

### **Winter highways preparedness**

We are indeed all prepared. We have a team of 16 HGV gritters, and two quad bikes, as well as several pushalong salt spreaders. The teams have completed several dry runs, where the gritters drive their routes, checking for any accessibility issues – for example with overhanging trees. On the dry runs they also test that the spreaders are working correctly, dispensing the right amount of salt on the carriageway. These dry runs help familiarise the drivers with their routes while the weather is good, before they have to drive them in potentially hazardous conditions.

Additionally the team have had refresher training on the systems we use to gauge the weather. We use state of the art weather prediction data to determine if we need to send the gritters out, as well as inspectors at the ready if conditions are borderline. We have a dedicated team who are on call 24/7 to cover the winter period, who are determined to keep Herefordshire moving whatever the weather.

### **New of NMiTIE University funding**

Universities Minister Jo Johnson has today announced funding of up to £15 million over three years to support the establishment of a new university in Hereford. This announcement follows plans set out in the government's Midlands Engine Strategy which includes significant investment in skills, connectivity and local growth to drive the region's huge potential and promote it to the world.

This adds to the existing £8m of funding provided by the Marches LEP through the government's Growth Deal.

Herefordshire is one of only three English counties not to have a university, leading to an estimated 1,800 young people between the ages of 16 and 25 leaving the county for higher education or graduate jobs. Government investment in this project will help to reverse this trend by offering high quality technical education in engineering, tailored to local employer needs.

Herefordshire Council has and will continue to be a supporter of the project particularly working on providing student accommodation. The first limited number of students are anticipated for next September.

[https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/news/article/418/15m\\_funding\\_for\\_new\\_herefordshire\\_university](https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/news/article/418/15m_funding_for_new_herefordshire_university)

### **Care Quality Commission (CQC) - Herefordshire providing some of the best care for adults in the West Midlands**

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) has revealed that Herefordshire is providing some of the best care for adults in the West Midlands.

The latest CQC inspection report shows that Herefordshire has the highest proportion of 'Good' or 'Outstanding' care homes and the second highest proportion of home care providers in the region.

Herefordshire has 29 nursing homes, providing specialist care for medical conditions such as dementia. The CQC has inspected all but one of these and rated 24 of them (86%) as being 'Good'. This means we have the **highest** proportion in the West Midlands.

The county has 56 residential care homes and of the 55 inspected by the CQC, 51 are rated as 'Good' and 2 as 'Outstanding' (96%). This puts us **joint highest** in the West Midlands with Shropshire.

We also have 47 providers delivering home care services, which help people live independently in their own home. The CQC has inspected 35 of our providers and rated 33 as 'Good' and 1 as 'Outstanding' (97%). This means we have the second highest proportion in the West Midlands after Worcestershire.

### **The Boundary Commission for England (BCE) - reminder**

The Boundary Commission for England (BCE) launched its third and final consultation on changes to Parliamentary constituencies in England today (17 October 2017), intended to come into effect for the next scheduled general election in 2022.

This is the last chance to have your say on decisions that could affect Herefordshire. The proposals published today are a result of feedback from public consultations in September 2016 and March 2017.

Following a decision by Parliament to reduce the number of constituencies in the UK to 600 from 650, and to ensure that the number of electors in each constituency is more equal, the Boundary Commission for England is conducting the necessary review of all English constituencies.

The Hereford and South Herefordshire proposed changes document is available to view at Hereford Town Hall. The North Herefordshire proposed changes document is available to view at Leominster Library.

It will take just a few minutes to respond to the consultation online, where you can also see other people's comments and view the proposed changes for Herefordshire on the interactive map [www.bce2018.org.uk](http://www.bce2018.org.uk)

### **Weeping Poppies coming to Hereford**

The cascade of thousands of individual ceramic poppies will appear at Hereford Cathedral from 14 March 2018 until 29 April 2018 as part of the final year of 14-18 NOW's UK-wide tour of the iconic poppies.

The Weeping Window poppy sculpture will be free and open to the public, while a series of special events will be hosted at the cathedral and other venues as part of the Herefordshire Homefront campaign.

Weeping Window is from the installation 'Blood Swept Lands and Seas of Red' – poppies and original concept by artist Paul Cummins and installation designed by Tom Piper – by Paul Cummins Ceramics Limited in conjunction with Historic Royal Palaces. The installation was originally at HM Tower of London from August to November 2014 where 888,246

poppies were displayed, one for every British or Colonial life lost at the Front during the First World War.

Together, the sculptures Wave and Weeping Window are made of over 11,000 poppies. At the end of the tour they will become part of the permanent collections at the Imperial War Museums.



Barry Durkin  
**Cabinet Member – Transport and Roads**  
**Old Gore Ward**  
October 2017