



LEOMINSTER TOWN COUNCIL

FULL COUNCIL

Wednesday 21st September 2022

To: All Members:
Councillors Marsh (Mayor), Williams (Deputy Mayor), Bartlett, Davies, Hanna, Herschy, Jacquet, Marshall, Murdoch, Norman, Rosser, Smith-Winnard, Sutcliffe and Thomas (2 vacancies).

NOTICE OF MEETING

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Leominster Town Council to be held on **Monday 26th September 2022** commencing at **19:00 hours** in the Council Chamber, 11 Corn Square, Leominster HR6 8YP.

Julie Debbage

Julie Debbage
TOWN CLERK

HM QUEEN ELIZABETH II

Prior to the meeting a one minute silence will be observed to pay respects to HM Queen Elizabeth II following her death on 8th September 2022.

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 a vacancy in the North 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 25th July 2022.
7. **POLICE REPRESENTATIVE**
To receive a verbal update from a representative from the local Safer Neighbourhood Team.
8. **BREACH OF CODE OF CONDUCT - PUBLIC APOLOGY**
To receive an update on the public apology from Cllr Preece.
9. **CLERK'S REPORT**
To receive the Clerk's Report on matters outstanding that may not appear on the agenda.
10. **FINANCES**
 - (a) **Accounts paid and invoices for payment** - To receive an accounts paid and invoices for payment statement.
 - (b) **Income and Expenditure Report Month 5** - To consider the Income and Expenditure Report for Month 5 and accompanying notes.
 - (c) **External Audit** – To consider the result of the External Audit for 2021/22.
 - (d) **Precept** - To note that the Town Council has received the second part of the precept.
 - (e) **Movement of funds** - To consider moving two thirds of the current account balance into the linked instant access savings account.
 - (f) **SAAA Central External Auditor** - To consider the option to opt out of the SAAA central external auditor appointment arrangements. Please see supporting documents.
11. **ENVIRONMENT & SERVICES COMMITTEE UPDATE REPORT**
Please see the attached report for consideration.
12. **COMMUNICATION & EVENTS COMMITTEE UPDATE REPORT**
Please see the attached report for consideration.
13. **OLD PRIORY ASSET TRANSFER**
To receive an update on the transfer of the Old Priory.
14. **OLD PRIORY WORKING GROUP**
Due to the number of procurements the Town Council will have to make in the future, in respect of the Old Priory project, it is recommended that the Councillors that formed the Old Priory Working Group are reinstated to oversee future procurements.

15. CIVILITY AND RESPECT PLEDGE

To consider passing a resolution to sign up to the civility and respect pledge. Please see supporting documents.

16. BUDGET WORKING GROUP – CONSULTATION UPDATE

A verbal update will be provided at the meeting.

17. MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES

To consider appointing additional members to sit on the following Committees:

- Planning & Highways Committee (3 vacancies)
- Environment & Services Committee (1 vacancy)
- Finance & General Purposes Committee (2 vacancies)
- Communications & Events Committee (1 vacancy)

18. HEALTH & SAFETY REPRESENTATIVE

To consider appointing a Health & Safety Councillor representative.

19. HALC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVE

To consider appointing a representative to sit on the HALC Executive Committee.

20. TREE OFFICER

To consider appointing an additional tree officer.

21. MAYORAL APPOINTMENTS

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

22. REPORTS

To receive update reports from:

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

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) Shop Front Grant Scheme - To consider extending the Great Places to Visit Shop Front Grant Scheme.

(c) Footpath Book - To consider commissioning a footpath book as part of a pre-order from the TIC.

(d) Cost of Living Crisis - To consider measures to assist the cost of living crisis.

(e) Confidential Staffing Report – To review and make decisions on the staffing report.

24. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Town Council meeting will be held on Monday 28th November 2022 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 25th July 2022 commencing at 19:00 hours in the Council Chamber, 11 Corn Square, Leominster HR6 8YP.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillors Marsh (Mayor), Williams (Deputy Mayor), Bartlett, Davies, Hanna (19.02), Herschy (19.02), Jacquet, Marshall, Murdoch, Norman, Smith-Winnard, Sutcliffe and Thomas.

OFFICERS PRESENT: Town Clerk, Democratic Services Officer.

ALSO PRESENT: Ward Cllr Stone and two members of the public

34/22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received and accepted by the Council for Cllr Preece (Work) and Cllr Rosser (Prior Meeting).

35/22 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

36/22 REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

No requests for dispensation had been received.

37/22 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Two members of the public were present. The following matters were raised:

- A member of the public thanked the Town Council for the receipt of a Civic Award and for the support given to the Leominster Polish Society;
- A member of the public highlighted the recital held at the Priory to support the River Lugg day;
- A member of the public expressed the need for traffic measures – such as a Speed Indicator Device – to be implemented along Bridge Street.

38/22 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Council **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Leominster Town Council meeting held on 27th June 2022 be agreed and signed as a correct record.

(Proposed: Cllr Williams, Seconded: Cllr Norman Unanimous).

39/22 POLICE REPRESENTATIVE

A representative from the local Safer Neighbourhood Team was unable to attend the meeting. Council noted that a representative is planning on attending all Full Council meetings in the future.

40/22 BREACH OF CODE OF CONDUCT - PUBLIC APOLOGY

No apology was received as Cllr Preece was unable to attend the meeting. Council noted that the matter would be deferred until the next Full Council meeting on Monday 26th September 2022.

41/22 CLERK'S REPORT

Council noted the following Clerk's Report:

- **Herefordshire Green Network** – the clerk advised Council that an invoice had been received for membership renewal to the Herefordshire Green Network at a cost of £50 per annum. Council **RESOLVED** to renew the membership.
(Proposed: Cllr Hanna; Seconded: Cllr Smith-Winnard Unanimous).

The clerk had two further items to report that were covered under 53/22 Confidential items

42/22 FINANCES

- (a) **Accounts paid and invoices for payment** – It was **RESOLVED** to ratify the payment of invoices for June and July 2022, as outlined on the payment statements provided.
(Proposed: Cllr Murdoch; Seconded: Cllr Jacquet Unanimous).

Council noted that the five-year contract for the Christmas lights will end in 2023 and the Town Council will then own the lights. Subject to the condition of the lights, they could be put into storage and the Town Council could employ a local company to install them. The clerk will set up a reminder to review the situation once the contract has ended.

- (b) **Income and Expenditure Report Month 3** – Council **RESOLVED** to accept the Income and Expenditure Report for Month 3 and accompanying notes.
(Proposed: Cllr Williams; Seconded: Cllr Bartlett Unanimous).

Council noted that a site has been offered for a youth club in the town which is currently under review. Partners involved include HVOSS and the police. The High Sheriff would like to be informed of any progress to the proposals.

43/22 MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES

Council **RESOLVED** to co-opt Cllr Marshall to sit on the Finance & General Purposes Committee and Cllr Norman to sit on the Communications & Event Committee.
(Proposed: Cllr Davies; Seconded: Cllr Herschy Unanimous).

44/22 CIVIC OFFICER APPOINTMENTS

Council **RESOLVED** to appoint Mr John Rumsey to the position of Sergeant at Arms.
(Proposed: Cllr Williams; Seconded: Cllr Herschy Unanimous).

Council noted that two enquiries had been received for the two Mace Bearer positions but the individuals had not responded to replies from the clerk.

It was suggested that the clerk contacts Earl Mortimer College to discuss the Mace Bearer positions. It was also suggested that the positions are re-advertised in Leominster News.

45/22 MAYORAL APPOINTMENTS

Council received the following appointments attended by the Mayor:

- Tuesday 12th July – Mayor’s meeting (Hereford Town Hall)
- Wednesday 13th July – Services for Independent Living (SIL) Picnic in the Park on the Grange
- Wednesday 13th July – Leominster Support for UK Hosts and Ukrainians at Bridge Street Sports Centre
- Saturday 16th July – Monkland garden fete
- Wednesday 19th July – Haven at Dilwyn with HRH Princess Anne
- Thursday 20th July – ECHO shop refurbishment launch
- Friday 21st July – Meeting the High Sheriff at Birley Court
- Saturday 23rd July – Viol consort Fretwork concert and Young Artist organ recital at the Priory
- Saturday 23rd July – One Vision musical theatre meeting (Royal British Legion, Leominster)

Council received the following appointments attended by the Deputy Mayor:

- Wednesday 18th May – Kidderminster Mayor making ceremony
- Tuesday 31st May - Cream tea at Leominster Baptist Church
- Friday 10th June – Garden party at Norfolk House
- Sunday 19th June – Mike Thornhill memorial celebration and civic award event at Grange Court
- Monday 20th June - Armed Forces Flag Raising in Corn Square
- Saturday 25th June – Armed Forces event (Ross-on-Wye)
- Sunday 3rd July – HALO event
- Tuesday 19th July – Induction of Rev Mark Long at the Priory
- Saturday 23rd July – Three Choirs Festival (Hereford)

Council noted that the Tourism & Media Assistant has set up a Mayoral page on the Town Council website.

46/22 STANDING ORDERS AND FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

Council reviewed and **RESOLVED** to adopt the Standing Orders for 2022/23. It was suggested that in future gender neutral references should be made in the document. (Proposed: Cllr Marshall; Seconded: Cllr Smith-Winnard Unanimous).

Council reviewed and **RESOLVED** to adopt the Financial Regulations for 2022/23 subject to the following amendments:

- Paragraph 4.1 Amend bullet points one and two to show:
 - the Council for all items of £5,000 and above

- a duly delegated committee of the Council for items over £2,000 up to £5,000;
- Paragraph 6.3 To include the following statement:
 - The Council retains the ability to make payment by cheque if electronic payments are down.

(Proposed: Cllr Bartlett; Seconded: Cllr Jacquet Unanimous).

47/22 SCHEME OF DELEGATION AND TERMS OF REFERENCE

Council reviewed and **RESOLVED** to adopt the Scheme of Delegation and Terms of Reference for 2022/23.

(Proposed: Cllr Smith-Winnard; Seconded: Cllr Norman Unanimous).

Council noted that the main change to the document was that all meetings of Standing Committees will normally commence at 7.00pm.

48/22 OLD PRIORY – HSHAZ FUNDING APPLICATION FOR A FEASIBILITY STUDY

(a) Council noted the terms of the HSHAZ funding agreement;

(b) Council **RESOLVED** to accept and ratify the evaluation panel's (the Mayor, Chair of Finance and General Purposes Committee and the clerk) recommendations, with the Projects & Grants Officer acting as procurement lead.

(Proposed: Cllr Williams; Seconded: Cllr Norman Unanimous).

49/22 YOUTH REPRESENTATION AND CONSULTATION

Council noted that the Mayor and the Project & Grants Officer have attended a meeting with the Head teacher at Earl Mortimer College to discuss how best to involve their pupils in the democratic and civic sides of the Town Council. A meeting to discuss this further will be arranged for the beginning of the new school year. It was suggested that the clerk contacts Earl Mortimer College to discuss the Mace Bearer positions and to contact Westfield School to find out if they would like to be involved in the consultation.

It was also suggested that a youth member is including on the Council.

Cllr Jacquet advised that she would promote information on Facebook once the youth representation details had been finalised.

50/22 INTERNAL AUDITOR APPOINTMENT

Council considered the appointment of the Town Council's internal auditor and **RESOLVED** to appoint the internal auditor that submitted Quote B. The clerk will find out whether a discount is available if the auditor is appointed for 3 years.

(Proposed: Cllr Thomas; Seconded: Cllr Norman Unanimous).

51/22 PROCUREMENT

Council **RESOLVED** to appoint a procurement working group (comprising of Cllrs Murdoch, Smith-Winnard, Thomas and the Town Clerk) and to delegate authority to the group to evaluate tenders for footpath resurfacing on The Grange Open Space.

(Proposed: Cllr Sutcliffe; Seconded: Cllr Hanna Unanimous).

52/22 REPORTS

The following reports were received:

Leominster North Ward Report from Ward Cllr Stone

The council noted the report contained in the agenda.

The following additional points were raised:

- Cllr Stone offered his support regarding youth representation;
- Cllr Stone emphasised that the A44 is a strategic road through the town;
- Cllr Stone recently visited Leysters and Middleton Village Hall for a cream tea to celebrate 25 years of the hall;
- Following refurbishment, Hamnish Village Hall will be re-opening on Saturday 30th July 2022.

Leominster South Ward Report from Ward Cllr Marsh

The council noted the following verbal report:

- The Citizens Advice Bureau will be holding an Open day in Leominster on Wednesday 17th August 2022;
- There are a number of holiday clubs in Leominster over the Summer holidays;
- BBC Radio Hereford and Worcester will be holding a 'Cost of Living' event in Corn Square from 6am on Saturday 27th August 2022.

Leominster West Ward Report from Ward Cllr Norman

The council noted the following verbal report:

- Cllr Norman fully supported the points raised by other Ward Councillors regarding issues on the A44;
- Cllr Norman attended a meeting regarding '20's Plenty for Us' – a campaign for a speed limit of 20mph to be normal on residential streets and in town and village centres (unless full consideration of the needs of vulnerable road users allows a higher limit on particular streets).and hopes that this will be rolled out across the county in residential areas;
- Cllr Norman supported youth activities in the county and noted that free school meals and activities were available. There are currently 86 Ukrainian children in the county;
- Cllr Norman stated that it was very encouraging that a large number of events are being held in Leominster and the surrounding areas. She gave credit to the organisers including Leominster in Bloom for making the town a welcoming place.

Leominster East Ward Report from Ward Cllr Bartlett

The council noted the report contained in the agenda.

Cllr Bartlett thanked Cllr Stone for acknowledging that the A44 is a strategic road and for his support regarding the implementation of Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) and Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs).

Cllr Stone and 2 members of the public left the meeting prior to Confidential Items.

53/22 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.

Clerk's Report

- **Staff injury** – the clerk reported an injury to a member of staff that was received in the course of their duties.

Cllr Jacquet left the meeting at 20.28 hours.

- **Staff disciplinary** – Council were updated on the current staff disciplinary.

54/22 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Council noted that the next Town Council Meeting would be held on Monday 26th September 2022 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 20.38 hours.

MAYOR: _____ **DATE:** _____

Environment & Services Committee

Date:	21st September 2022 Meeting scheduled for 19th September cancelled due to requirement of clear days for publishing the agenda not being met as a result of national mourning of the death of Queen Elizabeth II.
Title:	Committee Update Report
Purpose of the Report:	To provide Members with an update relating to previous decisions made by the Committee, identify further actions and decisions required.
Contact Officer:	Julie Debbage

1. RECOMMENDATION

- 1.1 That the report be noted.**

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Leominster Town Council is responsible for the maintenance of a number of open spaces in Leominster.
- 2.2 Public Rights of Way have been taken back in house to Herefordshire Council. Leominster Town Council will continue to maintain the footpaths using its direct labour force.
- 2.3 This report provides background information to Committee on new and existing projects, updates members on progress to date and identifies any further actions required.

3. FOOTPATH MAINTENANCE**3.1 *Volunteer Footpath Officer Meeting***

A meeting has been arranged by Herefordshire Council Highways Team inviting the Parish Footpath Officers to an update on the recent changes in managing the PROW service and to engage in taking the service forward. The meeting is to be held at the Town Hall in Hereford on Wednesday, 28th September 2022, 10am to 11:30am.

4 COMMITTEE MATTERS**4.1 *Allotments***

- There are currently 13 people on the allotment waiting list and no vacant plots.
- To date, 85% of the total rent for the year has been collected.

4.2 Great Places to Visit Fund

- The trees and tree guards for the empty tree pits have been purchased and will be planted w/c 26th September.
- The new seating in Corn Square and Broad Street has been installed.
- Picnic tables next to The Grange Play Area have been installed.
- The Grange surfacing will begin w/c 26th September.
- Aidas accessible walk through the orchard to the Tranquil Garden is about to be resurfaced.
- 6 New Broxap litter bins have been delivered and will be installed by Balfour Beatty before the end of September.
- The Shop Front Grant Scheme has now closed and 19 shops have benefitted from the funding for improvements.

4.3 Etnam Street Gingko Trees

- A complaint has been received about maintenance of the trees planted in 2017 on Etnam Street. It is believed that the trees have had the dying tips pruned back to stop any further deterioration.
- A meeting has been arranged with the Herefordshire Council Tree Officer to discuss this further and to clarify which types of annual maintenance can be carried out within the conservation area.

Environmental Report July & August 2022

- New litter bins have been installed on Ginhall Green.
- Leominster in Bloom judging was a success, I had the pleasure of walking around the town with the judges and Leominster in Bloom. We are awaiting what award will be given.
- Due to the hot weather, grass cutting was suspended for a few weeks as the grass was not growing, this reduced wear and tear on the mower and reduced our fuel consumption. Grass cutting resumed in late August.
- With the extra time available due to not grass cutting, the grounds team have been tidying the alleyways near Sydonia & other PROW's.
- A new running track on Sydonia has been marked out by High Ground as well as children's activity markings on Ginhall Green.
- Brass plaques have been installed on the information boards around the town & the Grange for the 'My Leominster Heritage Passport'.
- A tree has fallen down outside the allotment main entrance gate which blocked access. The grounds team was able to clear the access in a professional & timely manner.
- 2 tonnes of scalpings were ordered to fill in some big potholes in the Allotment's 2nd car park track.
- 5 new benches have been installed by DC Gardening Services, 3 in Corn Square & 2 in Broad Street.
- 4 new picnic benches have also been installed near the Grange play park, by DC Gardening Services.
- In late August the grounds team has strimmed the wildflower meadow on Ginhall Green, it will be raked off and all clippings will be spread in amongst the apple trees in the orchard to encourage further wild flowers to germinate.
- The trees for the 5 empty tree pits on Broad Street, Dishley Street & Broad Street carpark have been ordered and collected.

Stuart Sidebotham
Environmental Services Supervisor

Communications & Events Committee

Date: 21st September 2022
Meeting scheduled for 20th September cancelled due to requirement of clear days for publishing the agenda not being met as a result of national mourning of the death of Queen Elizabeth II.

Title: Communications & Events Update Report

Purpose of the Report: To provide Members with an update relating to the communications and events projects currently being developed

Contact Officers: Julie Debbage

1. RECOMMENDATION

1.1 That the report be noted.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 The Committee's main responsibilities are as follows. These are included in the Terms of Reference and are not exhaustive:

- Markets and Fairs;
- The Tourist Information Centre;
- Council events;
- Council communication;
- Local Events supported by Leominster Town Council.

2.2 This report provides background information to Committee on progress events and communications projects and initiatives currently being developed, and identifies actions required.

3. MARKETS

3.1 The following road closures are in place for the 2022 Farmers Markets and other market related events. Roads that can be closed are Corn Square, Corn Street and Victoria Street.

Corn Square, Corn St, Victoria Street – Farmers Markets 2022

- 8th October
- 12th November
- 10th December

4. EVENTS UPDATE

4.1 ***Party in The Park***

The town council provided support for this event through signage, use of The Grange, providing toilet facilities and removal of waste. The event was very successful with some of the proceeds from ticket sales being donated by the organiser to Macmillan Cancer Support.

4.2 ***Leominster Food Fayre***

The event took place on 3rd September 2022 and included 17 food stalls and 5 other stalls. Feedback was very good with many stalls selling out and enquiring about attending either the Christmas Light Switch On or the Victorian Street Market. The entertainment by Pigeons and Fishmonger acts was well received. This was provided from the Great Places to Visit Fund and added to the atmosphere. Musical entertainment was also provided by Me & Him which was also well received. Thank you to Rob Parker and Cyril Townsend for support with ensuring that power could be provided to the stalls and that the cables were safe. Save the date slips were distributed to traders for next year, although the location of the Food Fayre has not yet been finalised due to ongoing public realm works.

4.3 ***Remembrance Day Parade***

A meeting to discuss the parade has been arranged for 27th September 2022 at 11 Corn Square and will include representatives of the Royal British Legion, the town council, ATC, the Police etc. There will be a church service at 10am before congregating at the Cenotaph. A road closure will be applied for in October.

4.4 ***Christmas Light Switch On***

The catenary wires that hold the lights require some work before installation which has been agreed by Herefordshire Council as a project change on the Great Places to Visit Fund £1152.00 plus vat. The church will hold the nativity service on 26th November 2022 at The Priory Church before processing into town for the light switch on event. With regards to the Christmas lights themselves, we are using low energy LED lights so the cost is minimal but council may decide to reduce the hours they are on to save energy.

A stage and entertainment are currently being sourced but as there will be scaffolding on properties in Corn Square, the event may need to be adjusted with the stage on the apron at the top of the Square this year.

4.5 ***Victorian Street Market***

Invitations have been sent out to exhibitors and a traction engine has been booked to provide additional interest at the bottom of Broad Street.

Scheduled events

Corn Square

- Nov 2022 - 26th – **Light Switch On Event** – Road closure TBC
- December 2022 – 10th **Victorian Street Market**–Road Closure in place 06:00 – 21:00

Broad Street

- November 2022–13th, **Remembrance Parade** – Road closure required
- December 2022–10th (from 6pm), 11th **Victorian Street Market**–Road Closure in place 18:00-00:00 9th December and 00:00 – 21:00 10th December.

Pinsley Road - Church St end

- November 2022 –13th **Remembrance Parade**–Road Closure required

Friday Markets

Date	Regular	Casual	Charity	£
8/7/22	12			254.00
15/7/22	11			250.00
22/7/22	13			255.00
29/7/22	13			264.00
5/8/22	11			230.00
12/8/22	11			224.00
19/8/22	12			250.00
26/8/22	12			255.00
2/9/22	12			244.00
				£ 2,226.00

Market attendance stability has been maintained throughout the period.

The uncertainty around the erection of scaffolding outside the Rankin Club in Corn Square as from 26/9/22 is causing concern. It is hoped that a working plan can be achieved as soon as possible. It would appear that the scaffolding is likely to be in place for upward of 5 months.

Tourist Information Centre Manager's Report September 2022

ITEM	Manager's Report	TO NOTE / ACTION
Staff	<p>Another new volunteer has come to join the team. The TIC Manager will run an induction training day for all three new volunteers.</p> <p>The annual 'thank you' tea party for the volunteers was held on the 16th August in the Old Stable Gallery.</p> <p>The TIC Manager is to retire at Christmas after 30 years in post.</p>	<p>Individual training is also done 'on the job'.</p>
Tourism Development	<p>Membership payments are coming in, this is for a place on the www.leominstertourism.com website and a line entry on the area leaflet. So far 75 have paid. One has discontinued and 15 are outstanding. Three new shops have been approached, but have so far not responded.</p> <p>The control of Visitherefordshire has now been transferred to the management board of the Herefordshire BID. (Business Improvement District).</p> <p>The TIC had an excellent day on Saturday the 3rd September during the Food Fayre. 328 people came through the door.</p> <p>There is an artist in the gallery who has been included in the h.Art listing during Herefordshire Art Week. When he booked he requested that the TIC be open on the two Sundays at either end of the week. The first was Sunday the 4th September and 50 people came through. Other venues in town were the Lion Ballroom, Oxenham Gallery, Grange Court and Art At 24 in Broad Street.</p> <p>The new heritage trail for children is now up and running. The TIC gives out the 'Leominster Passport' and free crayons for the brass rubbing. It is proving very popular.</p> <p>New 'Leominster and the Black and White Villages' tea towels are now ready for collection and should be in the TIC shortly. The artist has offered to collect them to save on the delivery charges.</p>	
Leominster in Bloom	<p>The judging day went very well. The judges were very complimentary however the outcome will not be known until the 22nd September at the awards ceremony.</p> <p>The knitted toppers on the bollards have been removed and the 'Hunt the Sheep' window trail has finished.</p> <p>Bertie Bargates is almost completed. The defibrillator is in place and the restoration is complete. Transfers are being prepared with the sponsors names to go on the windows. The dedication for the plaque has been agreed with the family of the paramedic who lost his life. Once they are all done there will be a dedication ceremony, to which the Mayor and the Deputy Lord Lieutenant will be invited.</p>	

<u>ITEM</u>	Manager's Report	<u>TO NOTE / ACTION</u>
Walkers are Welcome	<p>The group is producing some new leaflets to encourage families to walk more, including 'Aida's Accessible Amble' which has been out of print for many years. The 'Walks out from Leominster' book is being updated.</p> <p>There will be an AGM in November.</p>	
The Servants Quarters	<p>Reviews continue to be good. There have a two instances where guests have mentioned that mats slip in the bedroom, so a new rug will be purchased to prevent an accident.</p> <p>Recent reviews from the public:</p> <p>What a lovely place to stay, right in the heart of Leominster and conveniently located for Grange Court, the bus and railway stations. The apartment has been beautifully renovated and there is also use of the walled garden. Every single person I dealt with could not have been more friendly and helpful. Lots of delicious local goodies available from the Tourist Information Office downstairs too. Highly recommend a stay here!</p> <p>Highly recommended, like stepping back in history, beautifully renovated, comfortable and great location. I feel rejuvenated and relaxed after staying here.</p> <p>A lovely clean flat in a great location. Gillian was lovely and very helpful.</p>	<p>This was actually Julie who helped on this occasion!</p>

Ward Councillor report Leominster North & Rural May 2022

HM the late Queen Elizabeth II

It was a privilege to attend the Service of Thanksgiving for the life of the late Queen on Sunday at The Priory. There were so many fine hymns and readings and the large congregation showed the respect and affection in which she was held. It was good to see so many organisations, both young and old, represented and to hear the inspiring music. The past fortnight has given us all a chance to reflect on the contribution of our late monarch and her 70 years of devoted duty and service to the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland. We recall her many Christmas broadcasts and in particular her moving address during the first lockdown in 2020 ending with “we will meet again.” It brought the country together in a way no politician can in the most difficult circumstances. We only recently celebrated her Platinum Jubilee but it felt like the end of an era when she appeared on the balcony of Buckingham Palace. The Royal Family need time to mourn as business as usual slowly resumes. God Save The King.

Flood defences

Work is now starting in and around Osbourne place to repair the Kenwater flood wall. There may be some local inconvenience but when the work is completed many properties will be better protected from flooding. This follows work last year along the River Lugg which by raising the bank will better protect over 300 properties in The Mallards and Ridgemoor areas. This is a substantial investment by the Environment Agency in Leominster and it is very welcome.

I am also pleased to report further work by Balfour Beatty at the Stanley Bank junction in Kimbolton, scene of flooding events for many years. Work has started to install a new pipe in the adjacent field which will help take the water off the C1055 road. We all hope the pipes can be kept clear but in the meantime it is good to see this scheme being carried out before winter.

Litter Pick Sunday September 18th

Many thanks to my fellow Ward Councillors and their team who kindly took part in a litter pick in Cheaton Close and part of Ridgemoor on Sunday morning. The encouraging news is that there was less litter to remove than last year which shows the value of regular litter picks. We left a pile of purple sacks to be collected by Balfour Beatty and the whole estate looking tidy and clean. I am most grateful to all those who volunteered and who do similar litter picks across Leominster. I just wish everyone could recycle their cans, bottles, paper and cardboard.

Covid vaccinations

The NHS started notifying residents about booster vaccinations on September 5th, starting with care home residents and health and care staff. The boosters are being rolled out for all those aged 50 or over in the next couple of months. Covid cases are now much lower than in the early summer but the virus is still present and cases are expected to rise in the winter along with other respiratory illnesses. The booster doses by Pfizer or Moderna are equally effective. As Dr Mike Hearne from Taurus Healthcare says “I would encourage everyone to come forward when contacted. This will ensure we all have maximum protection during the forthcoming winter months from Covid-19 and flu. “It is important for those eligible to have their flu jabs too. Please wait to be contacted.

Herefordshire Now

Latest issue of Herefordshire Now should be landing on doorsteps. It is the only publication to be delivered to every household in the county and is an important way for residents (especially for those who do not use the internet) to find out the latest information about Council services and contact details. Supportive information is provided in light of the increase in the cost of living. 40% of people over 75 do not currently access the internet. They should not be forgotten or ignored.

And finally.....

Congratulations to all students who achieved success this summer in their A levels and GCSEs. The Hereford Times reported that Earl Mortimer College recorded better results than last year despite the return of exams for the first time since before the pandemic. Detailed results are not yet available but thanks to parents and carers and teachers in all our local schools for keeping the flag flying and helping our young people through two difficult years. Let's hope for a much more "normal " academic year ahead for our schools and colleges. (and help with their energy bills too).

John Stone Leominster North and Rural 01584 711 227

Leominster South Ward report September 2022 from Councillor Trish Marsh**Budget consultation for 2023/24**

Herefordshire Council's Budget consultation will be underway shortly.

This year inflation is bringing greater pressures than ever, so your input will be particularly important as priorities are scrutinised.

Please keep an eye on the council website.

Herefordshire Now – latest edition delivered and online

Have a look for up to date news on council development and help on offer.

Transfer of the Old Priory to Leominster

Herefordshire Council have now transferred this historic building to Leominster Town Council as a community asset transfer. The building, no longer needed by HC, is already home to important community organisations for the town and plans are in place for further good use of this heritage building.

Energy saving advice and support

Would you like to get some great tips to help get control of energy usage in the home?

Are you a householder in Herefordshire? Perhaps you are on a low income? Do you want to find out about energy use in the home, how smart meters work and can help you manage energy and bills? Join Keep Herefordshire Warm for this introductory talk.

Thursday 29 September @ 2pm: **Energy saving, smart meters and getting control of home energy use - a talk for householders**

If you know someone that needs help with their home energy, fuel bills, keeping warm or assistance with energy efficiency measures, they can get in touch with the Keep Herefordshire Warm advice line. Keep Herefordshire Warm offer free energy advice and support households to access funding and grants.

Call: 0800 677 1432, Monday - Friday 9am to 5pm.

Cabinet has approved a new commission to restore the River Wye

Through the commission, river quality will be reviewed, and we will consider how the council can use all available powers and influence to progress the restoration of the Wye and Lugg. In a world-first, we are creating a number of Integrated Wetlands specifically for the purpose of removing phosphates before they reach our rivers. In turn this will enable the damaging ban on development in some areas to be lifted. Through a new 'Phosphate Credits' system, developers will be able to buy credits generated by the operation of the wetlands to offset the phosphates that their new developments will create. In this way it is possible to ensure that the overall effect of new development is what's called 'nutrient neutral', similar to the way companies can offset their carbon footprints by planting trees or sponsoring carbon negative projects.

Hoard coming home to Herefordshire

The Herefordshire Hoard is coming home. Over 1,100 years since being buried in a field near Leominster, the precious Viking treasure will be looked after by Herefordshire museum service.

Experts believe the treasure may have been buried by the Viking Great Army and artefacts include three items of gold jewellery, a silver ingot and 29 silver coins, including a number of rare 'two emperor' coins.

The news follows the success of the campaign to raise the funds needed to purchase the hoard, valued at £776,250. That four-month endeavour ended on Saturday 6 August. A host of events and activities around the county were organised to help raise awareness and generate public donations. Herefordshire's museum service is delighted so many residents engaged with those activities, with many donating cash towards the campaign.

Behind-the-scenes, applications were made to national funding bodies. The **National Heritage Memorial Fund (NHMF)** provided the lion's share of the money needed. The large grant NHMF awarded was backed up by other significant grants from the **Art Fund**, **Garfield Weston Foundation** and the **Headley Trust**.

Conservation, wildlife and social media - help make our planet happy

Rural Media are calling all young people aged 12-18 who have an interest in conservation, wildlife and digital media to get in touch with them about an exciting new project starting in October!

This is a great opportunity for young people to get involved with conservation, learn new digital skills and make social media content for other young people. Get in touch with Toni Cook at tonic@ruralmedia.co.uk for more information.

Meet people, make friends, move more!

Give your physical AND mental health a boost with the Leominster Walk and Talk sessions.

Fancy joining a sociable and supportive group where you can build your confidence and your fitness at the same time? Get outside and join in with a Walk and Talk session where you can choose the distance and pace of your walk!

Starting from Grange Court, Leominster at 10am on Tuesdays the sessions allow you to track your walks and reach those personal milestones.

If you'd like to join, get in touch with Tom Howard via email or call 07786 028789.

FREE Beginners Internet Workshops (learn how to have a nose at your relatives' social media!)

Fastershire's free workshops continue each month at the main Herefordshire Libraries, including Leominster, with fun and friendly sessions to help increase confidence in using the internet.

There's free training available on WhatsApp, Facebook, getting to know your tablet and more. Please help people who would benefit to see what's on via the Fastershire website and book their places.

Covid-19 autumn booster programme

COVID-19 is more serious in older people and in people with certain underlying health conditions. This winter it is expected that many respiratory infections, including COVID-19 and flu may be circulating at high levels – this may put increasing pressure on hospitals and other health care services.

For these reasons, people aged 50 years and over, those in care homes, and those aged 5 years and over in clinical risk groups are now being offered an autumn booster of COVID-19 vaccine. Please take up the offer to help keep yourself and others safe!

A booster will also be offered to front-line health and social care staff, those who care for vulnerable individuals and families of individuals with weakened immune systems.

The autumn booster is being offered to those at high risk of the complications of COVID-19 infection, who may have not been boosted for a few months. As the number of COVID-19 infections increases over the winter, this booster should help to reduce your risk of being admitted to hospital with COVID-19.

September Ward Report from Councillor Felicity Norman

It has really felt as if we are almost back to normal, with lots of events and activities taking place over the summer, which I and others have thoroughly enjoyed. The Festival, fetes, Food Fayre, Plant Fair, concerts, and walks have all been well attended, and clearly everyone has enjoyed catching up with friends and making the most of (mainly) lovely warm weather, although it brings with it unease about climate change, water shortages and drought in places.

Just recently, the death of the Queen, and the events to commemorate and celebrate her life and achievements, have also brought people together in a rather more sombre way. Congratulations to our Town Council, Herefordshire Council, the Church, and to all involved in managing these events in such an effective and efficient way.

Footpaths

At a recent meeting, plans for establishing a Greenway for walkers and cyclists between Leominster and Worcester, along the line of the old railway were outlined, including details of a feasibility study which indicated the potential health, wellbeing, and economic benefits. There are clearly some objections to this idea, with landowners expressing anger at the lack of proper consultation, along with other concerns, while others offered more positive support. The idea is successful elsewhere, so there seems to be a need to find out more about how this has been achieved in other areas.

The transfer of Public Rights of Way (PROW) back into Herefordshire Council is a move in the right direction. There has been a huge increase in walking in the county, from long distance walking on the Herefordshire Trail, Wye Way or Mortimer Trail, to shorter family walks, walking for health, or more focused walks with historic or other themes. Our footpaths have been neglected for years, and it is encouraging that their value to residents as well as visitors has been recognised more recently. Greater efforts are being made to improve their accessibility, replace stiles with gates where appropriate and ensure that they are passable and clearly signposted. There is still a long way to go, and taking PROW back in house, recruiting officers and working with footpath volunteers are all positive steps forward.

Our hardworking volunteer footpath officer is gathering a team to help with monitoring footpaths, to report defects, clear minor obstructions, improve signage etc. and would welcome volunteers. So if you are a keen walker, consider joining her in this useful work. She can be contacted through the town council.

The Herefordshire Hoard:

We had a very well attended open day in Leominster a few weeks ago, displaying items from the fabulous Herefordshire Hoard, and many will also have attended events at Cawley Hall, Luston, near where the hoard was discovered. The story behind this couldn't be more dramatic and can be found at www.herefordshirehoard.co.uk The public fundraising campaign has been very successful, the target reached through many generous donations, and this ensures that we will be able to display this treasure trove in Herefordshire.

River Protection, Development and Phosphate Trading:

Following a decision at Full Council at the end of July, Herefordshire will achieve a world first by enabling nutrient neutral development to commence within the River Lugg

catchment, controlled through an assured scheme for trading phosphate credits generated by a managed wetland scheme at Luston. Many planning applications have been held back pending the creation of this important new scheme and additional planning officer resource has been secured to ensure that the applications released by the trading process will not create a bulge in workload or delay the determination of applications coming from elsewhere in the county.

Cllr Jenny Bartlett Ward Members Report September 2022

The death of Her Majesty The Queen

Leominster showed its heartfelt respects to our late Queens passing this month. Together with other Councillors and staff I spent time sitting with the book of condolence in the Priory, attending the civic proclamation and the civic service in the Priory on Sunday 18th September. I would like to say a huge thank you to the Town Clerk and the staff for all the time and effort they put in over the period of mourning and making sure the civic events ran smoothly. Leominster can be very proud.

All council public meetings were suspended over the period and there will be some catching up to do over the next month. The month of August also sees fewer public meetings at county and parish level, but the day to day work of local government still continues.

New Armed Forces section on Herefordshire Council's website

All the information for information, advice, support and events have been pulled together into a new homepage making it a lot easier for families and veterans to find the information they need

www.herefordshire.gov.uk/armed-forces

Cost of living crisis

In response to increased prices & the cost of living, Cabinet Office has launched the 'Help for Households' campaign. It explains the different help available onto one Cost of Living Support website www.gov.uk/check-benefits-financial-support

Herefordshire Council are signposting to this as well as to the Money on your mind pages on Talk Community for local help and advice.

There is a forthcoming decision of the forward plan this month for the Health and Wellbeing Board to agree to set up and oversee a Cost of Living Commission, which would bring together a range of partners to look at how to support residents of Herefordshire through the ongoing cost of living of crisis.

Tackling the stigma of Mental Health

Locally based boxer and Commonwealth Games gold medal winner Delicious Orie has put his weight behind a new video part funded by the council to support men's suicide prevention. The video 'We're in your corner' is part of the wider 'Now We're Talking' initiative, which supports people experiencing problems with their mental health across Herefordshire and Worcestershire. The video is aimed at men of all ages and hopes to reduce the stigma surrounding mental health and highlight where to get support. It can be viewed on the Acting Together to Prevent Suicide webpage: [Now We're Talking Together To Prevent Suicide | Healthy Minds \(whct.nhs.uk\)](http://Now We're Talking Together To Prevent Suicide | Healthy Minds (whct.nhs.uk))

Drug and Alcohol awareness: September is 'Recovery Month'

An organisation called Recovery Street Film Festival has been gathering short films about people's journey to recovery. The Recovery Street Film Festival was established eight years ago to give people with lived experience the opportunity to share their story with the general public. The festival's aim is to reduce the stigma surrounding recovery from drug and alcohol use. Since then, over one hundred films have been entered and have been watched by over three thousand people.

Demonstrated through the medium of film the diverse issues that are faced by people during their recovery processes and how those around them can be affected are

highlighted. Film entries often show a different side to the story of recovery from drug or alcohol use: one that shows a true picture of the determination, commitment and courage that is required to start life afresh. It can be an uphill struggle – one that is not without its pitfalls and disappointments – and we want the films to explore all of the challenges that people face. This year there are 3 films from Herefordshire shortlisted in this year festival.

<https://rsff.co.uk/>

The local provider Turning Point can be reached via their website <https://www.turning-point.co.uk/services/herefordshire>

New CCTV / Security monitoring contract

The provision of CCTV in the City and Market Towns is very important. The new three year contract will ensure the CCTV cameras are monitored and also includes a move from the old office in Shire Hall over to Maylords Orchard in the city.