

Wyson Lane. Speed Limit Consultation

You will have read the Second Initial Statutory Consultation letter from Will Wilson. This is a repeat of the first consultation following requests at the last Parish Council meeting for the speed limit to be extended further. Balfour Beatty were consulted and it was agreed to reconfigure the design to extend the proposed 30mph limit further east to the junction with the A49. Any concerns or comments should be sent to will@adltraffic.co.uk

Many thanks to Will Wilson and his colleagues for being so accommodating and for the work they have carried out preparing the revised Traffic Regulation Order scheme. It is now far more extensive than originally envisaged in 2009 and with the funding in place it is a once and for all opportunity. There may be opposition from the Police on enforcement grounds but I hope with the support of the Parish Council there will be a positive outcome with Wyson becoming safer for walkers, cyclists, horse riders and sensible drivers. I shall enjoy my walks even more !

Highways England and the A49

I will be meeting Richard Timothy the new HE network manager in the Salwey Arms car park later next week. I am hoping this will begin a more constructive relationship between HE and our community as we try to obtain more safety measures at the dangerous Salwey Arms junction. We have been disappointed in the past but there is no point in going over old ground. Cllrs Sebastian Bowen and Vivienne Parry will also be present at this socially distanced meeting. I will be grateful for any comments or questions from the Parish Council and I will report back to your next meeting. I will naturally mention the recent spate of collisions and at the very least will ask for the white lines and faded red markings to be repainted. There will be more traffic as summer approaches and the lockdown eases so I do hope we can make some progress, however limited. I will also ask that our Parish Council and Orleton and Richards Castle councils should be kept informed.

Fly Tipping and Litter in Herefordshire

Some more figures to show just how prevalent this problem is.

685 fly tipping incidents were reported in 2019/20, 190 more than the previous year. There were 404 investigations but only 10 incidents resulted in prosecutions. Fines totalled just £8,000, a pitiful result when the Council spends about £1m a year on litter and fly tipping. There are collections nearly every week in our area according to the locality steward's weekly report. This anti-social behaviour is a blight on our countryside and the A49 looks particularly litter infested at the moment.

Many thanks to 2 Brimfield residents I saw recently returning with bulging bags of litter from Lynch Lane and near the A49. A village litter pick in April before the usual Spring growth in the hedgerows will be welcome so please come and help. Litter picking by individuals or groups is particularly encouraged on April 22, Earth Day.

Leisure Centres. Funding boost

HALO facilities across Herefordshire have received a helping hand to get back up and running when lockdown is lifted. Herefordshire Council has received £460,000 from the National Leisure Recovery Fund to allocate to HALO Leisure. 5 facilities which of course includes our swimming pools will benefit. This is the maximum amount that could have been allocated and seeks to allow these facilities to reopen in due course.

Schools update

It was good to see the return to school of thousands of pupils last week, the first step in lifting the third lockdown. Most schools had remained open for key workers children with teachers also providing lessons online for the majority of pupils. All reports showed pupils delighted to be back to see their teachers and friends again and benefitting from the school routine after months of isolation. Attendance at Herefordshire schools last week was 90% but at least two primary schools had to close due to positive tests among staff. We all hope this will be temporary as the return to school has generally gone smoothly.

Free School Meals

The Council is funding a scheme that ensures 3,200 primary and secondary pupils will receive free school meals during the Easter holiday through their schools. Those eligible will receive free school meals or vouchers for the Easter break which will take the pressure off many families, especially with the recent rise in unemployment. This provision was also provided during the February half term.

Elections

Many parts of the UK have Council and Mayoral elections on May 6th but in Herefordshire the only election is for Police and Crime Commissioners. A number of parishes do however have local by elections and Neighbourhood Plan referendums. Campaigning will be limited by Covid regulations but polling stations will be open on May 6th and residents can apply for postal votes. Scotland and Wales have Parliamentary elections.

Vaccination news

The vaccination process in the county continues to be a great success with 82,000 residents having received at least one dose of vaccine. This is 47% of all residents, compared with the national average of 37%. Those figures relate to last week. There has been a great response of volunteers signing up as car park or door marshals at the 5 centres run by GP surgeries. Ludlow Racecourse and the Three Counties Showground are also being used. If people wish to volunteer they can contact HVOSS (www.hvoss.org.uk). Herefordshire is also taking part in a " local zero " pilot where initial contact tracing for all local cases is handled locally. 4 Test Centres in Leominster, Ledbury, Hereford and Ross are open for bookings.

Many residents are tiring of this third lockdown but we must be patient. To protect everyone else we must all keep going, follow the rules and play our part in reducing coronavirus transmission. The vaccines are safe and effective so please accept the invitation to be vaccinated to protect yourself and others.

Best wishes to everyone for Easter and enjoy all the signs of Spring including the daffodils planted by the Group Parish Council many years ago. They raise our spirits.

John 01584 711 227