



APPENDIX A

August/September 2026

Some news from Herefordshire Council.

We have announced plans to invest more than £9 million of Department for Education capital grant funding to support additional local school places for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities.

A new funding opportunity is open to support small local projects that make a positive difference in communities across Herefordshire. The scheme will help community groups and organisations deliver practical improvements and initiatives that benefit residents, demonstrating once again the important role that local people and volunteers play in strengthening our county.

Highways and infrastructure

Many residents will have experienced, or be aware of, disruption following the temporary closure of the College Road footbridge. The bridge was closed after a detailed structural inspection identified significant deterioration affecting key load-bearing parts. We announced this week that from the beginning of September, the current traffic lights are planned to be replaced by a one-way system from Barrs Court Road towards Widemarsh Street. New barriers will also provide additional protection for pedestrians and cyclists using the adjoining road bridge.

There is positive progress on the Holme Lacy Road improvement scheme, with the first two phases expected to be completed this month, subject to final checks. The wider scheme will make journeys safer, smoother and more reliable, with resurfacing, safer crossings, drainage improvements, traffic-calming measures and better provision for walking, wheeling and cycling. It will also support improved connections between homes, the city centre and major employment areas in the south of Hereford.

New plan sets out how Herefordshire can help nature recover

Herefordshire Council has published its Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS), setting out a framework for protecting and restoring nature across the county.

The strategy identifies 37 priorities and 100 measures and supporting actions, covering habitats including rivers, wetlands, woodlands, orchards, hedgerows, grasslands, farmland and nature-rich urban areas.

It includes an interactive Local Habitat Map, showing important existing areas for biodiversity and places where action could create or improve habitats.

The strategy has been developed with local and national partners and informed by public engagement and more than 600 consultation responses.

The LNRS is a voluntary, high-level framework rather than a compulsory action plan, and is intended to help coordinate nature recovery and identify opportunities that can also benefit communities through improved water and air quality, natural flood management, climate resilience and wellbeing.

Bus service improvements and timetable changes

A number of bus service improvements and timetable changes are taking effect across Herefordshire from 30 August and into early September.

The changes include additional morning, evening and Sunday journeys, alongside timetable adjustments aimed at improving reliability and punctuality.

For further information on any of the above please see the HC website.

Locally.

There are a few outstanding issues for Lyde that I continue to discuss with Officers, the first of course is the bad management of the 'process' to get bus stop shelters in the area, complexities that are cited are communication with National Highways, this i hope, is now nearing the finishing line! (yes,in our 4th year!!!!)

I am supporting the Golf Academy in Lyde to improve the access (road surface) to the business, again this is taking multiple contacts with Officers but i understand this will be completed asap.

Planning applications continue to be received occasionally.

Please feel free to contact me via my email address
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