

## **Little Birch Parish council**

Ward member report, July 2017

### **New road functionality on website**

I've recently come across the following page showing real time traffic and roadworks – some of you may find this useful!

<https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/info/200196/roads/234/roadworks>

### **Dobbins Cottage**

Since our last conversation there has been movement on Dobbins Cottage and a nearby relative has been found. The Clerk has been copied into correspondence.

### **Children's services**

In the last quarter of 16/17, 117 children were on protection plans which is a significant reduction due to ensuring that the thresholds for intervention are correctly applied.

We have 303 children who are looked after by Herefordshire Council, which is comparatively high. We have a strategy to address this through our delivery of the Children and Young People's Plan.

We have a very good adoption service and a record number of children were successfully adopted last year.

Herefordshire has also successfully increased the number of foster carers, in the face of a national trend where this number has reduced.

### **Hereford Transport Plan ( Including Hereford By pass )**

The consultation ended on 22 May and received almost 1,500 responses. The consultants are now in the process of analysing the results in detail and will provide a report by the end of June.

The exhibition at the library received a large number of visitors, with staff attending each Wednesday to provide more in depth answers raised by the public. In the meantime work on validating the data collection and analysis of the river crossing is currently ongoing. The bypass will allow us to make the city centre a more sustainable travel area, i.e. footpaths, cycle routes, etc.

## **Hereford City link road A49 Edgar Street to Alyestone Hill**

Work is progressing well with particular efforts night and day in Commercial road around the junction. This is a traffic sensitive location with a heavy student footfall hence the requirement for a lot of night work.

When the road opens to the public extra care on signage will be undertaken to avoid any confusion over the new layout especially over the Christmas shopping period. This project is financed by a government grant and will in the future take the pressure off Newmarket street as well as opening up new building land for development along the route.

## **University**

Janusz Kozinski has been formally announced as the founding president and chief executive officer of NMiTE. He has recently given talks at an engineering conference and at Hay Festival and is planning to hold a bigger event at next year's Hay Festival. He has a mailing list of 250 engineering businesses all of whom are being regularly updated.

The new Chairman and vice chairman of the Board are due to be announced soon and in addition to the support of HM Treasury contact is being made with business and charitable contacts.

## **CITY CENTRE UPDATE**

Hereford business groups are working with the Council's economic development team to look at ways to fill the current empty units in the city centre.

The Hereford Business Awards will take place on Friday 29 September at the Three Counties Hotel. There are 16 categories aimed at highlighting how good the businesses in Hereford are and highlighting some of the young up and coming individuals in the city also

A new art installation of umbrellas was put in place over 08 & 09 June. A similar project was run in Bath recently and raised the profile of the area significantly. British Land has paid for it to be installed in Hereford to raise interest in the area and the profile of the shopping centre. It will be in place until September.