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**Subject:** November update  
**Date:** 1 November 2017 at 12:17  
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## **NOVEMBER UPDATE – CASTLE WARD**

**For C.CLLR CLIVE SKELTON**

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

### **Dear residents**

Good news for Herefordshire with the announcement of Government support of 15 million for the new University. The courses will focus on technical and engineering over a two year period working with local and national businesses. Herefordshire Council has and will continue to be a supporter of the project particularly working on providing student accommodation. The first limited number of students are anticipated for next September.

You may also have heard the news of the Poppies weeping window is coming to Hereford Cathedral from 14<sup>th</sup> March- 29<sup>th</sup> April 2018 as part of a nationwide tour. This is a cascade of individual ceramic poppies inspired by the massive display at the Tower of London in 2014.

Last month also saw the Duchess of Gloucester visit Hereford to meet our Foster team, foster parents, carers and some of our looked after children. It was great to see a group of people not always given the

credit they deserve recognised. This is one of the most important services the council delivers.

In this month's update I cover Highway issues, Enterprise Zone, the review of local health services, news of the police commissioners intension to take over the Fire service, contact details and some photographs of last months Flower festival at Shobdon and craft fair at Eardisland.

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

**ROGER**



### **Review of Health services**

The review of our local Health services which includes the GP Surgery, three nursing homes, Kington Court with the Logan Jack unit, Minor Injuries Unit, Pharmacy, Dental provision, district nurses and mental health team is due to be completed this month.

I am working with our Director of Social Services on supporting the Logan Jack unit and maintaining it for the future. It seems the Minor Injury unit will move to the surgery from Kington Court.

As you recall last month I told you about a new full time doctor arriving on the 1<sup>st</sup> December arriving at Kington, clinical Pharmacist on 2<sup>nd</sup> October and a new Triage system to replace the Nurse walk-in clinic on 6<sup>th</sup> November. I have advised the surgery that they needs to ensure a smooth set up of the new system. A reminder that you can ring the surgery anytime during the day and explaining your symptoms with a care team assessing it and a return phone call from the appropriate clinician arranging the appropriate response including on the day appointments if necessary.

Those of you who are registered at other GP practices will I am sure read with interest and appreciate that your surgeries are not having the challenges of Kington.

## HIGHWAYS

I had a meeting last month with Bill Wiggin to discuss Highway, Broadband and Kington area health issues. We also discussed the performance of Balfour and he expressed his particular concern about the management of road closures. Work on the A438 resurfacing continues this month as part of the government funding.

I am supporting the inclusion of highway resurfacing as a major priority in the capital programme for the next financial year and am aware of a number of local highways that have been identified for inspection. I am concerned about the lack of resources for our highways over the winter if we have bad weather.

The council has bid for £95 million to the Homes and Community infrastructure fund for the Hereford City western by pass. Confirmation by the Council cabinet of the preferred routes is expected to be published before Christmas for consultation.

The arrival of the first frost reminds us that winter is on its way; preparations are in hand, 15 gritters to grit on the agreed main routes, four snow blowers, 6,500 tonnes of salt and 24 hour surveillance team.

However the pressure will now come on our surfaces so please report any problems on highways or footpaths using the links below or phone 01432261800.

<https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/transport-and-highways/maintenance/potholes>

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

<https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/transport-and-highways/footpaths-byways-and-bridleways/cg-report-prov-problem>

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)

## Police Commissioner wants to take over the Fire services

The West Mercia Police Commissioner John Champion has announced he wants to take over the Fire services of Hereford & Worcester and Shropshire next April. This is against the four main local authorities, two

fire authorities and his own crime panel recommendations. We believe he should work with us on a locally agreed solution and timescale which gives some clarity on savings and impact.

His business case is weak to date identifying 4 million pounds of savings which includes that already identified by the two fire authorities in the next three years. He states that there will be no impact on the front line or stations but it is there a lack of detail in his case which concerns many of us. In our rural county only Hereford has full time firefighters with all the other stations having local people as retained firefighters. The backup support for our stations are the very services which seem the most vulnerable.

We are very supportive of blue light collaboration and would wish to see a development of the role of our local firefighters including supporting first responding in our rural areas.

With crime figures rising, poor detection rates and some tensions in the joint working and savings of West Mercia and Warwickshire forces he needs to deal with improving the police service to the community first.



## Rotherwas and the Enterprise Zone

The land at Rotherwas was purchased by the old Herefordshire Council in the 1960s to support the growth of local businesses and the economy. In 2008 after years of access problems with flooding and the low height rail bridge we opened the Rotherwas Access road. We built the road despite considerable opposition about the destruction of countryside and the infamous Rotherwas ribbon.



The new road allowed business to bid for larger contacts and expansion followed. After 2008 and the Economic slowdown the estate with over 2,000 employees, over 60 different companies was very resilient and its expansion area was identified as an Enterprise Zone in 2012.

Since then 11 new businesses have come to the site and 10 existing firms have expanded creating an additional 750 jobs, building 28,000 square metres of new build with £13 million private investment.

Defence and security, food and drink, advanced engineering and sustainable technologies are the core sectors of the zone.

I was invited back to view one of our local businessman Ken Davies`s business expansion and we discussed those difficult days of getting the funding and building the road but thankful we achieved it.

## Planning

If you want to discuss a planning matter please contact

[Adam.Lewis@herefordshire.gov.uk](mailto:Adam.Lewis@herefordshire.gov.uk)

if you a planning enforcement concern

[Debbie.Crowley@herefordshire.gov.uk](mailto:Debbie.Crowley@herefordshire.gov.uk)

Police contact: to **report a crime telephone 101**

Our community team details are

|            |              |   |
|------------|--------------|---|
| PC 3911    | Jo ELLIS     | Mobile <a href="tel:07977098394">07977 098394</a> |
| PCSO 6115  | Dick ALLFORD | Mobile <a href="tel:07968462523">07968 462523</a> |
| PCSO 40067 | David Boden  | Mobile <a href="tel:07970176814">07970 176814</a> |

## ROGER

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