



**Ward Councillor Bromyard Bringsty – Peter Stoddart**

### **Update from Herefordshire Council**

The amendments to the Capital Programme for 2023/24 were passed at full Council on 8<sup>th</sup> December. The Conservative led administration will now start to deliver on the Southern Link Road, improvements to roads across the county, employment land at Model Farm Ross-on-Wye and the four other market towns a care leaver facility in Union Street and a Capital Grant programme in support of Talk Communities.

Following a Herculean effort by Council officers and cabinet members we have produced a draft revenue budget for 2024/25 of £205.2M which is balanced and will be presented to Cabinet for their approval on 14 December. This will require Council Tax to be increased by 4.99% and will also include the implementation of the previous administration's deferred savings measures through a small increase in parking charges. Public consultation regarding the revenue budget have already commenced and I attended a session at the Sunday Market in Bromyard on 3 December where I was fortunate to meet a number of local residents. Further consultation will take place with Council members and Scrutiny panels with the finalised revenue budget being presented to Full Council on 9 February 2024 for a vote.

The Capital Programme for 2024/25 will be presented to Cabinet on 14<sup>th</sup> December and sees seven new proposals at a total cost of £7.33M. These are Schools accessibility, Children's residential homes for 11 – 18 year olds, new software for the Planning and Regulatory services, estates building improvement programme, buildings works from the 2022 condition surveys, VMWare host replacement and property improvements in care homes. Once again public consultation is ongoing and will be incorporated into the planned programme which will be presented to Full Council on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2024.

The Herefordshire Council Transportation Officer has informed me that the 420 bus route from Bromyard to Worcester is progressing but due to a requirement to go out to tender it is not proceeding as quickly as he would like. It now looks likely to start in February/March.

As the Ward member for Bromyard Bringsty Ward it is my pleasure to assist residents with their Herefordshire Council issues and concerns.

Please do not hesitate to contact me via telephone or email if you have any Herefordshire Council related issues.

Specifically in regards to the four Parish Councils across the ward I have the following updates:

### **Bromyard and Winslow Town Council.**

The Herefordshire Council Project Manager who is responsible for the provision of a disabled accessible footpath from the Porthouse Rise estate to Bromyard town centre will be providing a brief to Bromyard and Winslow Town Council Planning and Economic Committee on 8 Jan 24.

I am still awaiting to hear from Balfour Beatty regarding their plan to install the double yellow lines at the end of Rowberry Street and the move of the double yellow lines in Cruxwell Street to the other side of the road.

Balfour Beatty have responded to my concerns of the residents from the bottom of Linton Lane which suffers flooding due to runoff from the A44 and are planning to meet with the resident to address the issue.

### **North Bromyard Group of Parishes.**

Balfour Beatty Living Places have now reduced the activation speed for the three vehicle activated safety signs.

Following a meeting with a Parish resident where we looked at the B4203 where she showed me the poor state of the roadway I have taken an action to address this with the Road Safety Officer.

### **Brockhampton Group of Parish Councils.**

I am waiting to hear the results of the visit by the Traffic Management team to clarify if the proposed locations to position the recently purchased speed indicating device are acceptable

Following discussion with Balfour Beatty Living Places I have informed the Headmaster of Brockhampton School that we cannot support the provision of some litter bins in the vicinity of the School.

### **Whitbourne Parish Council.**

As I mentioned last month, the missing safety chevrons at the bottom of the A44 just after Bringsty Common were reported by Nigel Shaw to BBLP last year. Following the accident there last week I will now engage with the Road Safety Officer to ensure that this is carried out as a matter of priority.

I await to hear the result of the Traffic Management team's visit in respect to the proposed sites for the Vehicle Activated Sign (speed limit indicator).

If you wish to contact me, my contact details are

**Herefordshire.gov.uk**

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**Councillor Peter Stoddart MBE MBA CEng**

**Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Services**

Bromyard Bringsty Ward

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