

AYMESTREY PARISH COUNCIL WARD COUNCILLOR REPORT SEPT 2020

Unfortunately, I shall be unable to attend your meeting as I shall be spending a week in Cornwall.

You should have received a letter with regard to preparations for reviewing the Core Strategy and the need for those parishes, to inform Herefordshire Council of all sites that were initially brought forward by landowners and not included in NDP allocations to be notified to them. As often happens I only became aware of this through my husband who is a parish councillor but as a ward councillor I was not notified this exercise was happening. I am assuming it is in order to help those involved in the review to identify potential land availability going forward from 2021 – 2041 and to discount any land which is considered non-viable

A link to Planning for the Future Government Consultation document was sent to you by Helen. This consultation runs until October and is quite comprehensive. I believe it is important that all parish councillors either individually or collectively involve themselves in this as it will affect future building in their villages. My main concern is that there is a big emphasis on enforcement and as we know that is not something Herefordshire Council does particularly well. However, Aymestrey PC has the advantage of Helen being a member and she understands these new proposals far more than I do.

I have at the request of a resident asked that the road sweeper be deployed to Aymestrey.

For your information I did enquire with Mark Tansley as to when enforcement might take place against the owner of the house on land at the back of the Mortimer Cross pub. I understand that the owner is “not available” at present. Helen can advise the meeting of his whereabouts.

A farm building at Mortimer’s Cross was flooded in August and Balfour Beatty drainage staff have visited the property. Lee Fishwick immediately after the event visited the owners to explain about the visit. In the meantime, he raised two jobs for blocked gullies that might help alleviate the problem slightly but having spoken to the resident it is felt that more specialist work is likely to be required.

We have just received the housing land supply figures which stand at 3.69 years which is quite worrying but still means that all NDPs carry full weight.

Just to give you some idea of the impact of coronavirus on Herefordshire and ultimately the residents in your parish, I am providing you with the following information.

There were 4900 people unemployed and claiming benefit at the end of July 2020 which 134% higher than March 2020.

There were 24,800 furloughed by the end of July 2020.

9,100 claims were made under the Self Employment Support Scheme by 30th June.

A Grant Thornton report for the County Council Network identified Herefordshire as one of the counties estimated to have experienced a greater than average decline in Gross Value Added. It classified 56% of employment at risk compared to 49% in England.

I think the above demonstrates that this pandemic could economically be a real disaster for Herefordshire which is a County that struggles to attract businesses to the area due to poor infrastructure and many people in work are on low incomes.

There were 32 new cases of COVID-19 in Herefordshire during 2 – 8 September. County is now following same pattern as rest of UK which is quite worrying as in previous weeks, we have been well below the national rate per 100,000

For your information a speed enforcement officer operating in Wigmore was spat at by member of public who was caught speeding. The person who lived in one of the local villages and was driving towards Kingsland stopped his car and went back to the enforcement vehicle in order to carry out the act. That person has been prosecuted.

I was delighted to see that an outdoor concert was to be held in Aymestrey and that the weather held up. Unfortunately, this may well be the norm for the foreseeable future. I do hope it made a good profit for the village hall and the church.