

BORDER GROUP PC WARD COUNCILLOR REPORT MAY 2020

Firstly, it is good to see the parish council holding meetings virtually, many are, but a lot are not. As we do not know how long we will have to operate in this way I think it is good to see most parish councils in Mortimer ward adapting to this new way of working.

As Tom stated in his Walford Flood Group report, as the culvert in Walford is on a B road and therefore work cannot be carried out by the lengthsman, this has been added to Balfour Beatty's Annual Plan. They are aware of my desire to see this done as soon as possible.

With regard to The Holloway I have checked with Julian Cotton Herefordshire Council's Archaeologist to ensure that due to its historic importance there are no restrictions with regard to what can be done and how. He has advised me that providing we are absolutely sure in whose ownership The Holloway is and have permission there are no restrictions on what can be done and special permission does not need to be obtained on this particular Holloway. He stressed that obviously they would not wish it to be "flattened"!

I have requested that if the planning officer is minded to approve the application at The Willows, Birtley I would wish for it to be redirected to committee.

I have received an email from Lee Fishwick, Locality Steward with regard to the state of the Buckton Lane road surface. He has been advised by the BB Asset Management Team that they are aware of the situation, it is on their list and they are in the process of considering the options with regard to the Bellwin money received. As you know from Tom's report, we received no money for the flooding in October and therefore the money we have is having to be managed carefully. You will be aware of a major road subsidence in Fownhope which will cost a lot to put right.

I was delighted to see that the planning application in Lingen on the nursery site has finally been approved.

I forwarded to the clerk and Walford Flood Group a letter to be circulated to all those whose homes were actually flooded earlier in the year, offering them a grant for a flood prevention scheme for their property.

All seems OK on the coronavirus front and most council staff are now being stood down and returning to their day jobs as volunteers seem to have most issues covered. As at the 13th May there were 408 confirmed cases of Covid-19 which is 213 per 100,000 population compared to England 213 per 100,000. There have been 81 deaths due to Covid-19 or suspected, 48 in hospital, 28 in care homes, 2 in hospices and 3 at home, that is a crude death rate of 42 per 100,000 compared to England 52 per 100,000. There will be continuing support through Talk Community based at Blueschool House.

If someone is in immediate danger from domestic abuse, please tell them to call 999 and ask for the police. Silent calls will work if they are not safe to speak – they should use the Silent Solution system and call 999 and then press 55.

If you know of a small business requiring a grant in order to sustain their company please tell them to email smallbusinessgrants@herefordshire.gov.uk. **There are a number of business which Herefordshire Council have attempted to contact without success, if you know somebody who may not have applied for the grant, I urge you to pass this information onto them.**