

Little Birch Parish council

Ward member report, February 2018

Parking matters

Whilst not in Little Birch many local children will attend Much Birch school and others will be affected by the traffic congestion outside the school. I've been concerned about our options for some time. To this end I visited the Poor Clares Monastery next door to the school on 31st January where I met with Mother Superior. Whilst very understanding of the parking problems Mother Superior did not feel able to offer the Monastery's car park as a solution.

Rural youth project

Please see link for more details <http://www.ruralyouthproject.com/>

2017/18 Herefordshire Council Budget

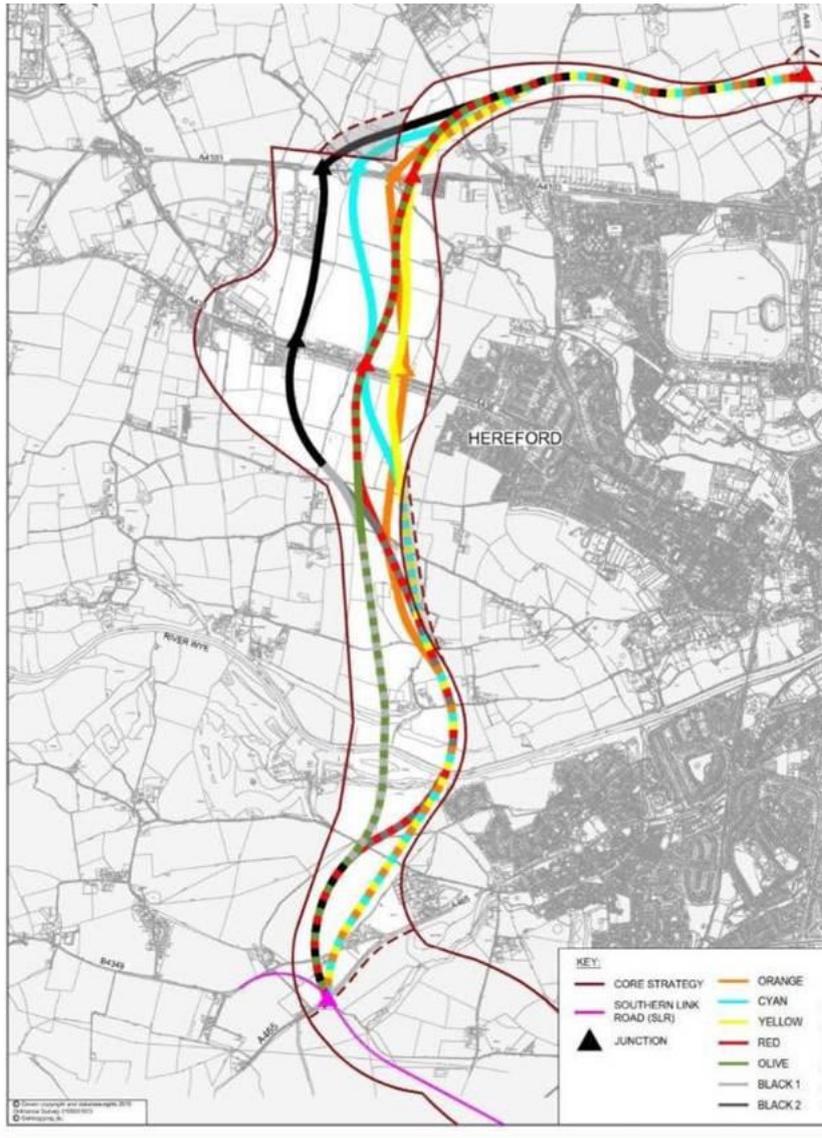
This is the time of the year when the council sets the budget and agrees the council tax for the next financial year. The emerging proposals indicates, in line with the Council's three year financial plan and the indication of the reduction of Government grants, an increase of 2.9% in council tax plus 2% social care making 4.9% . Parish Council. Police and Fire precepts will also be added to the final Council Tax bill. For 2018/19 a balanced budget of approx. £144 million has been identified. This will be funded by

Council tax	£ 99 million	(£93 million in 2017/18	£89m in 2016/17).
Business rates	£33 million	(£32.5 million in 2017/18	£30m in 16/17).
Government grants	£12 million	(£19 million in 2017/18	£27m in 16/17).

The growth of social care budgets and the reduction in Government grants causes the degree of savings and cut backs in services. In setting this budget some £12 million pounds worth of savings has been identified for this next financial year. Expenditure includes adult social care budget at £52 million and the Children's non-school budget will be £23.5 million (both after income fees)

From 2010/11 to 2021 the Council has and will make £96.2 million savings. The Council also approved its capital programme of expenditure. I enclose the link to the councils Medium Term Financial Plan

<http://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/documents/s50054501/Appendix%201%20-%20Medium%20Term%20Financial%20Strategy.pdf>



Hereford Bypass

There has been a long debate about building a bypass around Hereford. The current situation is that Herefordshire Council are committed to building it and have just published five potential routes. The routes are on the western side as crossing the Lugg meadows on the eastern side is not possible.

The routes cross the river between Clehonger and Belmont, pass Breinton through Kings Arce road, go by the new Livestock Market before turning east to go back to A49, north of the new large housing development opposite the racecourse.

There is a lot of local opposition to building this but I believe if we are to deal with the growth of the County and provide a decent future we must have a bypass and that the vast majority of people agree. This is our chance to get a highway most

neighbouring cities and towns achieved decades ago, now is the time to speak up.

The formal consultation on identifying the single preferred route began in early February. The exhibition has now moved to Hereford Library on Friday 16 February where it will remain for the duration of the consultation period, until Tuesday 20 March.

The exhibition can be viewed during normal library opening hours and staff will be available to answer questions on Saturday 24 February and Saturday 10 March between 11am and 2pm.

The exhibition and film showing the route corridors is available to view at Herefordshire.gov.uk/HTP

Planning permission and funding already exists for the section from A49 to A465 and work will begin on this section once the compulsory purchase orders have been completed later this year.

DGH February 2018