

BODENHAM PARISH COUNCIL**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING AT THE SIWARD JAMES CENTRE AT 7.30 PM ON MONDAY, 6th August 2012****Attendance**

Cllr Bob Clarke
 Cllr Stan Davis
 Cllr Dennis Jackson
 Cllr Pam James-Moore
 Cllr Robin Knott
 Cllr Tony Mitcheson
 Cllr Rhian Powell

Cllr Jeremy Millar (District Councillor)

Mr Chris Smith (Clerk)

8 members of the public were present.

ITEM	ACTION
<p><u>AGENDA ITEM 1 – ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN</u></p> <p>1. Cllr Knott took the Chair and asked the Clerk to seek nominations for the post of Chairman. Cllr Clarke was nominated by Cllr Davis, seconded by Cllr James-Moore. No other nominations were received. Cllr Clarke was elected unanimously and took the Chair. He instructed the Clerk to write to Mr Derek Ling thanking him for the contribution he had made to the Parish Council during his time as a member and Chairman.</p>	
<p><u>AGENDA ITEM 2 – APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u></p> <p>2. Apologies were received from Cllr Pollard.</p>	
<p><u>AGENDA ITEM 3 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</u></p> <p>3. Cllr Knott declared an interest in Minute 15 in the June Minutes and in Item 9 on the Agenda. Cllrs Davis and Jackson declared an interest in Item 9. Cllr Mitcheson declared an interest in Item 12.</p>	
<p><u>AGENDA ITEM 4 – MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING</u></p> <p>4. Cllr James-Moore proposed and Cllr Mitcheson seconded that the Minutes be accepted. The Minutes were then approved unanimously.</p>	
<p><u>AGENDA ITEM 5 - MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES</u></p> <p>5. Minute 5: Lengthsman Scheme and Grass Cutting. Cllr James-Moore reported that she had spoken to the owner of the area of grass on the C1125 at the corner with Chapel Lane, who had agreed that the grass could be cut by the Lengthsman. The Clerk was instructed to ask the Lengthsman to do this.</p> <p>6. Minute 9: Blocked Stile and Footpath in Bowley Lane. Cllr Mitcheson suggested that the Clerk should write to both parties involved in the footpath dispute to offer them the opportunity to outline their arguments in writing. These statements could then be forwarded by the Parish Clerk to Herefordshire Council to highlight the issue and perhaps help to facilitate a solution. The Clerk was also instructed to invite a Public Rights of Way officer from Herefordshire Council to talk to the Parish Council about public rights of way in general.</p> <p>7. Minute 15: Community Technology Grant. Cllr Powell said that it was proposed that a Community Technology Grant application be submitted for a portable data projector for the Parish Council to use at meetings for displaying agendas, emails, planning applications and other scanned documents. Cllr Mitcheson said that a projector would also be very useful for the BFPG and that an internet connection at the Parish Hall would also be a valuable facility. Cllr James-Moore noted that the Siward James Centre already had a wi-fi connection. Cllr Jackson said that the Parish Hall would find an internet connection very useful. It was agreed that Cllr Powell, Cllr Mitcheson and Mr Bob Bowden should meet to discuss a joint bid from the Parish Council and the Parish Hall.</p> <p>8. Minute 16: Neighbourhood Planning Meeting. The Clerk reported that a meeting had been arranged with Ms Sam Banks of Herefordshire Council to discuss Neighbourhood</p>	<p>CS</p> <p>CS</p> <p>CS</p> <p>RP/TM</p>

<p>Planning. The meeting would take place at 7.30pm on Monday 20th August at the Siward James Centre. Representatives of Marden and Sutton Parish Councils would attend. The Clerk was instructed to contact the Clerk of Marden Parish Council about the arrangements and to make it clear that Bodenham Parish Council was not committed to combining with Marden and Sutton Parish Councils to produce a joint Neighbourhood Plan.</p>	CS
<p>9. Minute 24: Damage to the Field Entrance Near C1121 Bridge. The Clerk was instructed to contact the bus company and Mr Pugh again about this.</p>	CS
<p><u>AGENDA ITEM 6 – MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC</u></p>	
<p>10. Mrs Gwen Bowden asked about cutting the overhanging hedge on the A417 between England’s Gate Inn and Saffrons Cross Garage. Cllr Knott said that this was the responsibility of the Landowner. The Clerk was instructed to ask the landowner to cut the hedge back and to place an item about hedge-cutting in the Bodenham <i>Newsletter</i>. The Clerk was further instructed to ask Amey to cut the grass on this stretch of the A417.</p>	CS CS
<p>11. Mrs Bowden also asked about reducing the speed of traffic on the A417. Cllr Knott said that this was particularly important in view of the recent accident at the junction with Wood House Lane. Cllr Powell said that it was likely that a 30mph limit would be ignored, but there was evidence that gates placed on the verges at each end of the 40mph section might help to reduce the speed of traffic. The Clerk was instructed to remind Mr Andrew Lee-Jones of the request for a meeting between him and the Parish Council. The Clerk was further instructed to ask the Safer Roads Partnership for feedback from the speed monitoring which they have undertaken over the past year.</p>	CS CS
<p>12. Mr Tony Clark asked about the overgrown entrance to footpath BM13 at the side of Pearmain Cottage and the grass cuttings dumped on that footpath. The Clerk was instructed to ask the lengthsman to cut back the foliage at the entrance to the footpath.</p>	CS
<p>13. Mr Clark also asked about the request which had been made to Amey for a ‘No Fly-Tipping’ sign. The Clerk was instructed to contact Amey about this and to include this matter on the next Agenda.</p>	CS
<p>14. Mrs Brenda Richardson asked about the recording of Parish Council Minutes, which, she felt, needed to be more accurate. Mr Cyril Townsend said that the issue of the Ladywell Lane footpath had not been minuted from the June Meeting. The Clerk was instructed to contact Herefordshire Council again about Ladywell Lane. Cllr Powell said that minutes could not be recorded verbatim. Cllr Millar said that both Herefordshire Council and Parish Councils’ minutes should be summaries of discussion and required actions, which are drafted by the Clerk and approved or corrected by the relevant Council. He added that members of the public cannot influence how Councils record minutes. Cllr Clarke asked whether unapproved minutes could be placed on the Parish Council website beforehand. Mr David Tilford said the Stoke Prior Parish Council publish such minutes in their parish magazine. Cllr Millar said that Herefordshire Council publish draft minutes, on which members of the public can comment by letter – the comments possibly then forming part of the minutes. Cllr Mitcheson said that the minutes of Parish Council Meetings belong to the Parish Council and should be sufficiently clear for someone who was not present at a given Meeting to be able to see what decisions were taken and to understand the broad context in which these were made. He suggested that in future the unapproved minutes of the previous Meeting should be published on the Parish Council website at the same time as the Agenda for the next Meeting is posted there. This was agreed unanimously.</p>	CS TM
<p>15. Mr Tony Clark reported that, although fouling by the hounds of the North Herefordshire Hunt is usually cleared up, the waste is often dumped on the verges. Mr James Bradley said that each time the hounds are exercised three people help with the cleaning up process and that they do their best. Cllr Mitcheson asked whether the hounds could be given more opportunity to empty themselves before leaving the kennels. Mr Bradley said that the hounds briefly use the yard at the kennels, but have to be taken out before the traffic becomes busy. Cllr Clarke asked whether it would be acceptable to take the hounds out at 5.30am, as Mr Bradley would like to do, rather than 6.30am. The Clerk was instructed to seek opinions on this matter <i>via</i> an item in the <i>Newsletter</i>. Mr David Tilford raised the issue of the continued failure to control the hounds properly while walking them, and the use of handfuls of grass to cover liquid messes rather than cleaning them up properly. Mr Cyril Townsend commented that the Hunt was a valued part of the community in Bodenham. Cllr Knott suggested that Cllr Clarke and members of the public should form a small group to meet with Mr Alan Panniers (the Chair of the North Herefordshire Hunt). This was agreed unanimously.</p>	CS BC
<p><u>AGENDA ITEM 7 – CODE OF CONDUCT</u></p>	
<p>16. Cllr Mitcheson reported that he and Cllr Knott had attended a Herefordshire Council meeting about its Code of Conduct. Cllr Mitcheson proposed and Cllr Knott seconded that</p>	

Bodenham Parish Council adopt this Code of Conduct with a few amendments, which he had outlined in an email to other councillors. Cllr Powell asked about future changes. Cllr Mitcheson replied that the Code of Conduct would inevitably have to evolve over time. Cllr Knott agreed, saying that case law would produce future amendments. The proposal was accepted.

AGENDA ITEM 8 – HEREFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS (HALC)

17. Cllr Knott reported that HALC runs training courses which would be of benefit to the Clerk. Cllr Clarke commented that when he was the Clerk he found HALC training courses very useful. Cllr Millar said that training courses and advice are available from sources other than HALC and Cllr James-Moore said that Bodenham Parish Council's membership of HALC had lapsed for that reason. The Clerk was instructed to find out what training was available *via* HALC and elsewhere and the costs thereof.

CS

AGENDA ITEM 9 – GRANT REQUESTS FROM THE CHURCH, THE CHAPEL AND THE PARISH HALL

18. Cllr Davis proposed and Cllr James-Moore seconded that the request from St Michael's Church for an increased grant of £825 should be accepted. This was agreed unanimously.

19. The Clerk reported that Bodenham Chapel had requested that the Parish Council give a grant towards improvements. Cllr Davis proposed and Cllr Mitcheson seconded that a grant of £500 be awarded. This was agreed unanimously.

20. Cllr Knott presented the Parish Hall accounts and reported that costs had increased significantly and that both the kitchen and the chairs are in urgent need of replacement. Cllr Knott further reported that external grants would be requested, but would not cover all the expense. Cllrs Knott and Jackson then withdrew from the Meeting, having declared an interest. Cllr Mitcheson proposed and Cllr James-Moore seconded that a grant of £1200 be awarded to the Parish Hall. This was agreed unanimously.

21. It was agreed that the next Agenda should include an item on adopting a formal system for awarding and increasing grants. The Clerk was instructed to ask Amey about their system – the Building Costs Index - for calculating building maintenance cost increases.

CS

AGENDA ITEM 10 – GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

22. The Clerk reported that Bodenham was eligible to join Herefordshire Council's Winter Maintenance Scheme by virtue of being a member of the Lengthsman Scheme. The Clerk was instructed to ask Amey about "salinization", which was mentioned in the information about the winter Maintenance Scheme. The Clerk was also instructed to submit an application for Bodenham to join the Scheme.

CS
CS

23. **Community Technology Grant.** This item was covered under Minute 15.

24. The Clerk reported that he had circulated information about VITAL Herefordshire LEADER Grants. Cllr Knott said that the Parish hall was considering submitting an application under this scheme.

25. The Clerk reported that a letter had been received from Amey offering a free bench to 15 of the 25 parishes (including Bodenham) which qualified for the offer by having a circular walk within their boundary. The bench should be located in the centre of the village or on the circular walk. The Clerk was instructed to put an item in the Bodenham *Newsletter* requesting suggestions for locating a bench and to add this to the next Agenda.

CS

AGENDA ITEM 11 – BOUNDARY COMMISSION CONSULTATION

26. Cllr Mitcheson asked about the Boundary Commission's Consultation on ward boundaries. Cllr Millar reminded members that the Commission had suggested reducing the number of councillors on Herefordshire Council from 58 to 54. The number of wards in the County and their boundaries would then also be reviewed. However, Herefordshire Council had so far failed to agree on the proposed changes and no decisions had been reached.

AGENDA ITEM 12 – BODENHAM NEWSLETTER

27. Cllr Clarke raised the issue of a new website called the Bodenham Newsletter. He asked how this affected Bodenham Parish Council's copyright for the existing Bodenham *Newsletter* and the potential for the new website to adversely affect the finances of the *Newsletter* and the existence of the present Parish website. Cllr Knott suggested that a sub-committee be formed to investigate further. It was agreed that Cllrs James-Moore, Knott and Mitcheson should meet to discuss the matter.

RK, TM, PJ-
M

AGENDA ITEM 13 – VACANCY ON THE PARISH COUNCIL

28. The Clerk reported that Mr Roger Austin had applied to join the Parish Council, but was

<p>unable to attend the Meeting. The Clerk was instructed to invite Mr Austin to the next Meeting and to advertise the vacancy which had arisen following the resignation of Mr Derek Ling.</p>	CS						
<p><u>AGENDA ITEM 14– VACANCY ON THE PARISH COUNCIL PLANNING SUB-COMMITTEE</u></p>							
<p>29. Cllr James-Moore proposed and Cllr Knott seconded that Cllr Pollard be asked to join the Planning Sub-Committee. The Clerk was instructed to contact Cllr Pollard.</p>	CS						
<p><u>AGENDA ITEM 15 – ANNUAL PLAYGROUND INSPECTION</u></p>							
<p>30. The Clerk reported that a favourable report had been received and circulated following the annual playground inspection. Cllr Davis said that Mr Robert Parker had identified a new drainage material which might improve the state of the playground. Cllr Davis was asked to investigate this. Cllr Davis also asked that the subject of a slide for the playground be included on the next Agenda. The Clerk was instructed to do this.</p>	SD CS						
<p><u>AGENDA ITEM 16 – FINANCE</u></p>							
<p>31. Monthly Accounts Statements. The monthly accounts had been prepared by Mr Derek Ling, who was thanked for doing this. The accounts were accepted and are attached as Annex A. Cllr Knott said that he would prepare the monthly accounts in future.</p>							
<p>32. Outstanding Invoices.</p> <table border="0" data-bbox="223 784 1212 896"> <tr> <td>- Clerk's expenses (Stationery/printing/noticeboard repairs)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£62.13</td> </tr> <tr> <td>- A Avery (BFPG equipment)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£33.28</td> </tr> <tr> <td>- Lengthsman (July work)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£428.00</td> </tr> </table>	- Clerk's expenses (Stationery/printing/noticeboard repairs)	£62.13	- A Avery (BFPG equipment)	£33.28	- Lengthsman (July work)	£428.00	
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<p><u>AGENDA ITEM 17 – PLANNING</u></p>							
<p>33. Two planning applications had been approved by the Planning Sub-Committee prior to the Meeting, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N121922/F: Richland Farm, Ullingswick: Proposed cover to existing cattle yard and handling area • N121925/F: Eastfield Farm, Bodenham: Proposed cover to an existing open silage pit. <p>Cllr Knott remarked that both applications were necessary to meet DEFRA and EU regulations.</p>							
<p><u>AGENDA ITEM 18 – UPDATES</u></p>							
<p>34. Bodenham Flood Protection Group. Cllr Mitcheson gave a report, which is included as Annex B. During this he noted that the Group had not yet received any response to the two issues they had raised with Mr Bull, the CEO of Herefordshire Council, during the latter's visit on 18 June 2012. These were the need to replace the culverts at the junction of Millcroft Road and Ketch Lane and to clear the culvert in Mr Pugh's field. He asked Cllr Millar to remind Mr Bull of these.</p>	JM						
<p>35. Parish Plan. Cllr Mitcheson said that the final version had still not been printed and that he would meet with Mr Derek Ling to expedite the matter.</p>	TM						
<p>36. Parish Hall. Cllr Jackson said that the Parish Hall Management Committee had not met since the previous Parish Council Meeting, so no report could be given.</p>							
<p><u>AGENDA ITEM 19 – CORRESPONDENCE NOT PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED</u></p>							
<p>37. The Clerk reported that he had been notified that the water at Dinmore Spout was still not fit to drink.</p>							
<p><u>AGENDA ITEM 20– OTHER BUSINESS (INCLUDING DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S COMMENTS)</u></p>							
<p>38. Cllr Millar gave a report, which is included as Annex C.</p>							
<p>39. Cllr Powell asked about the delay to Borders Broadband. Cllr Millar said that the delay was partly the fault of Gloucestershire Council and partly due to the technical difficulties of reaching remote areas. He reported that the Government has increased the money available for the project and that a decision on the next stage would be taken on 2nd September.</p>							
<p>40. Cllr Knott said that in the light of the new Code of Conduct the Parish Council needed a set of Standing Orders or Rules of Procedure. The Clerk was instructed to download and circulate examples and to put this item on the Agenda for the next Meeting.</p>	CS						
<p><u>AGENDA ITEM 21 – DATE OF NEXT MEETING</u></p>							
<p>41. The next Meeting will be held in the Siward James Centre at 7.30pm on Monday, 3rd September 2012.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The Meeting ended at 10.25pm.</p>							

PARISH COUNCIL ACCOUNTS

	BALANCE AT 5 APRIL 2012	BALANCE AT 18 JUNE
LLOYDS	5228	9454
TOTAL BALANCE	5228	9454
INCOME		
ADVERTISING	1108	231
VAT REFUND	0	0
CAR PARK LOAN	375	0
COMMUNITY PLAN	0	0
PRECEPT	4890	0
FLOOD GROUP	67	0
LENGTHSMAN	778	0
TOTAL INCOME	7218	231
EXPENSES		
CAR PARK LOAN	750	0
PARISH PLAN	43	0
CHURCH GRANT	0	0
CLERK SALARY	455	152
CLERK EXPENSES	59	31
CAR PARK	0	0
INSURANCE	586	0
WEBSITE	0	0
NEWSLETTER	367	367
FLOOD GROUP	214	214
PLAYGROUND REPAIRS	648	648
HALL	146	126
RENTAL		
LENGTHSMAN	575	495
PLAYGROUND INSPECTION	0	0
AUDIT	0	0
PARISH HALL GRANT	0	0
JUBILEE	450	100
GRASS CUTTING	601	0
OAK POSTS	0	
BRITISH LEGION GRANT	0	0
ELECTION EXPENSES	0	0
SID	0	0
HANDRAIL	0	0
TOTAL EXPENSES	4894	2133
BALANCE AT 12 JULY	7552	7552

702

CHEQUES RAISED NOT BANKED

FLOOD GROUP 103

TOTAL 103

CHEQUES/INCOME NOT BANKED

FLOOD GROUP 146

TOTAL 146

BALANCE 7449

INVOICES AWAITING APPROVAL

TOTAL 0

BALANCE 7449

REPRESENTATION OF ACCOUNTS

LADYCLOSE ORCHARD 158

FLOOD GROUP 1737

COMMUNITY PLAN 0

PARISH COUNCIL 5553

FUTURE COMMITTED EXPENDITURE

COMMUNITY PLAN 750

CLERK SALARY 152

CHURCH GRANT 825

TOTAL 1727

FUTURE INCOME

COMMUNITY PLAN 750

PRECEPT 4890

TOTAL 5640

REMAINING FUNDS 9466

BODENHAM FLOOD PROTECTION GROUP REPORT
(6 AUGUST 2012)

1. **“Project Bodenham” Update.** The Project is still not quite complete. Barriers have yet to be fitted to two houses and we are waiting for UK Flood Barriers to give us a completion date for these.

2. **Flood Warning Telemetry System.**
 - a. There have been two occasions during the past month when water levels in the Millcroft Brook rose sufficiently to trigger automatic alarms from the newly commissioned flood warning telemetry system. The first was on Friday, 6 July when an alarm was issued at 3.15pm that the water level had passed 0.5m in depth. Fortunately on this occasion the flow peaked at a depth of only about 0.9m and was not sufficient to cause any real concern, added to which both Mr Rod Hawnt, who donated the telemetry system to the Village, and Mr Charles Pudge, the Chairman of the River Lugg Internal Drainage Board, visited to provide reassurance.

 - b. The second event was potentially more serious. On the afternoon of Wednesday, 18 July a rainstorm centred over Bowley and Pencombe caused a flash flood down the Millcroft Brook. The 0.5m alarm was triggered at 1.25pm and the 1.0m alarm at 1.50pm. The flow peaked at 1.4m at about 2.10pm and then dropped steadily.

 - c. A few householders took the precaution of fitting their flood protection equipment, but, as it turned out, there was never any real danger of flooding. The Millcroft Brook had been well maintained, the relief channel at Millcroft Farm operated well (for the first time since 2008) and, although the Millcroft Road/ Ketch Lane culverts once again proved inadequate, the water was able to get away quickly to the River Lugg which was low at the time.

 - d. Coming two days before the fifth anniversary of the 20 July 2007 flood, the event provided a useful reminder that, despite all the excellent work done by the BFPG, there is no room for complacency. With the Brook rising well over a metre in less than an hour, speed is essential in ensuring that everyone is warned, that action is taken to look after the houses of those who are vulnerable or simply happen to be away at work or on holiday, and that flood protection precautions are taken. All this requires planning, practice and coordination, all of which the Group intend to improve still further over the coming months. More importantly, the event also highlighted, yet again, the need to replace the Millcroft Road/ Ketch Lane culverts and avoid the situation where every time the Brook rises by more than 0.5m the water in it starts backing up and causing totally avoidable problems upstream.

3. **Visit of CEO Herefordshire Council.**
 - a. Mr Chris Bull, the CEO of Herefordshire Council, visited Bodenham with Cllr Jeremy Millar on Monday, 18th June. This gave us the opportunity to brief the CEO on the BFPG and raise two issues with him:
 - (1) **Ketch Lane Culverts.** The first was the need for the existing twin Millcroft Road/ Ketch Lane culverts to be replaced with a properly designed and sized box culvert.

(2) **The Culvert in Mr Pugh's Field.** The second concern was the requirement for Amey Herefordshire to clear the culvert in Mr Pugh's field of silt and to correct the level of the ditch downstream of the culvert.

b. Mr Bull promised to investigate these issues further. However, we have not, as yet, heard the outcome of this.

4. **External Contacts.**

a. **Hereford Times Article.** As anticipated, an article about the BFPG and the flood warning telemetry system donated by Mr Rod Hawnt to the Village appeared in the *The Hereford Times* on 5 July.

b. **National Association of Local Councils' Magazine - Local Council Review.** We understand that an article featuring the BFPG has appeared in *The Local Council Review* during July. We have not yet, however, been able to obtain a copy.

c. **BBC Website.** To mark the fifth anniversary of the 2007 floods an article about the BFPG has been posted on the BBC Hereford & Worcester Website at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-hereford-worcester-18803795>

d. **BBC Midlands Programme.** We were approached by the BBC Midlands who, at very short notice, expressed an interest in filming members carrying out maintenance work to mark the fifth anniversary of the 2007 floods. However, the BBC lost interest when told that, because of the high water level, we would be filling sandbags, rather than working in the brook, and that this would be on a Friday evening.

5. **Monthly Meeting.** Our most recent monthly meeting was held on 31 July, with 29 members present. (Our next Meeting will be the AGM on Tuesday, 28 August when all committee and area representative posts will be open for election).

6. **Working Parties.** The working party session on Friday, 6 July was cancelled because of the potential flood event already mentioned. Following the working party session on Friday, 20 July, when we checked and, where necessary, replaced sandbags in three of our stockpiles around the Village (next to the bus shelter at the bottom of Chapel Lane, on the car park opposite the School and at the Parish Hall), about a dozen members attended a small gathering at Millcroft Farm to celebrate the five dry years since the 2007 flood.

7. **Annual Barbecue.** The Group held its Annual Barbecue on Saturday, 28 July at 32, Brockington Road by kind invitation of Mr and Mrs Burnill. Mrs Mary Dhonau was present as a guest and about 30 members attended. A group photograph was taken with the Pride of Herefordshire Award trophy before its return to Herefordshire Council at the end of the BFPG's year as the County's 2011/12 'Environmental Champions'.

K.A.M.

District Councillor's Report

In this month's Report:

- **Queenswood**
- **Health & wellbeing update**
- **Lottery funding**
- **Regional Growth Fund bids**
- **Dates for your diary**

- **Queenswood**

Following discussions with the Council Leader and senior officers, a working party comprising representatives of the Queenswood Advisory Panel is investigating ways in which Countryside Services might be managed differently. The aim of the group is to see whether Queenswood and other Countryside services in the County may have a more sustainable future if managed through a Community Enterprise scheme. Work to identify options has started and there will be a further workshop later this year to build on the very useful previous workshops.

- **Health & Wellbeing update –**

Changes to the health system

Given all the noise in the system it is easy to forget that the proposed changes to the NHS are really happening and will be in place and live in 2013. The Health and Social Care Act 2012 will mean important changes to how we manage health and social care within the County. Much has been said about these changes but they are now happening with speed and as far as I can see the Herefordshire health community is viewing this positively and getting on with the changes.

Key points are:

- Herefordshire Clinical Commissioning Group (GP's) will take over responsibility for commissioning the majority of local health services from Herefordshire NHS (PCT) from April 2013. This will mean a change in partnership between the Council and Herefordshire NHS.
- Herefordshire Council continues to be responsible for commissioning social services many of which are provided by Wye Valley NHS Trust.
- The new Health and Wellbeing Board has been operating in shadow form since April 2012. It has produced a draft vision and strategy which will guide the allocation of resources and oversee the whole health system.

Key priorities are:

- Reduction in alcohol related harm
- Younger children 0 to 5 years
- Older people
- Maintaining a financially sustainable health system
- Public Health responsibilities will transfer from the NHS to the Council from 2013. This is one of the changes which has been universally supported.
- LINK will become HealthWatch and be the new consumer champion for both health and social care in the county.

- **Lottery Funding - helping young people into work**

Herefordshire, with Telford & Wrekin have been identified for this Lottery scheme with £1million earmarked for the area. The Programme is called 'Talent Match: Fulfilling Lives – Supporting Young People Back into Work' and is aimed to help young people (18-24) furthest away from the labour market.

There can only be one bid per LEP (Local Enterprise Partnership), and it has to be led by the Voluntary and Community Sector. Participation from young people and their involvement in the development and delivery will be crucial.

- **Regional Growth Fund bids**

Our Economic Development Team has submitted 2 bids to the HM Regional Growth Fund. They are:

1. £1m for the extension of the Redundant Building Grant scheme until March 2015 (an additional year on the original approval), and covering the Worcestershire LEP area. If successful this will increase our overall budget to £2.5m

2. £1.5m for CAPS (capital asset purchase scheme), offering grants from £5K- 100K to help SMEs (small & medium sized enterprises), to purchase key equipment to grow their businesses across the Marches and Worcestershire LEP area. We hope to hear by the end of September whether we have been successful.

- **Dates for your diary**

H Art – over 100 venues across the county

8th – 16th September 2012

7th Annual Food Festival –in Hightown, Castle Green & Cathedral Close, Hereford

Sat 27th/Sun 28th October 2012

Please let me know if you want more information about any of these schemes.

If you need to contact me please either email me at jmillar2@herefordshire.gov.uk
or phone me on 07767 441003, and I'll get back to you as soon as I can.

Jeremy Millar
District Councillor, Hampton Court Ward
August 2012