

BORDER GROUP PC WARD COUNCILLOR REPORT JAN 2023

Firstly, a Happy New Year to you all. I would also like to thank you all for the support you have given me during 2022 it is much appreciated. I apologise for the report being late but I have been away until 14th Jan.

I am really sorry for those affected in Walford and Brampton Bryan by the flooding recently. I understand that Walford fared pretty well due to the huge amount of work regularly done by the flood group. The biggest issue appears to have been the lack of information from the EA about river levels and that this was due to strike action. However, Herefordshire Council's Emergency Planning Officer was sending out detailed information, sometimes twice a day and once I became aware of no information from EA I have been passing this information to Tom Dixon and a couple of residents in Leintwardine. If you know of anyone else, I should forward it to, please let me know.

As you will be aware Lee Fishwick is moving on and we will be getting a new locality steward. I am quite disappointed about this as Lee knows the area well now. I have no idea who the new locality steward will be but one or two who have covered during Lee's sickness have been rather challenging.

Barry and I managed to attend 5 Carol concerts in the ward during December and one in my own village but unfortunately, we were not able to attend all of them as they clashed with each other. We really enjoyed the concert at Adforton and it was a shame we could not stay for the refreshments as we had to go on to Pipe Aston. Next year, if I am still your County Councillor, we will do our best to attend most of those we missed this year. We are also more than happy to attend any fund raising or social events that your parish puts on so it would be useful if someone could notify me as to when they are taking place.

The bridge at Buckton has now been made safe. I personally think a more attractive measure would have been preferable but hopefully it will stop a child or an animal falling into the river. There is now consultation going on about the removal of the weight restriction on both Buckton and Kinsham and I can understand the logic but as has been pointed out there is a Grade II listed bridge on the C1001 near Buckton Mill which needs to be considered before any decision is taken. Ideally it has been suggested that a width restriction be put on the lane but unfortunately there is no legal means of doing this and even if there was how would it be enforced. Obviously an unsuitable for HGVs notice could be put up but again what if any affect would it have.

Kevin Bishop Head of Planning is retiring in February. This is a blow as he was one of the only people in planning who I could get sensible answers out of. We have lost staff in all departments of the council and I would say that with a projected over spend at the end of this financial year of £11 million and the following year £22 million the Council is in a very bad state.

I have sent the clerk the appropriate form to be completed for the potential community work that Balfour Beatty could assist with at Walford. I am hopeful that they will see this as a worthwhile project and be able to assist us.

Please can you get your grit bins checked to ensure that they have been refilled as a lot of grit and salt will have been used during the cold spell in December. I have asked BB to get them refilled but some may be missed.

The Council will be setting its Council Tax at its February meeting