

## Written Report for Parish Council Meetings January 2023

### **Whitbourne specific.**

Gigaclear have continued to deliver to properties missed in the previous tranches of work.

The AGM of the Bringsty Common Manorial Court took place in Whitbourne Village Hall on the evening of the 24<sup>th</sup> November with about 40 people present. A talk by David Swallow MIFireE, Group Commander. Performance & Information, HMICFRS, Planning and Projects. Wildfire Tactical Advisor NFCC Lead, on protecting property from wild fires was well received.

The Live and Let Live (lately "The Live at Whitbourne") reopened on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December, and it was pleasing to see such a crowd in the place. I had been assisting the owner in obtaining their new premises license, and look forward to this establishment once again becoming a welcoming community asset. Regrettably no new planning application has yet been received in respect of the Wheatsheaf at the village entrance on the A44 which continues to deteriorate.

Please encourage the reporting of any grit bins low on salt here:-

<https://myaccount.herefordshire.gov.uk/request-grit-bin-refill-or-repair>

The grips and drains along the A44 from Moorhouse Farm down to the Whitbourne junction have been cleared again. Do report any on the C or unclassified roads that need clearing.

### **North Bromyard Group Parishes:**

The VAS (vehicle activated sign) at High Cross, Upper Sapey, a particular accident black spot, has not yet been installed but is being promised by officers before the end of the financial year.

### **Bromyard:**

I have this week confirmed with the planning officer that the amended application for the Hop Pole, agreed between parties in October, has still not been received, contrary to any comment being made elsewhere. I have now spoken with the applicant's architect and confirmed that amended drawings will be submitted in the next fortnight.

An application in respect of listed building consent is anticipated in respect of 43 High Street following its new ownership and necessary repairs to the structure. I have been speaking to officers and the new owner in that regard.

A presentation has been made by officers on 5<sup>th</sup> December in respect of the Market Towns Investment Fund spend:-

- |  |                         |
|--|-------------------------|
| ▶ Schemes carried out to date:                             | <b>COSTD:</b>           |
| ▶ 5 road resurfacing                                       | <b>£202,000.00</b>      |
| ▶ 1 white lining job with a final visit to be carried out. |                         |
| ▶ Schemes to be carried out till end of FY:                | <b>Remaining spend:</b> |
| ▶ 7 minor structures schemes                               | <b>£148,000.00</b>      |
| ▶ 2 design jobs with construction in next FY               |                         |
| ▶ 8 TROs to be progressed with delivery next FY            |                         |

- ▶ 1 road resurfacing and 1 patching job.

### **Brockhampton Group Parishes:**

Last month I expressed concern to the Licensing and Travellers Support Manager, and the Police in respect of renewed anti-social and criminal activity affecting occupants at the Linton trading estate, following meetings with unit occupants. The successful prosecution and jailing of two people in relation to fly-tipping was reported on 29<sup>th</sup> November see <https://www.herefordtimes.com/news/23157751.jailed-prolific-herefordshire-flytippers/> . A third person was ordered to carry out community work.

### **Ward Wide:**

Winter gritting seems to have been carried out effectively in the last week or so, please let me know of any issues noticed along the primary and secondary routes, which can be found here:- <https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/roads-1/winter-gritting-routes/2>

I attended a meeting of the Chairs of Audit Committees of the West Midlands at the West Midlands assembly in Birmingham and chaired a meeting for the owners of the South West Audit Partnership (SWAP), our internal auditors.

I have chaired an Audit and Governance meeting in November and asked a written question to Council in respect of the shambolic introduction of the Herefordshire County Business Improvement District which has yet to raise any contributions but has exhausted it's initial Council funding. I also asked questions during the Leader's report at the full Council meeting last Friday, and contributed to the meeting by challenging the quality of the agenda report on the Taxi Licensing Policy which Council were to be asked to approve. A majority of Council agreed with me and the policy has been sent back to the Cabinet member for redrafting, following my "point of order" of a motion from the floor to refer the matter back. Some 60 taxi drivers were in attendance at the meeting.

On Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> December I queried at Cabinet the staffing levels of the Council's ICT provision and asked further questions in respect of the budgeting for the workforce.

On Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> January I attended the Cabinet meeting as the group representative and asked a written question on the continuing provision of facilities to support the collection and distribution of aid to Ukraine.

Hoping that you all enjoyed a festive Christmas break and wishing you the best for 2023!

**Nigel**

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