

**From:** Phillips, Roger (Cllr) [rjphillips@herefordshire.gov.uk](mailto:rjphillips@herefordshire.gov.uk)   
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**To:** Phillips, Roger (Cllr) [rjphillips@herefordshire.gov.uk](mailto:rjphillips@herefordshire.gov.uk)

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# MARCH UPDATE

## CASTLE WARD

On behalf of Cllr Clive  
Skelton

from

**Cllr Roger  
Phillips**

**Email:**

[rjphillips@herefordshire.gov.uk](mailto:rjphillips@herefordshire.gov.uk)

## Dear Residents

You will guess that my picture of Lyonshall churchyard was taken last year!

This winter blast is very severe so please be sensible and keep a look out for any vulnerable neighbours. Visit Herefordshire Council website for more details.

Despite this cold weather let's hope Spring is just around the corner as clearly our roads have suffered this winter, and you will see in the update some of the struggles I have been involved with to get some action.

Don't forget that the poppies weeping window arrives at Hereford Cathedral from 14<sup>th</sup> March to 29<sup>th</sup> April.

Nearly all my residents are registered with a local GP practice and you will all be aware of the challenges facing the NHS both locality and nationally. Having been registered all my life with the Pembridge and then Kington practices and as a local councillor I have joined the Kington Patient Participation Group to represent the views of my residents. We are working on establishing a proper constitution and terms of reference with the practice aiming to improve communications and understanding between patients and Clinical staff.

In this month's update I cover Highways, the Hereford bypass consultation, upcoming council meeting, the new Leader of the Council and lobbying.

As ever if I can be of help please do not hesitate to contact.

**ROGER**

### **POST OFFICE MOBILE CONSULTATION**

**The consultation for the Kington mobile service which includes Ameley and Pembridge. In Ameley case it proposes reducing the service to three days a week – Monday 9 am – 10.30 am; Wednesday 12.30pm – 13.30pm; Friday 9 am- 10 am. Proposed to come into operation in May/June.**

**Reponse to : [comments@postoffice.co.uk](mailto:comments@postoffice.co.uk)**



**HIGHWAYS**



See enclosed photograph of Boris the pothole in Shobdon. Arguably because of volume and size of traffic plus pedestrian movements this section through the village of the B 4355 is probably been the worst section of highway for potholes I have had this winter. Working with the Parish Council I ranted until we got some lights

installed on the bridge where a section of ducting was exposed. ( This has been identified as belonging to BT and they will be fixing it).

Despite this, Boris who was lurking just 200 yards from the lights was not spotted by the Balfour team even though he was on the council's pothole website. Bill Stokes the PC Chairman and I inspected the road and found this brick to stand edgeways in the hole for me to send to head of Balfour services. I sent a blunt email at 6 pm and by 9.30 next morning Boris was being attended to.

Last month saw the commencement of a Velocity Patching programme in response to this winter's escalation in pothole numbers following representations by myself and other councillors. The Velocity Patcher is designed to fill potholes much faster than conventional methods, and you may have seen it's recent appearance on BBC's One Show. We have used Velocity Patching in previous years, especially when the demand for safety repairs escalates, and we've found it to be a very useful technique to repair potholes on our more rural roads.

The system uses high-volume air to remove all dust and debris from a pothole. A cold bitumen emulsion is then fired into every crack to seal the hole before aggregate is fired in at high speed. The process takes only a couple of minutes to repair each hole. There is no excavation, no waste material and the filled hole is ready to drive on immediately.

waste material and the lined hole is ready to drive on immediately. However, it may be necessary to briefly close some roads to allow crews to work safely.

The programme is scheduled to last two weeks, with the potential for extension following a review of progress against demand. The programme will start in the north of the County and work will be predominantly on C and U roads in areas with a high density of safety defects.

Please can I encourage you all that any defects which need looking at **INCLUDING EMERGENCIES** to please either log on the Herefordshire Council website or by phoning 01432 261800 where all defects will be dealt with in a timely manner.

**Herefordshire Council website is the one-stop-shop for up to date information**

Maps and timetables for grass cutting and pot holes are now available on the Council's website.

<https://myaccount.herefordshire.gov.uk/report-a-pothole>

if you wish to make a claim as a result of damage to your vehicle please use

[https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/info/200196/roads/206/highway\\_claims](https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/info/200196/roads/206/highway_claims)

Report fly tipping it will be dealt with in a much quicker time frame. by either calling the Contact Centre on 01432 261800 or by logging the fly tipping via the

council website on the links below as your enquiry

[https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/info/200226/report\\_a\\_problem/98/fly\\_tipping](https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/info/200226/report_a_problem/98/fly_tipping)



## **LOBBYING for RURAL COMMUNITIES**

Last month I meet the new Minister for Local

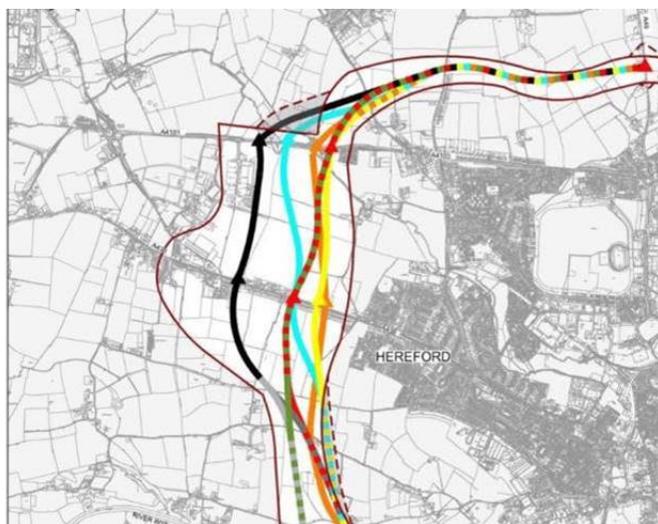


Government Rishi Sunak, MP for North Yorkshire, and discussed the funding of rural local authorities. I am the west midlands vice Chairman of the Rural Sparse Network which lobbies and campaigns for rural communities. We have successfully secured an element of the local government funding for the impact of delivering services in sparsely populated areas such as ours. This means working on supplying evidence to government to support

their funding of rural authorities with small populations over large geographical areas. This year I am pleased to say that amounted to a one million pound grant to Herefordshire.

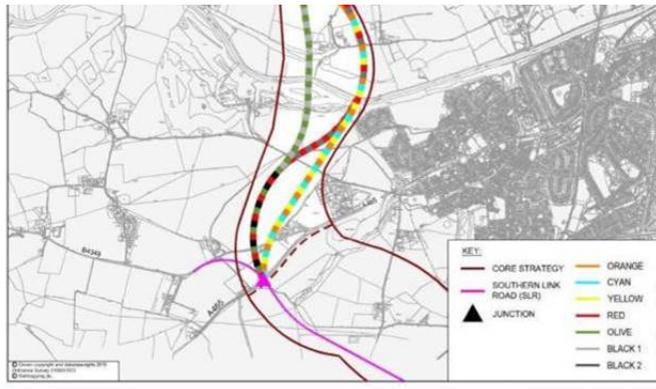
The Government is reviewing the way it is funding English local authorities and we have to ensure that our needs are properly understood. It may seem obvious but unless you provide the information it will not be addressed.

I recently chaired a session in Stafford on identifying the extra problems of delivering health and social care in rural areas. We are working on developing funding criteria government can use that would address our particular problems. One example is the traveling distance between patients for the rural district nurses or care teams resulting in non contact time which places financial cost and working capacity issues compared to tighter urban areas.



## **Hereford Bypass**

The consultation continues on the proposed routes for the Hereford Bypass at the County Library in Broad street Hereford till 20<sup>th</sup> March and online. In the meantime the opposition from locals affected by the routing is understandably strong. If you



have driven down the Kings Acre road you will see the various coloured ribbons on the trees denoting where the road would cross.

If you consider that Hereford needs a bypass then now is the time to speak up or another 30

years will go by. Go and registered your preferred route and in particular your strong support for the by pass. The proposal is in the Core Planning strategy therefore the route will be protected in law. Like all cities Hereford will grow in the future and the traffic situation will only get worse unless we tackle this issue.

I have always supported the building of a bypass for Hereford. When I was leader of the council we established that the eastern side had more environmental challenges and the better route that was deliverable was to the west. That determined lets please get on with it.

Herefordshire has the support of the Welsh Assembly and the leaders of the neighbouring Welsh and English authorities.

The routes cross the river between Clehonger and Belmont, pass Breinton through Kings Arce road, go by the new Livestock Market before turning east to go back to A49, north of the new large housing development opposite the racecourse.

## **Herefordshire Council Meeting & new Leader.**

The Council will formally set the Budget and precept for the next financial year at its meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> March and the bills will go out later in the month. As I outlined in last month `s update Herefordshire Council`s share will increase by 4.9% including a 2% social care charge. The bill will include the West Mercia Police, Fire and Parish precepts.

At the same meeting Cllr Tony Johnson will be standing down as the Leader of the Council. Tony from Colwall has been Leader for nearly five

years and has lead the council through some difficult budget reductions. The nomination to replace him is Cllr Jonathan Lester. Jonathan was elected to Bromyard Town Council 20 years ago and to HCC in 2011 and has been cabinet member for Children's services. He is 45 years old, married with one daughter and works for Worcester City Council.



**CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF THE RAF  
AND SHOBDON'S PART IN THAT HISTORY**

**HEREFORDSHIRE AERO CLUB  
WILL BE HOSTING A DAY OF  
AIRFIELD TOURS AND HIGH TEAS  
FROM MIDDAY**

**31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2018 TICKETS £10**

Throughout the war RAF Shobdon was home to No.5 Glider Training School.  
Why not get a taste of gliding with a trial flight lesson with Herefordshire Gliding Club

**Contact 01568 708369 or [events@shobdonairfield.co.uk](mailto:events@shobdonairfield.co.uk)  
to book your tickets now**

Proceeds and donations in aid of  **RAF 100 APPEAR**

## Shobdon Airfield

The Pembridge landing grounds were opened in 1939 at the outbreak of WW2 with a Glider training school hosted there from 1942.

In 1961 the Shobdon airfield became home to the Herefordshire Aero Club which has gyrocopters to gliders, rotary to micro lights and all types of fixed wing light aircraft.

The airfield itself has various private owners and

is used occasionally by the Military and Queens flight.

Later this spring I am arranging a tour of the airfield and meeting with key personal for my Parish councils.

**14-18-NOW**  
WW1 CENTENARY ART COMMISSIONS

 **HEREFORD  
CATHEDRAL**

 **Herefordshire  
Council**

## Contacts

Information for artists