



Spring 2024 Update

Goodrich and Welsh Bicknor

Walford

Whitchurch and Ganarew Group
Parish Councils

From

Kerne Bridge Ward County Councillor

Simeon Cole

Dear Residents

As you now know, we were all allocated duties within the Council's activities and, in addition to my full council responsibilities (3), I continue to sit on the following committees.

- Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee (1)
- Planning Committee (2)
- Scrutiny Management Board (1)

The figures in brackets indicate the number of meetings attended. The frequency of meetings has now settled into a routine.

I am pleased to report that I am now fit and healthy again.

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Ward Activity

In addition to attending to many emails and telephone calls relating to ward matters, there continue to be many drainage issues in the ward and I have, working with the Locality Steward, arranged with Balfour Beatty to clear several drains in the ward.

I have also arranged for the replacement of a rotten footbridge in the ward and provided the equipment to instal it.

I have assisted with labour and machinery to instal a timber sign board frame with sloping roof in the ward.



Pictured with me left to right; Councillor Tara Barnett, Charlie Baker, Managing Director Riversea Holdings.

Close cooperation with Monmouthshire and Gloucestershire continues to be important.

If you think I can help with any matters relating to Herefordshire Council please do not hesitate to contact me, my email address is simeon.cole@herefordshire.gov.uk

With best wishes

Simeon

Council news

Last week the Council's cabinet took the decision to seek an early termination of the Highway contract with Balfour Beatty. The contract indicates a two-year notice has to be given; so, for the next two years the contract remains in place but the council will be working on a new operational model with a mixture of in house and out sourced delivery of services. Equally important is to skill up the council commissioning side to tighten the monitoring and delivery of the contract.

The additional council funding for joint working with Parish councils on drainage works next to our highways is beginning to be rolled out- this work will be undertaken by lengthsmen across the parishes. The latest roll out of summer resurfacing and dressing programme is awaited.

In Hereford City a government grant of £541K will be used to upgrade traffic signals. Improvements will replace in-road vehicle detection with more modern and reliable above ground options which will be more efficient. The improvements will allow interaction and coordination along the major City routes including the A49 which is controlled by the Highways Agency.

The River Wye

An important announcement was made by the Government last month on the future of the river Wye. A nine-point plan was announced. This runs over ten years with investment of £35m aimed at improving the quality of the river.

The plan includes the appointment, approved by the Prime Minister, of Anthea McIntyre CBE as River Champion. Many of you will know Anthea who lives in the Parish.

Full and extensive details can be found <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/river-wye-action-plan/river-wye-action-plan>

Neighbourhood matters

Sign up to police alerts, you can choose which areas you want to hear about and what activity is taking place in that area. You'll also hear about positive police action, good news stories and be able to play an active part in helping us with our public appeals.

<https://link.edgepilot.com/s/bb21d405/UARq0VNajkqv1vLf0zKSJQ?u=http://www.neighbourhoodmatters.co.uk/>

Report a crime Police 101 Ext 61216

Planning

Can I remind you all that the consultation on the next Planning strategy for the period 2021-2041 and the Council's transport plan is currently underway until May 20th. Details can be found on the council website.

Hereford FC

Herefordshire Council has agreed a long term lease with Hereford Football Club to



secure their home till 2070. This will allow the club to develop on and off field and strengthen its integrity within the football association rules.

Work will begin with the demolition of the Blackfriars end and rebuild a new stand with additional income features. Pictured, left to right, are Council Chief Executive, Paul Walker, Hereford FC Chair, Chris Ammonds and Cabinet member Councillor Harry Bramer.

Herefordshire Tourism

The local annual tourism conference took place in Hereford recently where the work of the Herefordshire County Bid team, who promote tourism in our county, was highlighted. All tourism businesses with a rateable value over £12,000 pay a levy which is ring-fenced for the Herefordshire Bid team to use to fund tourism promotion and support.

Herefordshire Council works with the team managing the various government grants for Rural enterprise, Rural tourism, Cultural development and Community infrastructure. Recently the Bid team have been awarded Local Visitor Economic Partnership status which means prestigious collaboration with Visit England on initiatives in the sector.

The BID run many promotions – currently Blossom County, oversee promotion of County in Magazines and newspapers, social media and placement of articles. They commission data from the movement of our mobile phones, showing how many visitors there are to our City and market towns using the information to drive strategy and targeting. The BID also offers training, development and support for businesses and their staff.

Two recent interesting projects are the promotion of Herefordshire for its dark skies at night and the suitability of our County as locations for Film and TV companies. It is estimated the visitor economy is worth approximately £550 million to Herefordshire employing the equivalent of 6,500 full time employees.

Other Council matters

The Council regularly issues news of important issues some of which are included here

[Mums-to-be and parents of babies and children are reminded to protect their family against whooping cough](#)

[£136k Grant Boost for Community Health and Wellbeing](#)

[Road Patching Scheme Progresses To Next Stage](#)

[Herefordshire Council appoints Corporate Director of Children and Young People](#)

[Have your say on the future of development and transport in the county](#)

[Cabinet votes to recommend Minerals and Waste Plan to Full Council](#)

['Orange Button Community Unites in Herefordshire to Prevent Suicide'](#)

[Support for households with energy intensive medical equipment](#)

Please report potholes and concerns

<https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/reportingapp/>

Report a serious pothole, flooded road or highway obstruction- Balfour Beatty Living Places : **01432 26180**

Footpaths issues –

- **PROW - PROW@herefordshire.gov.uk**
- **PROW No – 01432 383 550**

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

https://link.edgepilot.com/s/f452e836/Hy5YWk_SgEGkleekL2ROFQ?u=https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/info/200226/report_a_problem/98/fly_tipping

Local Emergency Numbers

Environment Agency: 0800 80 70 60 (24-hours) or visit www.gov.uk/report-an-environmental-incident

Flood alerts: Floodline 0345 988 1188. Sign up online at www.gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings to get Flood Warnings from the Environment Agency by phone, email or text message. If you live by a river or stream, keep a watch on current and expected water levels.

Power cut: Call 105 or visit www.powercut105.com

BT phone line issues: www.downdetector.co.uk/status/bt-british-telecom

Gas leak: 0800 111 999 or visit www.wvutilities.co.uk/services/smell-gas

Welsh Water: [0800 052 0130](tel:08000520130) (Water emergencies) or [0800 085 3968](tel:08000853968) (Sewer emergencies) or visit www.contact.dwrcymru.com/

The Citizens Advice Bureau Online

at advice@citizensadviceherefordshire.org.uk for initial contact by email. Please also give a contact phone number in case we need to contact you for more information.

Parish Council Contacts

Goodrich and Welsh Bicknor Parish Council - clerk@goodrichandwelshbicknor-pc.gov.uk

Walford Parish Council - clerk@walfordparishcouncil.gov.uk

Whitchurch and Ganarew Parish Council - clerk@wagpc.org.uk