

### **Herefordshire Heroes wanted for Great British Spring Clean**

Herefordshire Council is backing a campaign to get half a million people out and about cleaning up their local communities throughout March 2017.

The brand new Great British Spring Clean will roll out for the first time in 2017, with a view to it becoming an annual event helping to bring people together and clean up the country. TV wildlife presenter and children's favourite Steve Backshall is lending his support to the campaign, which is backed by the key anti-litter charities including Keep Britain Tidy, Keep Wales Tidy, Keep Scotland Beautiful, Marine Conservation Society and Surfers Against Sewage.

Many other organisations will also be supporting the clean up including the Women's Institute, the National Trust and the RSPCA, as well as a range of businesses. Local company The Helping Hand Company from Ledbury are the official supporters of the campaign.

Herefordshire Council will be encouraging and supporting groups and individuals who want to 'do their bit' to help clear up the litter that blights our streets, parks, roads and beautiful countryside. Litter remains a huge problem across the country, causing harm to the environment and wildlife, with councils in England having to spend over £700 million on street cleaning services every year. Herefordshire Council spends just over £1 million a year on street cleaning.

Councillor Rone, Cabinet member for Transport and Roads, and the instigator of the 'Stop the Drop' campaign, from Herefordshire Council said:- "We are delighted to be supporting the Great British Spring Clean and we encourage as many groups, individuals and organisations as possible to take part. It will also support our own Stop the Drop litter campaign".

To take part in the campaign and set up your own clean up event visit [www.greatbritishspringclean.org.uk](http://www.greatbritishspringclean.org.uk)

Or you can also register on our website [www.herefordshire.gov.uk/stoppedthedrop](http://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/stoppedthedrop) so you can advertise your event locally and encourage family, friends and neighbours to join in.

As soon as you have registered to organise a litter pick you MUST let Balfour Beatty know by ringing 01432 261800 so they can arrange to collect your bags of litter after your litter pick.

Balfour Beatty also have a limited number of litter packs available that can be borrowed free of charge. The Helping Hand Company are sponsoring the campaign by donating some of these packs.

Follow #GBSpringClean for all the latest news.

Let's all work together to keep Herefordshire beautiful.

**Herefordshire business to benefit from energy efficiency grant**

### **Business Energy Efficiency Grant – Is your business benefitting?**

A Herefordshire business has benefited from the first Business Energy Efficiency Programme, set up to help lower running costs and promote energy efficiency.

Caplor Energy, based in Fownhope, is the first business in the county to be awarded the grant. The company was awarded £12,236 for an innovative energy storage project to capture energy from its solar panels.

Mel Preedy, business manager at Caplor Energy, said:

“We are excited to have been awarded the energy efficiency grant, which will enable us to install a battery system to utilise even more of our solar-produced power.

“Caplor invites any businesses interested in lowering their energy bills and making a sustainable energy choice to get in touch, so we can walk you through the technology we have installed at our site in Herefordshire”.

Herefordshire Council along with its partners Herefordshire & Worcestershire Chamber of Commerce, Shropshire Chamber of Commerce, Worcestershire County Council, Telford & Wrekin Council and the Worcestershire districts were awarded £1.45 million funding from the Department for Communities and Local Government's European Regional Development Fund to help small and medium-sized businesses.

Councillor Philip Price, Cabinet member for infrastructure, said:

"Being energy and resource efficient is more important than ever, and this is fantastic news for local rural businesses and for the environment.

"I would encourage all businesses to look into the Business Energy Efficiency Programme, both to benefit from the support available and to consider ways in which they can be more energy efficient and reduce their costs."

For more information visit [www.business-central.co.uk/beep](http://www.business-central.co.uk/beep) or call 01905 677888

### **Recognition for the canary girls in the munitions factories in Rotherwas in the world wars.**

At the last Council meeting (March 3<sup>rd</sup> 2017) a motion was proposed and unanimously approved that 'This council recognises the significant contribution made during the first and second World wars by the canary girls in the munitions factories in Rotherwas and asks the Executive to consider erecting a plaque in Rotherwas to recognise their national role and sacrifices made in the war effort and to honour and remember their important work in the county. Here is the text of a letter from the boundary commission giving notice of publication and request for observations for your information.

As the motion has been passed investigation and implementation will commence to provide the most effective recognition for these women who actually risked life and limb to provide the ammunition for the troops.

### **Boundary Commission – Review of existing boundaries**

"Last year, the Boundary Commission for England (BC) published and consulted on their initial proposals for new constituency boundaries.

"The BC received nearly 20,000 responses to that consultation. The next stage of the 2018 Review is for us to publish all those representations so that others may comment on them. The BC has published all the representations. They will be inviting comments on them for the statutory four-week period, until Monday 27 March 2017"

BC continues – "All representations have been published on BC website [www.bce2018.org.uk](http://www.bce2018.org.uk) where you can search by a number of different options, such as name, reference number, existing constituency or type of respondent, as well as using the interactive mapping system to locate comments geographically. The Commission would like to encourage you take time to see what others have said about our initial proposals, and add your views to those. We would also ask you to assist us by publicising this consultation as widely as possible in your local authority area and further afield".

"Following the secondary consultation, the Commission will be considering all representations received from both consultations, and will consider whether any revisions are needed. If we decide to revise the proposals, we will consult on the revised boundaries. We currently expect any such consultation to happen towards the end of 2017, or in early 2018".

The URL above gives access to the document.

### **Car park changes for Hereford's residents, commuters and visitors**

Herefordshire Council will implement changes to some Hereford city centre car parks on Monday 27 February to enable greater flexibility for residents, commuters and visitors to the city.

Motorists who purchase an off peak season ticket will see the cost fall to £75 a year or £25 a quarter, with the off peak parking time extended for use from 5pm to 9am.

Merton Meadow car park will see the introduction of a simple £1 per hour tariff, up to £5 for 24 hours (or £4 for 24 hours if bought before 8am). The current Sunday tariff of £3 all day will remain, with the introduction of an hourly Sunday tariff to offer more flexibility to visitors to the city. Commuters to Merton Meadow who purchase a new weekly (Monday - Friday) tariff on a Monday will see the cost reduced to £20 for five days.

For long stay visitors to Hereford, St. Martins 2 (overflow) car park will see the daily tariff reduced from £5 to £3 a day.

Councillor Paul Rone, Cabinet member for transport and roads, said:

"Herefordshire Council believes the introduction of these new tariffs, and the opportunity to pay by card, contactless and by phone, enable greater flexibility and ease for residents, commuters and visitors to the county.

"We have listened to residents' comments and have reduced the off peak season ticket cost and extended the off peak parking times."

## Broadband delivery

Gloucestershire and Herefordshire county councils have agreed to hand a major new broadband roll-out contract to rural ISP Gigaclear, which will deploy their “*ultrafast*” 1Gbps FTTP network to thousands of additional homes and businesses.

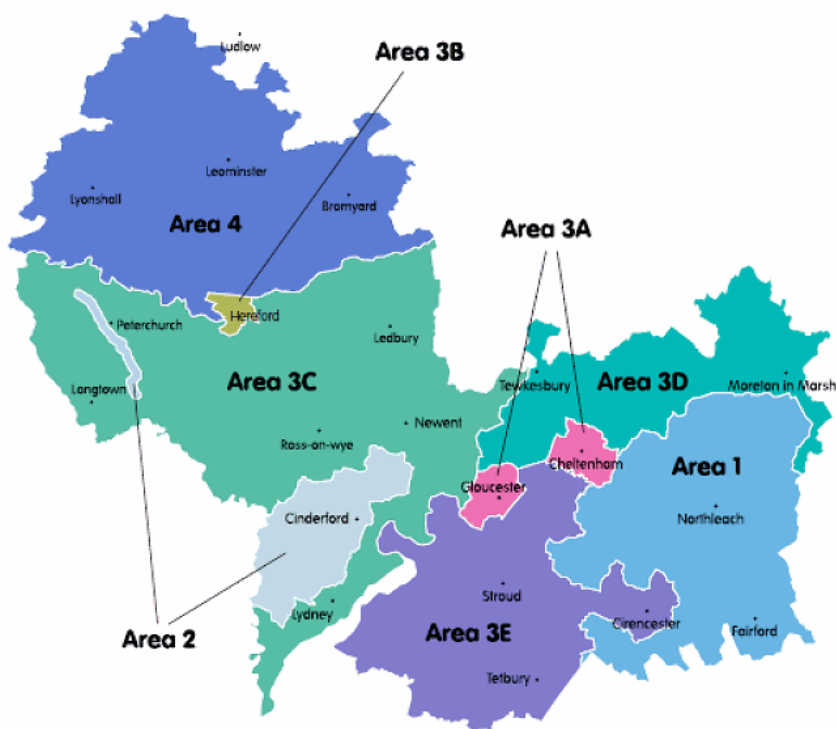
The decision has been officially confirmed, although no details on the roll-out plan until Gigaclear has completed putting pen to paper. The deal for Lots 3c, 3d, 3e and 4 (see below) will involve public funding of up of **£5.14m** from Gloucestershire County Council and **£7.56m** from Herefordshire Council, while Gigaclear is expected to contribute up to **£29.2m** of private investment.



### Phase 2 Roll-out

The next phase of rollout comprises premises that were not covered by Phase 1 or commercial rollout and is based around the following areas:

- Area 1: The Cotswolds
- Area 2: The Forest of Dean
- Area 3A: Cheltenham and Gloucester
- Area 3B: Hereford
- Area 3C: South Herefordshire and Gloucestershire (west of the Severn)
- Area 3D: North Gloucestershire
- Area 3E: South Gloucestershire
- Area 4: North Herefordshire



So far the Fastershire project has helped an additional **97,000 premises** in both counties to be put within reach of a faster broadband service, albeit mostly via Openreach’s (BT) slower 80Mbps capable **Fibre-to-the-Cabinet** (FTTC) technology and just a little FTTP. The project’s “*ultimate aim*” isn’t very specific and merely states “*that by 2018 there will be access to fast broadband for all who need it*”.

Outside of that Gigaclear also holds the contracts to roll-out their ultrafast FTTP network to 6,495 premises in the **Cotswolds** area, as well as 2,600 in the **Forest of Dean** (Gloucestershire) and **Golden Valley** (Herefordshire).

Overall 15% of the properties in Herefordshire are now said to have access to “full-fibre” and growing, yet the overall coverage of “superfast broadband” (24Mbps+) networks in both

Ward report  
**Old Gore Ward – Herefordshire Council**  
February 2017

counties still seems to be sitting shy of the 90% goal (it's at about 90% in Gloucestershire but Herefordshire is only on around 82%).

A blue cursive signature of the name 'Barry'.

Barry Durkin  
**Old Gore Ward – Herefordshire Council**  
February 2017