

Ward Report Old Gore Ward – October 2016

Update on Asylum Seeking Children

You will be aware, from reporting in the media, that the Calais refugee camp known as The Jungle is being dismantled. Vulnerable young people living in the camp have begun to arrive in this country and there has been extensive press coverage. These young people are being categorised into two groups: those with identified family members already living in the UK and those who do not. Young people with family members are being brought into the UK as quickly as possible. Those without family members are being assessed in France before crossing the channel if they request asylum in this country.

From Herefordshire's perspective, it is very unlikely that we will see any of the young people coming to live with family members because of the nature of our population. Those young people who do not have family members are being treated like all other unaccompanied asylum seeking children which means that regional dispersal teams are working with local authorities to identify placements for them. Herefordshire is committed to meeting its obligations and has already agreed to accommodate 19 young people over the coming months. We have agreed to begin this process now and have accepted one young person as soon as the details can be confirmed. Each young person we accept will be regarded as a looked after child which means that the local authority will work closely with all partners to ensure that their needs are assessed and met.

Cabinet approves land purchase negotiations for Southern Link Road

Cabinet today, Thursday 20 October has approved the next key step in the delivery of the South Wye Transport Package which will see the construction of the Southern Link Road. This will deliver the first phase of the Hereford Bypass.

Planning permission for the Southern Link Road was granted in June 2016 for the scheme and cabinet has today approved taking steps to acquire land for the road. The land required for the road is primarily agricultural land and the council seeks to purchase land by agreement. If the council is unable to purchase the land by agreement, it will consider seeking powers to compulsorily purchase the land in due course.

The Southern Link Road will run from the A49 Ross Road/Rotherwas Access Road roundabout to the A465 and the B4349 Clehonger Road. The delivery of the road will be complemented by a package of active travel measures in the South Wye area, including proposed bus lanes, improved cycle ways and easier pedestrian access.

Councillor Price, cabinet member infrastructure said:

“We're another step closer to the construction of the Southern Link, which is the first phase of the Hereford Bypass. We're keen to ensure speedy and efficient negotiation with landowners to avoid any delay to the construction phase. We are committed to delivery of this vital piece of infrastructure and if we can purchase the land by negotiation we will look to construct the road from January 2018. The road's construction will allow us to implement new and much needed walking and cycling measures in South Wye. These measures cannot be delivered as a stand-alone project and must be complemented by the Southern Link Road's construction. We are currently in the process of consulting on walking and cycling measures, which will help to inform what we take forward. The consultation is still open Tuesday 25 October.”

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The South Wye – Active Travel Consultation can be completed online at www.herefordshire.gov.uk/south-wye-transport-package

Farmer banned for life from keeping sheep

A farmer has been banned from keeping sheep for life and ordered to pay £1,000 in costs and £5,000 in a compensation order. William (Billy) Edward Hyde, 62, pleaded guilty to nine animal welfare offences at Hereford Magistrates court on Friday.

Trading Standards Animal Welfare Officers from Herefordshire Council, accompanied by vets from the Animal Plant Health Agency (DEFRA), and visited The Furlongs Farm, Hereford, in February this year. During this visit a number of ewes and lambs were found without water, along with sick sheep that had not received medical treatment and a large number of dead sheep. Subsequent visits revealed no improvements and further welfare issues were also found. Officers made the decision to seize 218 sheep due to the likelihood of further suffering.

Of the offences, two related to unnecessary suffering, three related to failing to provide a suitable environment, two were in relation to the disposal and storage of the dead animals, one was for failing to keep veterinary medicine records and one was for failing to record cattle movements.

Mr Hyde has been ordered to stop keeping sheep by 15th December 2016.

Councillor David Harlow, cabinet member economy & corporates services, said: “This is a very serious case of animal suffering and the conditions at this farm were deplorable. The council will work with all livestock keepers to ensure best practice on farms but will not tolerate this kind of animal suffering, which may result in a ban from keeping animals”.

Lease discussion continues with Hereford FC

Herefordshire Council and Hereford Football Club met this week to continue negotiations towards an extended lease term. It is hoped that the extended lease will be in place before Christmas and will assure Hereford FC's tenancy for a minimum of 10 years from the commencement date.

Herefordshire Council recognised the outstanding work Hereford FC has done to refurbish and maintain the Edgar Street stadium and understood that without a significantly extended lease, Hereford FC would be unable to progress other improvement projects for the benefit of supporters.

The development of the stadium and the surrounding area were also discussed, as the council improves the region around the new City Link Road, which will help reduce traffic on Commercial Road, Widemarsh Street and Blueschool Street and improve air quality in the city centre. There is also an opportunity for the redevelopment of the Blackfriars Terrace end, as part of the proposed 'Urban Village' project which will back on to the Edgar Street Stadium. This would mean a new spectator stand and facilities, alongside other retail outlets, and would see the stadium being returned to four sides.

New website

You may have spotted some postings on social media following a Hereford Times report on our 'rebranding'. The online fairy tale is that we have wasted unnecessary money on the rebrand. The facts are as follows:

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- We have redesigned our website and it'll be unveiled in December
- The reason for the redesign is to make it easier to find information and make transactions thereby encouraging more residents to go online rather than using our customer services hubs. This will save us money.
- Our 'new' logo is the same apple which has changed colour from green to black with the single click of a mouse. This will reduce our stationery costs and therefore save us money!

It may seem like a small point but the anonymous social media users don't seem bothered with getting their facts straight!

Hereford 2020

Many of you will be aware of the website [hereford2020.com](http://www.hereford2020.com) which articulates our city strategy including the city link road, bypass and city centre improvements. I would encourage you to circulate this link so that increasing numbers of our residents understand our vision. You will have seen/heard rumours about the trams but this is not in our current strategy. One thing at a time!

Have a look at the fly through vision <http://www.hereford2020.com/>

Herefordshire Council - Pest control

If you have wasps, rats, moles etc. that need attention. They offer a professional service and more information is available on <https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/environmental-protection/environmental-health/animals-pests-control/>

Barry Durkin

Old Gore Ward – Herefordshire Council

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