

BORDER GROUP PC WARD COUNCILLOR REPORT JULY 2022

I understand from the Chair that the SID has now been moved to Brampton Bryan. The Safer Roads Partnership Officer Ian Connolly did get a motorcyclist to carry out a speed camera check on Brampton Bryan and Walford recently but they did not catch anybody speeding. Ian believes this maybe because at the time they were there the road was fairly quiet apart from HGVs which although very noisy were not exceeding the speed limit. He feels a better idea of speed at Walford will be gathered when they carry out the speed road check shortly and he will then share that data with the parish council.

Work at Parsons Pole has been delayed due to concerns raised about design and the fact that the project will have to go back out to tender.

I understand that the clerk is still trying to contact the person responsible for providing the cultivation licence in order that we can approach Balfour Beatty through their community work to help us remove the grass and plant up the triangle at Walford.

The horsebox appears to have left the area but I suspect it will turn up somewhere else in Mortimer ward!

We need to get on with some of the other initiatives considered for making Walford "look different"

We also need to set up a meeting with residents to consider what work can be carried out in Brampton Bryan to make it "look different". Setting up a meeting appears to be more difficult than I originally envisaged.

The Chief Exec is visiting Mortimer Ward on 27th July and I would ask that one representative from each parish meet with him and myself at The Grange at 4 pm for about half an hour to discuss parish issues. Nice cup of tea and cake. I think if the chair is not available that Clive would be prepared to attend.

Churches, Village Halls, Voluntary Groups etc are always looking for money and at a recent Zoom meeting I was advised by Community First H & W (ACRE) that there is a website Easyfundraising and organisation which over 5000 retailers including Amazon Ebay M & S Waitrose, Morrisons TUI etc are part of. Easyfundraising turns the everyday online shopping of your members, volunteers and supporters into funds for your voluntary organisation, When they use the easyfunding website or app to shop with leading retailers the retailer sends your organisation a free donation at no additional cost, that could be 1% - 2% of purchase prices. where you can register your organisation, which DOES NOT NEED to be a charity and they then ask a series of simple questions such as a description of who you are and what you are raising for. You will need to provide payment details, easyfundraising can pay your donations by cheque or straight into your organisations bank account. This also includes companies that you may do business with such as Viking, Staples, Dell. The important thing is you must go through the Easyfundraising website to reach to purchasing company you wish to do business with and then a tab will come up offering you a choice of organisations you can donate part of your purchase money to. There is also a list of categories from which you can choose when purchasing and they will identify those companies part of the scheme. It is an easy way to make money for your community. You just need to ensure your local residents know about it.

Flo Churchill who was appointed as Interim Head of Planning and Regulatory services has left with immediate effect and the local authority seems to be full of interim staff. I dread to think of the cost implications. It is therefore very difficult for councillors to build up any sort of working relationship with a member of staff as they don't stay more than a couple of months and many of them live over 100 miles away and so nothing about Herefordshire.

I have forwarded to each clerk a copy of Balfour Beatty's final annual capital plan for Mortimer ward so that parishes can see where work has either taken place or is to take place within their parish this financial year. As stated previously much of the work is drainage schemes.

The NHS Parliamentary Award for Health Equalities was awarded to Herefordshire & Worcestershire Covid 19 Vaccination Team for its tremendous work over the past 2 years. The partnership was found to have addressed inequalities in accessing the vaccine by successfully reaching out to groups and communities that might otherwise struggle.

On a personal note, I was shortlisted for the 2022 Civility in Politics Award Politician of the Year an award which shines a spotlight on those in politics who behave with courtesy and decency to one another whatever their political persuasion. I was in an illustrious group which included Chris Bryant MP Stella Creasy MP Baroness Kat Hoey Andy Street Mayor Tom Tugendhat MP and I was the only local councillor. I was nominated by a constituent which was an amazing honour and although I did not win, I was absolutely delighted as were my family.

Finally, I would like to draw councillors' attention to the importance of checking the minutes before agreeing them. There has been a Code of Conduct case in Herefordshire where a councillor was found guilty of misconduct in public office as a declaration of interest on a matter being discussed was questioned by a member of the public. The minutes of the meeting showed no record of the declaration and therefore the Monitoring Officer had no choice but to accept that No Declaration had been made. I know during a busy week it is sometimes easier to either take the minutes as correct without reading them or just give them a cursory glance but it is imperative that a councillor checks that if they did Declare an Interest that it has been minuted accordingly. This is particularly important as parishes deal with planning applications.