

BORDER GROUP PARISH COUNCIL WARD COUNCILLOR REPORT JULY 2021

There are a couple of planning applications in the pipeline in Lingen at least one of which is creating considerable concern. They along with the yurts and egg farm at Willey are taking a time to determine due to the River Lugg Pollution Catchment Area.

Letton Lane has been treated by the Velociraptor so there is an improvement but without resurfacing I will continue to receive complaints.

I have also received some complaints about drainage issues in Lingen. Steve Hodges is liaising with one resident and the other property has been visited by Steve Hodges and Richard Perkins who has replaced Ray Hickey. There appears to be little we can do for the latter property owner and the problem is due to the property being in Level 3 flood area and its situation.

There will be a new drainage grant available for parish councils to bid for in this financial year but they will need to have demonstrated that they have spent the previous grant correctly.

A resident in Adforton has asked whether the designation of a public right of way AF11 which runs very close to her property, can be amended either to prohibit vehicles, which would include cycles or to stop it from being used by motorised vehicles. Both prohibitions would have an exemption that would allow lawful access for vehicles to get to property and land adjoining the length of restriction. To do this would require a TRO I am told and would require the support of the parish council. It would take many years to achieve it was agreed appropriate by Balfour Beatty and would be added to the waiting list at the next annual update in January 2022.

My first live Full Council meeting (the AGM) at the Three Counties Hotel in Hereford, at the very beginning of June and all appropriate safety measures were put in place for this meeting, including Perspex screens. We all had to have a lateral flow test 2 days and 2 hours before the meeting. The cost implication for the Council will have been significant and with all doors and windows open it was absolutely freezing. Going forward it is expected that Full Council meetings will continue at the Hotel whilst committee meetings will be held at Plough Lane. This is because the ceilings in Shire Hall have collapsed and rumour has it that we will not be back in there before 2023. One of the changes is that John Harrington will no longer hold the portfolio for Planning but will concentrate on Balfour Beatty. The planning responsibility has been taken on by Liz Harvey.

A lot of the Council's work this past few weeks has been taken up with dealing with problems surrounding Children's Services. This will cost the local authority several million pounds and will not be resolved quickly. We are now going through all more recent cases and expect other issues to come to light. The DfE have issued a Requires Improvement Notice and have put one of their advisors into the authority to chair an Improvement Board. The coroner case was also held this week and I suspect we will receive further criticism.

In the Council there has been a change in party makeup. Until now the Administration has been run by The Independents, The Greens and Its Our County as a collaboration but remaining as 3 separate parties. As from May, The Independents and IOC have merged into a party to be known as Independents for Herefordshire. This has resulted in one Independent leaving the Group and joining the True Independents and others may well follow.