

**Western Bypass Vote** - I have been asked by a Parish Councillor to state my position on the Hereford Transport Strategy and in particular on the Western Bypass. My vote was based on a method of triangulation: a) reading written evidence, b) observing current travel infrastructure in & across the ward and c) listening to the views of those who live & work in the ward. Here is my full explanation:

I kept an open mind during the debate at Full Council on the 2<sup>nd</sup> February (<http://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=291&MId=8078&Ver=4>) and

1. I re-read the evidence provided by external consultants and the debate held at the General Scrutiny Committee on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2020 (<http://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=809&MId=7972&Ver=4>)
2. I thought about the emails I had received emails from large businesses in the ward and reflected on the conversations I had had with them prior to March 2020. I also reflected on the views of many residents about the lack of active travel measures and poor state of the local highways/carriages in the ward
3. I re-read the two ratified Neighbourhood Development Plans (esp. Infrastructure) on developing foot/cycle networks, the need for traffic calming in the villages and dealing with visitors parking on pavements alongside the call for improved active travel measures as well as considered how best to achieve the deliverables set out in the County Plan and meet objectives in the Wye Valley AONB Management Plan (2020-2025)
4. I thought of the impact of Covid has had on our travel behaviours - less people commuting and more working from home thereby creating less congestion on the roads. In addition, there was an exponential rise in visitors and tourists to the ward when lockdowns were lifted, and we have seen more local people walking, cycling and riding in their respective parishes.
5. I remembered central government's has to reduce the UK's net emissions of greenhouse gases by 100% relative to 1990 levels by 2050 hence it is funding more resilient and sustainable travel measures in the city/county + getting the public to be more active in order to reduce obesity and tackle inequalities.

Agriculture is a major industry for Kerne Bridge but so is the tourism sector – and it is a growing industry that brings much needed finance and employment into the ward and county. People come to Kerne Bridge because it is sited in an area of outstanding natural beauty which is a major brand for the ward. Active travel measures will help preserve its unique landscape for current and future generations, residents, businesses, visitors and tourists to enjoy.

The Hereford Transport Strategy is primarily focused on making changes in the city to relieve congestion but sits alongside the Hereford City Bid that will create a well-connected carbon friendly transport system for children, young people and adults to travel safely by foot, cycle, bus and/or train into, out of and across Hereford. Changing people's behaviours and travel choices (i.e. 'getting people out of their cars') will increase capacity on the road and enable businesses to transport their goods and services through the city.

Hereford can't wait for another ten years to secure funding for a bypass. We are putting 'shovel ready' transport projects (that have secured funding) into action. As Cllr Harrington stated: *"These projects are more multi-layered, quicker and cheaper to achieve and more in line with the policy direction from the government and in recognition of the Climate Emergency. We cannot stand idly*

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*by and wait for ... a Western Bypass, estimated to still be a decade and a quarter of a billion plus pounds away - we need solutions and lots of different ones - some now, some soon, some in the future. This is the best way forward".*

### Goodrich & Welsh Bicknor Parish (G&WB)

- **Correspondence with/from residents:** i) B4229 at Goodrich
- **Outstanding:**
  - S106 (still waiting for it to go on the website to see allocation)  
<https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/local-plan-1/section-106-planning-obligations/3?documentId=928&categoryId=200185>
  - TRO 77
  - C1258 - awaiting next steps from BBLP
  - awaiting legal response to a Private Rights of Way issue in Goodrich
- My full report is published on [www.wagpc.org.uk](http://www.wagpc.org.uk) - click on the link to 'Ward Councillor'

### Walford Parish (WPC)

- **Correspondence from residents:** i) concerns on specific planning applications and complaints procedure, ii) sewage seeping on to PROW WA92, iii) visible roof on Bishopswood (171639), iv) a continuous noise (low frequency hum), v) sinkhole next to property in Hom Green
- **Outstanding:**
  - Highways:
    - Leys Hill Junction
    - WA50 (enforcement)
    - WA25 bridge
    - Footpath from Mill Race to Church
  - Awaiting WPC's response on:
    - Asking land/homeowners to clear riparian owned ditches/drains to avoid flooding (eg. Parbrook) and/or best way forward to mitigate future flooding in Walford
    - Lengthsman Scheme - is there an annual maintenance programme?
    - Speeding in Walford – update on the community project to train local volunteers to detect/monitor speeding?
    - Kerne Bridge Launch site (recycling/ecological responsibilities in contract)
- Member of the **Flooding Sub-Group** (linked to the Parish Council's Safety & Environmental Working Group)

### Whitchurch and Ganarew Parish

- **Correspondence with/from residents:** i) poor state of BOATs and byways
- **Outstanding:**
  - Poor state of carriageways on The Doward
  - Speed and traffic restrictions - parents worried about children walking/cycling to Memorial Hall from Ridgeway via Llangrove Road;
  - Highway England matters: awaiting action on flooding in heavy rain on slip road at Ganarew/ junction on A40 and another junction opposite Woods of Whitchurch
  - C1257

### Across the Three Parishes

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- **Incidents of fly-tipping** was an issue across the ward over February 2021. Please check the credentials of businesses/independents offering to take your rubbish off your property
- Having continued conversations/correspondence with BBLP, Highways and Transport, and Highways England re: flooding, drains, potholes, road surfacing and footpaths/bridleways across the ward + continuing to walk and cycle across the three Parishes.
- Commenting on every planning application in the Parish and investigating those where the Parish Council and/or residents have expressed concerns
- Being a Facilitator/Advocate for parish residents/Clerks/Parish Councillors and raising/following through issues to the appropriate Officers in Herefordshire Council

### Herefordshire Council (HC):

1. Carrying out my role as Proxy Councillor for a planning application in Linton parish
2. **Covid:** there is an automated Herefordshire-focused dashboard to give local residents a quick and easy way to access the latest picture of Herefordshire statistics on Covid:  
  
<https://understanding.herefordshire.gov.uk/health/covid-19-weekly-summary/>
3. Attached is the monthly Newsletter from the Leader which outlines updates from individual Cabinet members
4. E-Committee, e-Council and e-Cabinet meetings are working well and will continue for the foreseeable future. In addition to my ward work - my **current portfolios include** Cabinet Support for Children's & Families (children experiencing care) and Adults & Communities (public health, talk community, food sustainability); Devolution (parish councils); Audit & Governance; Rethinking Governance (planning); Wye Valley AONB Joint Advisory Committee.

### Wye Valley AONB

- **Joint Advisory Committee** – the link to Monmouthshire County Council's website which will take you to a video recording of the meeting held in March 2021  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yXUNBCioJ4Q>
- **50<sup>th</sup> anniversary presentation** (includes history of the Wye Valley AONB Office (WVAONBO)+ work carried out by the WVAONBO)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?fbclid=IwAR1MBCsv4oIOFpYvn3taRX3sdV2BfbDesxgv4TYbnJUqsGHweJ8JDbSYe9M&v=ve5iuGRZmsA&feature=youtu.be>