

Balfour Beatty Annual Plan

They will soon be sharing their performance update plans for the 2017/18 year, and how their Operation Control Centre is delivering improvements to delivery.

It sets out what you get and how it is delivered - some performance facts

- 448 miles of road surfaced in the last 3 years (20% of network)
- 9,000 street lights replaced with LED and 2,000 column replacements
- 13,000km of verges are cut annually
- 17,809 highway defects completed in 16/17 to date
- Approx. 2,500 litter bins emptied each week
- 1,548 NRSWA inspections carried out in 16/17

£748,000 awarded for Herefordshire's as a Great Place

Herefordshire Cultural Partnership (HCP) notched up another success with the announcement that the county will be one of only 16 pilot areas for the Great Place Scheme, jointly funded over three years by Arts Council England (ACE) and Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) to put heritage, arts and culture at the heart of its communities. HCP's project called Herefordshire's a Great Place has been awarded £748,000.

Through an ambitious programme of events, activities, competitions, promotion and research local communities will be able to work with artists, arts and heritage organisations to celebrate and promote the very things that make where they live special. Working closely with tourism, education, health and wellbeing sectors, Herefordshire's a Great Place will demonstrate ways in which culture can play an integral role in the economic and community development of the county.

This major award is a huge boost to Herefordshire's bid to become UK City of Culture 2021. It also comes hot on the heels of last week's welcome news of government support for Hereford's new university. Inspiring and developing the county's arts and cultural infrastructure will be essential to attracting students, retaining more young people locally, and building the visitor economy. Herefordshire's a Great Place has been supported by Herefordshire Council, Elmley Foundation, EF Bulmer Benevolent Fund, the Becket Bulmer Fund, and Friends of Herefordshire Museums & Arts. Rural Media Charity will be leading the delivery of the Herefordshire's a Great Place project on behalf of Herefordshire Cultural Partnership.

Cllr Tony Johnson, Leader, Herefordshire Council, said:

"It is an exciting time to live in Herefordshire. We are in a changing economic climate and Herefordshire Council has helped to unlock funding through the 'Herefordshire is a Great Place' bid. This project will help us identify opportunities for the community to adopt and manage assets such as sports pitches, parks and open spaces, while the council moves to focus on its key priorities. The project will help create a sustainable model of cultural enterprise, cultural tourism and retail, and develop a cultural brand strategy for Herefordshire."

EnviRecover Energy-from-Waste facility now fully operational

The final piece of the waste management jigsaw for Worcestershire and Herefordshire is now in place, with the official handover of the EnviRecover Energy-from-Waste facility to Mercia Waste Management by main contractor Hitachi Zosen Inova (HZI). The handover follows a 33-month construction programme, which has seen the facility built on time and to specification.

EnviRecover is located on the Hartlebury Trading Estate near Kidderminster, Worcestershire. The facility will complement Worcestershire County Council and Herefordshire Council's other waste and recycling facilities, such as EnviroSort at Norton. The Energy-from-Waste facility is the largest single piece of capital infrastructure in Worcestershire and Herefordshire and marks the virtual elimination of landfill in the two counties. It will turn 200,000 tonnes per year

of waste into electricity, exporting 15.5MW of electricity to the grid which is sufficient to power all the homes in Kidderminster.

EnviRecover was procured by the Worcestershire County Council and Herefordshire Council's waste management contractor Mercia Waste Management. The first waste was delivered into the facility in October 2016 for commissioning trials, and since then there has been a progressive involvement from Mercia's sister company, Severn Waste Services, who will operate the facility under its Environmental Permit issued by the Environment Agency.

Councillor Harry Bramer, Herefordshire Council Cabinet Member for Contracts and Assets, said: "With landfill capacity in short supply, I am pleased we have been able to deliver EnviRecover in partnership with Worcestershire County Council. The fantastic new facility will accept and safely treat the region's non-recyclable waste, and provide a valuable source of electricity for many years to come."

EnviRecover has an on-site visitor and education centre which becomes an integral part of Severn Waste Services engagement support for Worcestershire and Herefordshire, and complements the education programme provided at EnviroSort, Severn Waste Services' Material Reclamation Facility at Norton. Further information can be found at the Severn Waste website: <http://www.severnwaste.co.uk/>

Hereford's Black and White House Museum reopens

Following a major refurbishment Hereford's much loved Black and White House Museum was opened by Colonel John Fox's Regiment of Foote at 11:00am on Saturday 1st April.

The Civil War re-enactment Regiment marched through the town centre on the morning before ceremonially opening the Black and White House Museum at 11am. Formerly known as 'The Old House', the Black and White House Museum demonstrates what life was like in Hereford during the seventeenth century, using authentically re-created rooms, original furniture and everyday family items. Housed in an impressive and original Jacobean building that started life in 1621, the new museum will also encourage visitors and shoppers to stay longer in the city centre.

As part of the investment by Herefordshire Council there are new displays on every floor, the Museum's ground floor will provide free access to a shop offering a wide range of replica historic goods, local craft products and souvenirs, along with an information and reception desk and a unique 3D model of Hereford's city centre in the 17th century. The museum will be a much more 'hands on' experience than before, with visitors encouraged to handle exhibits and able try out the furniture to get an enhanced experience of how life felt in Hereford in the 17th century. Cllr Bramer, Cabinet member for contracts and assets, said

"The Black and White House museum is one of England's best preserved Jacobean buildings and it protects a very important collection of traditional English furniture and domestic items, as once owned, made and used by the rich and the poor of Hereford. This museum is very much a part of the future of the city and county and I'm confident that it is going to make a big contribution to Hereford's visitor economy and High Town's thriving and distinctive street scene."

Come along and see the transformation for yourself. Entrance is £2.50 for adults (18 years and over) and £1.50 for children. Find more information and opening times on the Black and White House museum website

Successful Hereford City seagull control programme to continue

Herefordshire Council is urging residents and businesses to continue their support of the successful urban seagull control programme. Now in its tenth year, the programme focus will

move to city centre shops, offices and residents by ensuring food waste is tidied correctly and kept away from urban gulls. Businesses around High Town who use Herefordshire Council's trade waste sacks can be provided with a free seagull-proof refuse sack by the council's waste management service.

Urban gulls have been a problem for the city due to their excessive noise, mess from their droppings, damage to properties and swooping attacks on people and pets. By controlling the gull population and reducing their food source, these problems are minimised. The council's appointed specialist contractor will continue to clear nests and eggs across the city during the April to August nesting season. Since 2008, contractors have removed approximately 2,275 nests and 4,229 eggs. RSPB guidance is always followed and live birds and chicks are never harmed.

Councillor David Harlow, Cabinet Member for Economy and Corporate Services, said: "The programme of gull control has so far proved successful, with the Hereford population gradually decreasing. We would especially like to thank Hereford City Council for again agreeing to fund this programme so it remains free to both the public and businesses". "Now we ask for support from both businesses and the public. By throwing away food responsibly, and reporting urban gull nests directly to the council, we can work together to control the seagull population." Businesses and residents are urged to report seagull problems or nests by calling 01432 261761 or by email ethelpline@herefordshire.gov.uk

Website update

The council's new website was launched in February with the aim of making it easier for local residents and businesses to transact on-line. The emphasis has been on areas of highest volume in order to reduce the need for customers to visit or phone the council when they don't need to, which in turn can reduce day to day demand on services. This is a very different approach with the design of the site reflecting people's areas of interest rather than the departments of the council. The new website incorporates a wide range of digital interactions across the whole council including functions and services that have specific programs. Key improvements cover online transactions, easy use "report it" function, customer accounts, back-office systems, and a new Content Management Software system. Some of this work has been completed and there is still more to be done within the financial allocation.

Council Tax

What does your Council Tax pay for. Herefordshire Council is funded by a combination of grants from Government, local Council Tax, local business rates and charges for some council services.

https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/info/200146/council_tax/32/about_your_council_tax%20-%2032k

Claim Council Tax Reduction

If you are in need of support – this is how to claim for Housing Benefit and Council Tax Reduction.

https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/info/200146/council_tax/40/claim_council_tax_reduction%20-%2032k



Barry Durkin
Old Gore Ward – Herefordshire Council
March 2017