

AYMESTREY PC WARD COUNCILLOR REPORT MAY 2026

As you will be aware there was an RTC at Mortimers Cross on Monday 11th May involving a car and an agricultural vehicle. The police were present so it will go down as a reported incident but it was difficult to see from the angle of the vehicles in which direction they had been travelling,

We are about to appoint a digital experienced officer who will take responsibility for working with Gigaclear Ltd and mobile phone providers to sort out the areas of Herefordshire whether residents are struggling with both broadband and mobile phone signals.

The Boundary Commission have come back with their ward recommendations for Herefordshire. I was sure that as my ward of 60 sq miles was the largest that it would not be impacted by any changes but I was wrong. They have recommended adding the Herefordshire section of Richards Castle onto Mortimer ward and remove it from Bircher ward. It would appear size and distance travelled is not considered it is all based on equality of voting numbers. A number of councillors are unhappy about the proposals and will be appealing them.

We are still determining the funding resources because, although we have been an allocation of money to purchase vehicles and food containers, we were not provided a separate allocation of new burdens revenue funding which was promised by Government. Instead we were advised that the funding was wrapped up in the settlement funding, which as you will know, has left us very short on budget with requirements to make large savings in order to balance the budget. As soon as we have a more definite plan for implementation we will provide more definite updates and I'll look at the web site to see if we can make a temporary change until we can be more specific.

The council has been exploring the possibility of food waste service since the Waste Strategy for England was published in 2018, indicating an intention for separate collections with waste collection modelling and inclusion within the scope for our waste collection contract and waste disposal contract variation. In May 2025 Cabinet agreed how this would be delivered but the delivery was dependent on adequate new funding being identified from government.

Unfortunately, the way that the funding has been allocated and determined was later than expected and has left some funding gaps, and so we are reviewing the plans and work to determine the timescale that the food waste service will be implemented.

The council is committed to delivering the food waste service as soon as possible and is currently updating the financial model and decision making required to introduce the service. This is expected to be completed by May with the view to bringing in the service towards the end of the 26/27 financial year. We will be updating our communications to the public on what to expect as soon as we can in the spring and early summer.

I recently visited the Wellbeing Club in Lion Square Leominster. It operates every day and it is an ideal place to go if you suffer from loneliness. It is situated above the old Halifax Bank.

I also visited ECHO's new premises in West Street Leominster. It was officially opened by Edward Harley and it provides various activities including weaving, photography and radio operation for those with a learning disability or early onset of dementia. It is an ideal opportunity for those carers who want to have some respite time.

The Public Realm contract commences on the 1st June and we are hopeful that it will run smoothly. If however after a few months you do have any complaints please do not hesitate to contact me. Just give it some time to bed in.

Our Chief Executive leaves shortly and has been replaced by Paul Satoor who was until recently the Chief Executive of The Wirral.