

SEPTEMBER UPDATE

**BALLSTONE, BALLINGHAM & HENTLAND, DINEDOR, HOLME LACY, LITTLE
DEWCHURCH and LOWER BULLINGHAM
DINEDOR HILL WARD**

From your local County Councillor



David Davies

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Dear Residents

What a summer we have experienced, so hot and dry causing so many issues! As a current member of the Hereford & Worcester Fire Authority, I have been acutely aware of the extra pressures and risk that this summer has brought us and share those details in this update.

There are many lessons to learn about how our climate is changing and we can be thankful that our two hot summers had a very wet winter in between filling our reservoirs. Given the extreme weather we seem to experience, this winter could be very wet, and we need to be prepared for such an eventuality.



Regrettably some of fires are not down to the weather but deliberate arson attacks. Police are investigating 12 suspected arsons including several farm fires on a corridor area following the A480. In a recent meeting with the Police and over 70 farmers they raised their worries and concerns, two recent farm fires involved trapped livestock and while all were saved the stress to the animals was huge.

Left : recent suspected Arson Farm Fire.

Our Local Community Police Team

Sign up to police alerts, you can choose which areas you want to hear about and what activity is taking place in that area. You'll also hear about positive police action, good news stories and be able to play an active part in helping us with our public appeals.

<https://link.edgepilot.com/s/bb21d405/UARq0VNajkqv1vLf0zKSJQ?u=http://www.neighbourhoodmatters.co.uk/>

Herefordshire students have celebrated another strong year of A Level and GCSE results. At A level an impressive 98.7% pass rate (A*-E). This exceeds both the West Midlands average of 97.4% and the national average for England of 97.9%.

The GCSE results continue to be impressive with 69.1% of Herefordshire young people achieving a Grade 4 or above in all subjects, this is significantly above the West Midlands average of 66.6%. Performance in both English and Maths has been particularly strong, with the Herefordshire outcomes in both English and Maths at Grade 4 and above beating the West Midlands and England averages results. English at Grade 4 or above averages at 64.8% for Herefordshire, which is well above the West Midlands at 55.5% and England at 59.5%. Maths is similarly impressive at 65.3%, with the West Midlands at 52.4%, and the England average at 57.2%.

Herefordshire students also excelled in their Combined Science results with averages of 63.6%, compared to West Midlands at 52.7% and England averages at 58.1%. A clear endorsement of the strong professional standards of our schools.

I was pleased to see the council supporting hospitality business by reducing the pavement licence fees by 70%. Pavement licences allow businesses including cafés, restaurants, pubs and coffee shops to place tables, chairs and other approved removable furniture on the public highway outside their premises. The cost of a new pavement license will fall from £500 to £150, while renewal fees will reduce from £350 to £105.

The Council has published its Herefordshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) which will provide a framework for coordinated action to help nature recover across the county – identifying where improvements to habitats could deliver the greatest benefits for wildlife, the environment and local communities.

The strategy includes a Local Habitat Map, showing important existing areas for biodiversity as well as locations where action could create or improve habitats for nature. It also sets out 37 priorities and 100 measures and supporting actions, covering some of the habitats and species most important to Herefordshire – from rivers, wetlands, woodlands and traditional orchards to hedgerows, grasslands, farmland and nature-rich urban areas.

In this months update I cover the pressures on our fire service of the dry weather and the recent Inspectorate report of the service, the latest update on the bypass building around Hereford, news of weekly food collection starting in twelve months plus update on Highways and usual contacts.

As ever if I can be of any help, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Stay safe and well

Dave



5-13 SEPTEMBER 2026

Visit artists in their studios, explore pop-up shows and galleries, and discover original art and craft across Herefordshire.

PLAN YOUR TRAIL: h-art.org.uk

Dates for the Diary

h.Art

5th to 13th September



Challenging Summer for our Fire service

As a member of the Hereford & Worcester Fire Service Authority (HWFRS) and have been closely monitoring the challenges we have faced with this hot dry summer. Since May we have attended over 800 outdoor fires with nearly 300 incidents a week compared to our norm of 150 incidents. The nature and size of these incidents and the fact that this is also happening with our neighbouring Fire Authorities and nationally has posed us some significant challenges, however we are well prepared and equipped to face these challenges. We are attending many mid-size incidents requiring between 4-8 fire engines, often concurrent and requiring over 24-

hour cover plus supporting neighbouring fire services.

August 13th saw this activity peak with around 40 serious incidents attended in one day. We supplied several crews and engines to support West Midlands Fire service at the major incident at Stourbridge where 19 houses were destroyed, and our own serious incident at Pershore which saw three houses destroyed by fire and seven more damaged, with over 30 people evacuated. Whilst we were immensely proud of the fire crews operating under very challenging conditions and preventing many more houses being destroyed in Pershore, this was also a superb multi-agency effort to coordinate support to the local community.

My thanks to the professionalism of our firefighters and staff for working to protect our communities in tough conditions. Also, the support of the farming community helping create firebreaks, the employers of retained firefighters who saw less of their employees, and the public for their assistance and support. Lots of lessons to learn from this summer and the impact of our changing climate.

Last month also saw the publication of the Government's inspection of HWFRS which rated us as good with no significant causes for concern or major issues highlighted in the report.



The Chief Inspector Katherine Stone said, "I congratulate Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Service on its performance in keeping people safe and secure from fire and other risks. The service has made strong progress and continues to demonstrate clear and sustained improvement. This is supported by a robust governance structure with stable, self-aware leadership and improved data and intelligence to support decision-making at all levels. This progress has been achieved through the work of dedicated staff at all levels".

All of this has to be taken in the context of a Service that has a decade of financial challenges, most recently in 2025/26 being forced to make £1.2m of cuts in a 45m budget.

Picture of the Potato Sheds Fire at Milton.



Phase one of Hereford Bypass set to go ahead

Herefordshire Council has published the Full Business Case for Phase One of the Hereford Bypass, marking another important step towards delivering new transport infrastructure and supporting future growth across the county.

The bypass is part of an ambitious program of major projects being progressed by Herefordshire Council to improve transport, support businesses, strengthen communities and create better places across the county. Phase One of the Hereford Bypass represents a significant investment in the future of Herefordshire's

transport network.

Phase One of the bypass will provide a new 3.6km link between the A49 and A465, creating a more direct route to the Rotherwas Industrial Estate and Hereford Enterprise Zone (HEZ). It will help improve connections, reduce pressure on existing routes and support future development.

The Full Business Case explains how the scheme will help address current transport challenges while supporting wider plans for economic growth across the county. It is scheduled to begin this December ahead of the local government elections in May.

The real sadness about this is that having the planning permission, land purchased and Government funding to pay for it all in place in 2019 the previous administration pulled the project and sent the funding back to Government.! We now have to borrow the increased funding required and the strain will be on our council tax bills. Phase One is the first stage of the wider Hereford Western Bypass which is required to support our infrastructure around the City with the Government's requirement to provide 30,000 houses in the next 20 years. The cost of that will need funding from central government and housing development.



Weekly Food collections starting next year

Herefordshire Council's Cabinet has approved the introduction of a new weekly food waste collection service from September 2027. The new countywide service will provide households with kitchen caddies, an initial roll of compostable liners and outdoor food waste containers, making it easier for residents to recycle food waste separately from their general rubbish. Cabinet approved a single countywide rollout after considering a range of delivery options. The approach offers the best value for money, minimises delivery risk and gives the council time to put in place the vehicles, equipment and infrastructure needed to launch the new service successfully.

Preparations over the next year will include procuring new collection vehicles and containers, making improvements at council depots and delivering a comprehensive communications campaign to help residents understand how the service will work before collections begin.

The introduction of separate weekly food waste collections is part of the Government's Simpler Recycling reforms, which require councils across England to provide the service.

Once fully established, the new service is expected to collect around 6,500 tonnes of food waste each year, helping to increase Herefordshire's recycling rate and reduce the amount of waste sent for disposal. The programme would also produce electricity as part of the treatment process as well as producing nutrient-rich bio-fertiliser. The Council has already secured £1.85 million in Government funding towards the vehicles, containers and equipment needed to introduce the new service.

HIGHWAYS

I was very disappointed by Welsh Water's recent handling of their leak in Church Lane in Little Dewchurch. The repairs should have been done a long time ago and it has taken many reports and complaints to achieve some action. We have up to two years to monitor their repair and can recall any utility company to make good their work if there is any degradation of the road surface attributable to the repair.

Our Local Community Police Team

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<https://link.edgepilot.com/s/bb21d405/UARq0VNajkqv1vLf0zKSJQ?u=http://www.neighbourhoodmatters.co.uk/>

Team contact details

Team email: herefordsouthside.snt@westmercia.police.uk

Safer Neighbourhood Officer: PC 21260 Martin Gillett **Mobile:** 07970 544262

Safer Neighbourhood Officer: PC 21946 Jack Davies **Mobile:** 07817 158224

Safer Neighbourhood Officer: PC 2347 Lyn Johnson **Mobile:** 07773 048377

Safer Neighbourhood Officer: PC 22088 Dan Ovel **Mobile:** 07929 721340

Safer Neighbourhood Officer: PC 21198 Brian Gosson **Mobile:** 07973 846336

Police Community Support Officer: PCSO 6324 Carol Marsh **Mobile:** 07890 524667

Police Community Support Officer: PCSO 40259 Hayley Warne **Mobile:** 07773 052560

Police Community Support Officer: PCSO 40272 Lewis Thomas **Mobile:** 07773 051508

*We are happy to receive calls from Members of The Public, however, please **do not** use these to report crimes and/or incidents. For more information on reporting a crime/incident please go to www.westmercia.police.uk and select 'Report' or call 999 (Emergency) / 101 (Non-Emergency)*



Report a crime Police 101 Ext 61216

HIGHWAYS

PLEASE Report potholes and concerns

Report problems on the road –

www.herefordshire.gov.uk/roads-1/report-problems-road

Check on progress of a defect

herefordshire.gov.uk/roads-1/pothole-road-defect-progress-map

Report a serious pothole, flooded road or highway obstruction-: 01432 261800

Making a claim for vehicle damage : www.herefordshire.gov.uk/roads-1/highway-claims

Footpaths issues –

- PROW - PROW@herefordshire.gov.uk
- PROW No – [01432 383 550](tel:01432383550)

Report fly tipping it will be dealt with in a much quicker time frame. by either calling the Contact Centre on 01432 261800 or by logging the fly tipping via the council website on the links below as your www.herefordshire.gov.uk/info/fly_tipping

Road Closures / Restrictions

Carey C1267 FROM KILFORGE ROAD TO HAYNES FARM

OPENREACH Utility repair and maintenance works

Road closure BC518MAPBWWGNRTM7X-01 Granted 16-Oct '26 16-Oct '26

Carey C1267 FROM KILFORGE ROAD TO HAYNES FARM

OPENREACH Utility repair and maintenance works

Road closure BC518MAPKFWGTLL90B-01 Granted 07-Oct '26 07-Oct '26

Dinedor U72009 HOLLOW FARM ROAD

OPENREACH Utility repair and maintenance works

Road closure BC518MAPBWWGNHJF1P-02 Granted 09-Sep '26 09-Sep '26

Hentland C1234 FROM A49 TO SHEPPON HILL STABLES HOARWITHY

OPENREACH Utility repair and maintenance works

Road closure BC518MAPMDWGTKVK4G-02 Granted 06-Nov '26 06-Nov '26

Hoarwithy U71000 TRESSECK MILL ROAD

OPENREACH Utility asset works

Road closure BC008PLT0036884229032026-02 Granted 23-Sep '26 23-Sep '26

Hoarwithy C1267 FROM HOARWITHY TO HAYNES FARM

OPENREACH Utility repair and maintenance works

Road closure BC518MAPBWWGTLT12R-01 Granted 16-Oct '26 16-Oct '26

Holme Lacy B4399 FROM DINEDOR MILL BRIDGE TO B4224

HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL Highway repair and maintenance works

Road closure FL22094728425-02 Granted 24-Aug '26 24-Aug '26

Little Dewchurch U72002 KNAPP GREEN

OPENREACH Utility asset works

Road closure BC008PLT0036894129032026-02 Granted 24-Aug '26 24-Aug '26

Parish Contacts

Ballingham, Bolstone & Hentland PC

clerk@ballinghambolstonehentland-pc.gov.uk

Dinedor PC

clerk@dinedorparishcouncil.gov.uk

Holme Lacy PC

clerk@holmelacyparishcouncil.gov.uk

Little Dewchurch PC

parish.clerk@littledewchurch.org.uk

Lower Bullingham PC

clerk@lowerbullinghamparishcouncil.co.uk

If you want to discuss a planning matter, please contact
planningenquiries@herefordshire.gov.uk

Planning enforcement concern
PlanningEnforcement@herefordshire.gov.uk

Local Emergency Numbers

Environment Agency: 0800 80 70 60 (24-hours) or visit www.gov.uk/report-an-environmental-incident

Flood alerts: Floodline 0345 988 1188. Sign up online at www.gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings to get Flood Warnings from the Environment Agency by phone, email or text message. If you live by a river or stream, keep a watch on current and expected water levels.

Power cut: Call 105 or visit www.powercut105.com
BT phone line issues: www.downdetector.co.uk/status/bt-british-telecom
Gas leak: 0800 111 999 or visit www.wvutilities.co.uk/services/smell-gas

Welsh Water: [0800 052 0130](tel:08000520130) (Water emergencies) or [0800 085 3968](tel:08000853968) (Sewer emergencies) or visit www.contact.dwrcymru.com/

The Citizens Advice Bureau Online at advice@citizensadviceherefordshire.org.uk for initial contact by email. Please also give a contact phone number in case we need to contact you for more information.