises on and looks at Religious Education in the county. I am also a governor at Earl Mortimer College and Kimbolton Primary School and thank both schools for their commitment and support for their pupils over the past two years. It has not been easy but teachers and all staff responded to the challenge and many students now face the challenge of exams for the first time. The best of luck to them all. We tend to forget that our schools stayed open during the worst of the pandemic for the children of essential workers.

Town Council

My thanks to our retiring Mayor Cllr John Rumsey for all his service to the community in Leominster this year and my best wishes to Cllr Trish Marsh for the year ahead.

All Town Councillors should be thanked for their service during the year, voluntary and often not fully recognised. My thanks to my fellow Ward Councillors too and I know how hard they all work. Julie Debbage has kept us all on track as Town Clerk and is always cheerful and helpful. We are most grateful to her.

There is much to look forward to with the Leominster Festival and especially the Platinum Jubilee weekend at the start of June with two Bank Holidays. Many events are planned in the local area and I hope to attend as many as possible., starting with Afternoon Tea and the distribution of Jubilee mugs to children at The Duke of York in Leysters on June 2nd. It will be a unique occasion to celebrate Her Majesty The Queen's 70 years. As I said in the Leominster News, she has been a constant part of all our lives in good times and bad and has always set a fine example. We have much to thank her for.

John Stone May 2022 01584 711 227

Leominster South Ward report May 2022 from Councillor Trish Marsh**Bring the Herefordshire Hoard home!**

Herefordshire Museum has the opportunity to acquire the Herefordshire Hoard for the people of Herefordshire and we need your help to do this.

Come along to one of our community events taking place throughout the county from May to July to find out more about the Herefordshire Hoard, a Viking treasure hoard found near Leominster in 2015.

Cawley Hall, Eye, Luston, Saturday 18 June, 11am-3pm

Leominster Community Centre, Saturday 2 July, 11am-3pm

Come and meet costumed reenactors who will be on hand to tell you more about life as a Viking, and take part in hands on activities. There will also be a pop up display giving more information about the hoard and how you can help to bring it home to Herefordshire.

The recent issue of Herefordshire Council's magazine for residents, **Herefordshire Now**, should now have been delivered to all homes

Page 1 features grants for two Leominster projects!

Both Echo's horticultural project at Eaton Barn and the Messy Art Group at Honeybees Nursery are featured.

Page 4 usefully includes all the different things that your Herefordshire council tax is spent on: providing services locally from highways to looking after children.

You can also find the magazine on line on HC website.

Economic hardship is now widespread and unfortunately is likely to get worse during this year as inflation peaks. There is free help available locally: please spread the word!

- **Herefordshire Council** can provide assistance- search 'Emergency Welfare Support' or 'Claim Council Tax Reduction' on their website.
- **Talk Community** can signpost to local reputable free debt advice: [Talk Community Debt Advice Link](#) One of the providers is Leominster Foodbank.
- **Citizen's Advice** is coming to Leominster Community Centre: call 0344 826 9685 or text ADVICE and your name to 0786 0077 311 for a call back to arrange a free appointment.
- **Leominster Food Bank**, now 10 years old, is extremely busy, with many new first time users. Referrals to get a voucher for the bank are available from many agencies –see the Foodbank's website for details.
- Anyone is welcome to come along to the **Foodbank's Foodshares** - no referral is required - at the Old Priory, Tuesdays and Fridays from 11.30-12 noon. The share provides free fresh food: quantities available depend on donations that day and cannot be guaranteed.

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- The **Primary Care Trust** are producing a list of local support groups.
- **NILS (No Interest Loan Scheme)**, a charity based in Tenbury and covering our area) are able to provide interest free loans to eligible people.

Leominster Foodbank had twice as many customers and three times as many children this March compared to March 2021. This is a shockingly high increase.

At their AGM they reported that people have been turning the heating off in order to save money. The Food Bank is currently purchasing approaching £1000 of food per week to deal with demand. It was noted that people are currently donating to Ukrainian appeals, which is affecting donations to the Food Bank.

Please look at **Cllr Trish Marsh Facebook** page for local updates and email me if you have queries.

May Ward Report from Councillor Felicity Norman

Although Covid is still with us, and we need to continue with sensible precautions, life is opening up again and returning to something near normal. Herefordshire is joining other parts of the country in planning for the Jubilee celebrations in June, and in Leominster we will be combining this with our annual Festival, with its wide range of entertainments and activities. This is the start of many events during the year, as organisers gain confidence and more of us feel happier about joining larger crowds, especially if events are held outside.

Herefordshire Council's Market Town investment plan has been agreed, with £20million earmarked for economic development and business incubation space for Leominster and the other market towns. Our town already has many strengths. There are high levels of self-employment, many small businesses and a better than average survival rate for start-ups, and this investment will help Leominster's entrepreneurs get started or develop further. Tourism is an important contributor to the local economy and Leominster has much to offer, with historic buildings, pleasant open spaces, and walking and cycling opportunities; lots of antique shops and other interesting, independent shops. This investment Plan opens up many opportunities for the future.

The Heritage High Streets Action Zone funding of nearly £2 million for Leominster is designed to boost the regeneration of our town centre, promote economic, social and cultural recovery, while boosting tourism and celebrating our culture and history. A number of applications for funding to restore historic buildings are in the pipeline; the Cultural Consortium has drawn together many parts of our community in developing cultural activities; and the consultation has begun into how we can improve and enhance the centre of our town for both residents and visitors. I joined the consultation during the Farmers Market, speaking to a number of residents, listening to some lively conversations and hearing some positive ideas for future developments.

More activities and Events. The last couple of months seem to have been busy and among the events I have attended has been the Easter Service, a joyful event led by the new rector, Father Guy Cole; the opening by the Head Teacher of Earl Mortimer College, Alison Banner, of the Museum which has had a remarkable makeover, making far better use of the building and displaying many more of its fascinating artifacts; the return of the May Fair to the town; a party at Waverley House Care and Nursing Home, celebrating its 15th anniversary, and giving awards to many of its long serving staff; and the Mayor's charity concert, a fun event at which some of did far more dancing than we'd done for years!

Cllr Jenny Bartlett Leominster East Ward Members Report May 2022

The recent Panorama programme on Monday 16th May looking into Herefordshire Council's children's services brought to light some serious and terrible historic failings. The chief executive has issued a statement apologising for this and setting out the facts of the improvement plans the service is going through now. [Link to Chief Executive's response](#)

If anyone has concerns about the way they or their family have been treated by Herefordshire Children's Services, you can contact them on through the care concerns webpage or email careconcerns@herefordshire.gov.uk

The recent Audit & Governance committee meeting considered the revised Local Government Association (LGA) model Code of Conduct for principle and parish councillors. This has been refined to be more relevant to Herefordshire, based on our existing code. It will come to full council on Friday 20th May for proposed adoption and following that parish councils can decide if they wish to adopt the new code as well.

The in-depth review into the Herefordshire City Centre Transport Package project (the Link Road), during the previous administrations lead has brought to light some serious failings. The rise in the cost of project compensation claims, land acquisitions, financial controls and governance processes, have all been reviewed to understand events that led to the increased spends. The independent auditor's report clearly picked up the historical weaknesses in budget control and governance. It was evident that key lessons had not been learnt from previous projects, like Blue School House where costs greatly exceeded the initial budget. Significant changes have already been made to governance processes, project management and how project spend is managed to ensure this never happens again.

Fundraising is progressing to secure the Hereford Hoard for the county. This is a very significant treasure discovered in a field near Leominster, that experts believe may have been buried by the Viking Great Army over 1100 years ago. Come and find out more about the hoard on Saturday 2nd July at Leominster Community Centre between 11am and 3pm. You can meet costumed reenactors who will be on hand to tell you more about life as a Viking, and take part in hands on activities.

The next Leominster Market Town Business Briefing will be held at Grange Court on Tuesday 7th June between 5 and 6pm. It will cover areas such as Levelling Up, developing the Hereford City Centre Masterplan and Big Economic Plan, the Green Footsteps scheme, and an update on the larger projects currently being implemented. This is an ideal opportunity for businesses to make sure that Leominster is supported within the wider economic plans for the county. Places can be booked via Eventbrite - [Link to Eventbrite](#)

The Heritage High Street Action Zone Consultation will hold another public engagement stall on the May 27th Friday Market. One key area of work is to improve the public realm (streets, pavements, lighting and street furniture) in the centre of

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town, with a focus on Corn Square, to rejuvenate Leominster's historic heart. The £1.1million investment will help to make the most of Leominster's potential as a retail area, visitor attraction and events venue for our local community.

If you have not already had your say then please make sure you do at the market or via the online consultation, available on the Herefordshire Council website at [Link to online consultation](#)

The next Talk Parish Seminar takes place on Wednesday 22nd June at 7pm, online on zoom. This is a growing forum for town and parish councillors to ask questions of senior officers and have their say on policies that affect parishes. Well worth booking a place.