

# Herefordshire Now

The residents' magazine from Herefordshire Council | Issue 9 |

April 2022



## Investing in our children

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# Climate and nature grant, making a difference



A community group providing activities for adults with learning disabilities is developing its garden and outdoor space thanks to funding through the community climate and nature grant scheme.

Extra Choices in Herefordshire (ECHO) is using the funding to enhance facilities at their horticultural project at Eaton Barn in Stoke Prior.

The group is just one of many benefiting from the grant, which offered funding of up to £15,000 for projects to help make Herefordshire carbon neutral and nature rich by 2030.

Grants totalling more than £158,000 were awarded through the scheme.



For further information visit [zerocarbon.herefordshire.gov.uk/](http://zerocarbon.herefordshire.gov.uk/)

# Covid Recovery Funding supports New Parent and Toddler Groups

New community groups have sprung up across Herefordshire, offering free learning and play sessions for families with children under 3 years old.

Ten groups successfully applied to Herefordshire Council for a grant of up to £6,000 to start up the parent and toddler sessions in specific targeted areas across the county.

Many parent and toddler groups stopped meeting following periods of isolation during the Covid pandemic, which meant that many families with young children missed out on social interaction. The groups are helping to bring parents and children back together and are encouraging learning and development through play.

Emma attends the new Messy Art Group at Honey Bees Nursery in Leominster with her daughter. Emma said, "This new group is great as messy play for children is limited if you can't drive or have limited access to a vehicle. Play sessions can be costly, especially if you have more than one child. Having these sessions at Honey Bees funded is lovely, plus there's plenty of parking available at this site."



The new groups have been funded from the Government's Covid-19 Outbreak Management Funds grant, as part of Herefordshire Council's Covid-19 recovery plan, to support economic recovery and improving wellbeing in Herefordshire.

For more information on the groups please visit [talkcommunitydirectory.org/parentandtoddlergroups](http://talkcommunitydirectory.org/parentandtoddlergroups)



To view this magazine online visit

[www.herefordshire.gov.uk/herefordshirennow](http://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/herefordshirennow)

*Pictured on the front cover is Laura & Ivor at a new parent and toddler group at Honey Bees Day Nursery, Leominster which is supported by Covid recovery funding. This magazine was printed and delivered to you at a cost of 22p a copy. All details correct at time of print.*

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# Welcome

from Paul Walker,  
Chief Executive Herefordshire  
Council

It's incredible to think of all the changes that have taken place since the country first went into lockdown two years ago. During this time we've been supporting individuals and local businesses during difficult times. You can read about the positive impact this is making on pages 12 and 13.

And with further investment due over the coming months through schemes such as Stronger Town Funding in Hereford and plans for investment in our market towns, there are many exciting developments on the horizon to reinvigorate and encourage visitors to our high streets and attractions, and boost the county's economy.

As I write this, the conflict in Ukraine continues and the country's citizens are experiencing horrendous conditions. The council is helping coordinate donation and distribution efforts support for Ukrainian people living here.

Our county has a long and proud history of welcoming those escaping the most difficult situations. We have offered our support to government plans to help re home families from Ukraine, as we have previously for people from other parts of the world. You can read about the difference a warm welcome in Herefordshire has made to one Afghan family on page 11.

# Improvements to our Children's Services

My arrival as Chief Executive for Herefordshire Council last year coincided with a High Court judgment on Herefordshire Children's Social Care Services. I'd like to take this opportunity to apologise once again for the serious failings that have occurred in Herefordshire Children's Services over many years. As a Father, I was upset and saddened to hear of the ways we have let children and families in the county down, and as an incoming Chief Executive I have made it my top priority to ensure we make the changes required, so that children and families in Herefordshire get the support they need and are entitled to. We must do better.

We took immediate action to address the serious issues highlighted by last year's judgement and we continue on a path of improvement, recognising that such significant changes take time and investment. Since then we have undertaken a thorough analysis of all aspects of our children's social care practice, which has informed our decision to significantly invest in Herefordshire Children's Services. We know that our practice and processes still need improvement in some areas and we are committed to making the changes needed to provide better services for children and families in Herefordshire. Our Social Workers continue to do their best, often in very difficult circumstances, to support families and protect vulnerable children in our community.

Our Improvement programme has already seen increased stability of our social care workforce, reduced caseloads for some staff, increased levels of personal and case supervisions, and increased frequency of visits to children and young people and their families. Further investment helps ensure Children's Social Care Services are adequately resourced and that we provide the foundations for a more secure and resilient service for the future.

Darryl Freeman was appointed as the new Corporate Director for Children and Young People in November 2021. He's been instrumental in working with staff and the council's partners to drive the improvements needed. Darryl said: "We know that a great deal of work still lies ahead of us but I am confident that we have identified the areas of concern and the work towards improving these is continuing at pace. Additional funding allows us to reduce caseloads for Social Workers, provide more frequent and better supervision and management of our social care staff, and allow us to make more changes, more quickly to improve our social work practice for children and families in Herefordshire."

As we continue on our improvement journey, if you have any concerns about the way you or your family have been treated by Herefordshire Children's Social Care services, you can contact us at [herefordshire.gov.uk/careconcerns](https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/careconcerns) or email [careconcerns@herefordshire.gov.uk](mailto:careconcerns@herefordshire.gov.uk)

# About your Council Tax

The council tax each household pays goes towards funding local services

Herefordshire Council's budget is funded by a combination of council tax, local business rates, central government grants and charging for some council services.

Around 70% of Herefordshire Council's main income is from council tax. The council tax you pay helps fund vital services

such as children's services, rubbish and recycling collection, libraries and road repair.

From April 2022, council tax is increasing by 2.99%. Of this, 1.99% goes towards paying for the services we all use and to keep investing in our communities, with the other 1% to be spent on

adult social care services. The increase is needed to support the continued delivery of services and our priority is to get the best possible value for every pound we spend on the people of Herefordshire.

An average band D property will now pay council tax at £1,774.84, which includes the council's

own tax charge (£1,701.70) plus the charges set by each parish council, the Police and Crime Commissioner for West Mercia and Hereford & Worcester Fire Authority.

Each property will receive an individual council tax bill based on their property band and parish council area.

## Help to pay your Council Tax

Some residents will continue to pay no council tax at all, such as young adults who have left care and the council's foster care families.

If you are finding it difficult to pay your council tax you may be eligible for help through the council tax reduction scheme, irrespective of the banding of your home. The amount of reduction you can claim will depend on your circumstances.

There is also assistance available from the council tax discretionary hardship payment.

Available discounts:

- Single person discount
- Disabled person reduction
- Carer or care worker discount
- Student discount or exemption
- Apprentice discount
- Person aged 18 and eligible for child benefit discount
- Patient in care home or hospital discount or exemption
- Severe mental impairment discount
- Person in detention or prison discount

## Save time and go online

We receive lots of calls to our customer service centre about council tax. But did you know that most of the reasons for calling can be done online?

By registering to access council tax online, there's no need to wait for office hours to call. You can access your bill anytime, view your payment history and any due payments, apply for Housing Benefit and Council Tax Reduction - and all of your paperwork is kept online in one place.

Got something to tell us? - If you've moved house or have a change in your circumstances that you need to tell us about, that's not a problem. Tell us online and we will do the rest.

Pay your council tax by Direct Debit - If you're not on Direct Debit, now is the time! You can set up your Direct Debit quickly and securely online and you'll never have to worry about missing a payment again.



If you want to let us know about a change in circumstances, set up a direct debit or need help with your Council Tax see: [herefordshire.gov.uk/counciltax](https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/counciltax)



More information and advice on reduction schemes and allowances can be found on the Herefordshire Council website at [herefordshire.gov.uk/counciltax](https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/counciltax)



# What your money is spent on



**Total to pay per month for an average band D property,**

**£141.81**

# “Inspirational” Citizens’ Climate Assembly

Herefordshire’s first Citizens’ Climate Assembly has been described as “inspirational” by participants.

Held over two evenings and two weekends in January, the assembly brought together an independently selected representative group of residents from across the county to discuss ‘How should Herefordshire meet the challenges of climate change?’

Participants heard from expert speakers on climate change topics including transport, housing, food, farming and land use, and found out more about the scale of the challenge, good practice and the local picture.

They then discussed how things should change in Herefordshire and agreed a number of recommendations which will be used to inform and influence council policy and spending priorities to help Herefordshire become a zero-carbon nature-rich county by 2030.

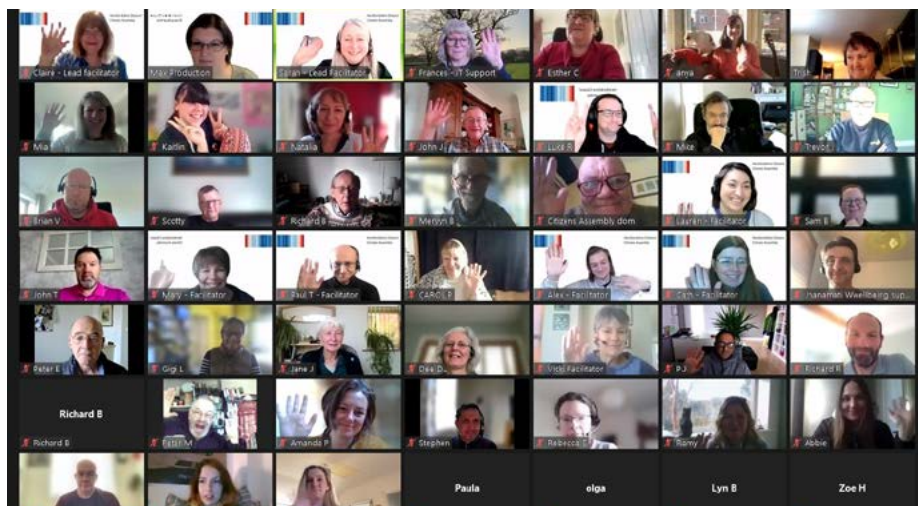
The recommendations followed the three main themes:

**Buildings** – including the use of sustainable building materials, and building and planning regulations

**Transport** – including supporting alternatives to the car

**Land use, food and farming** – including encouraging the purchase of local, sustainable food.

A cross cutting theme was the greater involvement of younger people in decision making.



The assembly also called for a strong emphasis on working in partnership – across council departments and with local groups, organisations, charities, parish councils, schools and businesses



To view the presentation videos and the full list of recommendations see [herefordshire.gov.uk/citizensassembly](https://herefordshire.gov.uk/citizensassembly)

Luke Reynolds took part in the Citizen’s Climate Assembly. Luke explains: “After being presented with each speaker’s presentation we were divided into smaller breakout groups led by a facilitator to discuss what we had heard and formulate some suggestions for Herefordshire Council to listen to and decide on what we have put across to them.

“Hearing first-hand the reality of the true scale of the climate emergency was quite enlightening for me and a real eye opener. I was aware to

some extent the trouble that was being faced with climate change but to understand to the level that was being explained to me I found quite hard to digest at times. We are facing a real threat to our climate and environment that will impact us now, but more so my concern is for the future generations that will feel this more and more if we don’t act now.

“I really feel that we should all be making changes now before it becomes too late. It’s something we can all do together, as one as all - the knowledge I have gained will be invaluable in my own pledge to reduce my carbon footprint and do my bit for the planet and our county.

“Overall the event was a pleasant and insightful experience. I would be happy to attend another assembly and continue to expand my knowledge and get my views across to make a positive change for Herefordshire and help shape its future.”



# Getting it Right – recycle more, waste less

People often want to know more about what can and can't be recycled in their green bin and clear recycling sacks because they want to do more to improve our environment and tackle climate change.

Each year the recycling companies we work with have to reject nearly 3000 tonnes of materials which are not recyclable through our recycling service. That's enough material to fill over 250 bin lorries. This material cannot be processed for recycling, can slow down or block up the sorting machinery and ends up in landfill.

Our Getting it Right campaign aims to help you recycle more and waste less.

You can use the handy pull out from this edition of Herefordshire Now to see what items are accepted in your recycling bins/sacks.

Don't forget that many items which aren't accepted in your recycling bin/sacks can be taken to your local Household Recycling Centre for recycling or returned to some local retailers.



To make sure you're getting it right visit: [herefordshire.gov.uk/recycle](https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/recycle)

The main contaminants are:

- black plastic
- soft plastic (bread/carrier bags, freezer bags and fruit/vegetable packaging)
- film (cling film and film packaging from ready meals)
- nappies
- food
- textiles
- electrical goods (small appliances, batteries and charging cables)



## TAKE CLIMATE & NATURE ACTION NOW

Visit [www.greenerfootprints.co.uk](https://www.greenerfootprints.co.uk) to sign the pledge and access a range of support to help you reduce your carbon footprint

TOGETHER LET'S CREATE THE BEST POSSIBLE FUTURE FOR HEREFORDSHIRE

# Happy nappies - why reusable are a win-win for the environment and your pocket



By the time they reach two and a half years old, it is estimated that a child will have used 5,000 disposable nappies. That equates to a ton of waste, roughly the same weight as a baby whale.

Making the switch to reusable nappies could save you up to £1000 per child. This saving could be increased if you use them again for your next child or purchase second-

hand bundles. It is also one of the easiest ways your family could reduce your waste, saving space in your bin.

Reusable nappies are just as easy to use as disposable ones. They come in a selection of sizes, styles, colours and material to suit your baby's needs. Many grow with your baby or have removable liners, which save washing the whole nappy. Gone are the days of soaking and boiling thick, heavy terry nappies.

The Herefordshire Nappy Library can help you make the switch by offering advice, demonstrations and loan kits that allow you to find the best

reusable nappies for your baby. Its run by parents who can answer any question you have and it's completely free to loan a kit.

Once your child is potty trained and you have no further use for the nappies, you can sell them or donate them to your local nappy library to help more parents make the switch.

Switch to reusable nappies instead of disposables to save the environment, money and reduce your waste.



To find out more [herefordnappies.weebly.com](http://herefordnappies.weebly.com)

# Turn your waste to soil - let's get Herefordshire composting

On average a quarter of what we put in our general rubbish bin could be home composted. That's over 9000 tonnes, enough to fill nearly 900 bin lorries.

Composting is the natural process of turning organic matter such as kitchen food waste (fruit, vegetables, egg shells, tea bags and coffee grounds) or garden waste (leaves, grass and prunings) into highly nutritious soil improver which you can use around your garden to grow healthy plants and vegetables.

It's a great and easy way to reduce the waste in your bin and by using the compost in your garden you are

helping to maintain and improve soil quality.

Don't worry if you don't have space for a compost bin you can create a small heap or trench.

To make the best compost remember the 50 /50 rule -

50% greens (fruit/vegetable peelings, cut grass/flowers, tea bags and coffee grounds) and 50% browns (egg shells, autumn leaves, paper/cardboard).

This mix will encourage aerobic bacteria, worms and other beneficial bugs to break down the material thoroughly.

You will need to turn your compost every now and again to add air to speed up the composting process. Keep feeding your compost bin and once the material is crumbly, dark and has an earthy smell its ready to use.

Head over to Recycle Now and have a look at their FAQs and step-by-step guides for handy tips on how to start. Compost bins, kitchen caddies and water butts can be purchased from Get Composting.



To find out more [recyclenow.com/reduce-waste/composting](http://recyclenow.com/reduce-waste/composting)  
[getcomposting.com/en-gb/](http://getcomposting.com/en-gb/)





# What can I recycle in my green bin/clear sacks?



**Please remember...**

- ✓ Rinse out all food and drink containers
- ✓ Make sure your recycling items are dry
- ✓ Don't recycle cardboard that has food residues on it
- ✓ Place items loose into your sacks - please don't put them into carrier bags

**household metal packaging**

- ✓ Food tins
- ✓ Drink cans
- ✓ Aerosol cans
- ✓ Sweet/biscuit tins
- ✓ Metal jar lids

**household plastic packaging**

- ✓ Drinks bottles
- ✓ Milk/juice bottles
- ✓ Detergent/fabric conditioner bottles
- ✓ Toiletry bottles
- ✓ Yoghurt/cream/custard pots
- ✓ Margarine/ice cream tubs
- ✓ Fruit/vegetable punnets
- ✓ Plastic meat/fish trays
- ✓ Plant pots
- ✓ Cake/pastry trays
- ✓ Soup/sauce pots
- ✗ No black plastic



**mixed paper & card**

- ✓ Newspapers/magazines
- ✓ Phone directories
- ✓ Catalogues/brochures
- ✓ Junk mail/leaflets
- ✓ Letters
- ✓ Greetings cards
- ✓ Envelopes
- ✓ Thin cardboard boxes eg. cereal boxes, ready meal boxes
- ✓ Corrugated/thick cardboard boxes
- ✓ Egg boxes
- ✓ Kitchen/toilet roll tubes

**cartons**

- ✓ Milk/juice/smoothie cartons
- ✓ Fabric conditioner cartons
- ✓ Soup/chopped tomato cartons
- ✓ Custard cartons

**mixed glass bottles & jars**

NB: Recycling bins only  
Glass is NOT accepted in sacks

- ✓ Water/cordial bottles
- ✓ Food jars and bottles
- ✓ Wine/beer/spirits bottles
- ✓ Toiletry pots
- ✓ Perfume bottles

**These items are NOT currently collected in your recycling bin/sacks**

To find alternative ways to recycle or reuse these items, visit [www.recyclenow.com](http://www.recyclenow.com)

Please don't put them in your recycling bin/sacks - they can contaminate other recycling and may break the sorting machines at EnviroSort.

- ✗ Black plastic
- ✗ Plastic film and carrier bags
- ✗ Textiles
- ✗ Electronic equipment and batteries
- ✗ Tissues and kitchen roll
- ✗ Crisp packet, pet food pouches and biscuit wrappers
- ✗ Polystyrene
- ✗ Anything not listed above

# Don't throw it, repair it

Many items we throw away haven't reached the end of their useful life. They often just need a bit of care or repair. For example, a new zip can give a pair of trousers a new lease of life. The same can often be said about replacing the screen on a phone or tablet.

Repairing items you love reduces the use of raw materials as well as the energy needed to make new products or recycle old ones.

Repair cafés are popping up all around the world. Run by local skilled volunteers they reduce waste to landfill by repairing items like toys, furniture, household goods, electronics and clothing. Repairs are usually free but donations towards the café's running costs are welcomed.

Launched in 2020, Repair Cafe Ledbury has been so successful it's moved into larger premises to accommodate more repairs. It's open once a month and tackles around 40 repairs each time. Booking is essential and more information can be found at: [www.repaircafeledbury.org.uk](http://www.repaircafeledbury.org.uk).

If you want to follow in Ledbury's footsteps, funding of up to £2,500 is available to Herefordshire-based non-profit groups, organisations and parish councils to cover the initial set up costs or expand an existing repair cafe. For more information please contact [craig.cornish@herefordshire.gov.uk](mailto:craig.cornish@herefordshire.gov.uk).

It's time to challenge the throw away culture and embrace REPAIR.



10



from  
1 April

## Household Recycling Centres move to summer opening hours

The new summer opening times will be 8am-6pm on these days

<b>Bromyard:</b>	Tuesday, Saturday and Sunday
<b>Hereford:</b>	7 days a week
<b>Kington:</b>	Friday, Saturday and Sunday
<b>Ledbury:</b>	Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday
<b>Leominster:</b>	7 days a week
<b>Ross-on-Wye:</b>	Monday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday (10am to 5pm on Bank Holidays)



It is important that residents continue to book slots to visit a Household Recycling Centre. This can be done online or if you are unable to book online, contact us on 01432 260051 and we will book a slot for you.

To book online and for more information, please visit [Herefordshire.gov.uk/recycling](http://Herefordshire.gov.uk/recycling)

# Warm welcome for refugees

Herefordshire has a long and proud history of extending support to refugees who wish to settle in the UK.



Last year, Herefordshire Council committed to help resettle at least another 125 refugees from Afghanistan by 2025, and as part of this will support the arrival of 85 people, in family groups, by June 2022.

In August 2021, around 15,000 people were airlifted from Kabul to the UK to escape Taliban-controlled Afghanistan and start to rebuild their lives. Herefordshire was one of 300 councils that stepped up to offer permanent accommodation for Afghans looking to settle here.

A number of families have already been re-homed in the county with

support from a specialist orientation service to ensure they are able to integrate into Herefordshire life and to live independently. This has been further enabled by the generous support offered by the voluntary sector and other organisations.

One of those receiving a warm welcome is Assad who has moved here with his young family.

Assad spent 16 years in the British and Afghan Army before working in international companies in Baghlan province in the north of Afghanistan. When the Taliban took control Assad was under threat of reprisal. He explains: "When Afghanistan collapsed we were in danger. I did a lot of operations with the army which meant that while Afghans in general were safe, those who worked with the British were not.

"The British Army said they would help me and my family to leave. Afghanistan collapsed on 15 August and we got on the aeroplane on 27 August – it was a very, very scary time. I was fortunate – I know there are people who were with the army until the last day and are still in Afghanistan, too scared to go home

in the evening. Their struggle to leave continues.

"When we first landed at Heathrow we had to spend 18 days in quarantine and were then moved to another hotel in London. When we were asked where we wanted to go, I chose Herefordshire as I had heard it was a nice place with good people.

"We moved to Herefordshire in December and in the end this is good. Herefordshire has lovely people. If I've needed something I have asked and people have helped. Local people have even bought things for the children to our home.

"I plan to start college in April. I spent a very short time at agricultural university in Afghanistan before joining the army. I don't plan to study agriculture but want to learn a trade such as being an electrician."



To find out more about the support available for refugees in the county, please visit the Talk Community website [talkcommunity.org](http://talkcommunity.org)

## SUPPORT IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Communities across the county are coming together to offer support to others, through Talk Community.

Visit the Talk Community website to find out more about the support already available in your local community and how you can get involved. [www.talkcommunity.org](http://www.talkcommunity.org)

TALK COMMUNITY



# Shop local to support covid recovery

As individuals and businesses looked to recover following the impact of measures to prevent the spread of covid, the council launched a number of schemes to help. Funded through the Government's covid recovery fund, £6m was used for a range of successful initiatives to support economic recovery and improve wellbeing. One of these schemes – Shop Local – has been hugely successful benefitting hundreds of independent businesses across the county.

## Helping a business turn the page

Herefordshire bookshop The Children's Bookshelf is a small independent business that was impacted during the covid lockdown restrictions.



Fast forward 18 months and it's a very different story. Now in a new shop in the Maylord Centre in Hereford, business owner Duncan says thanks to the Shop Local scheme, the business is on the up.

"We felt honoured and privileged that so many people wanted to spend their Shop Local card with us and support us. It has really helped.

"Quite often we rely on passing trade and footfall, that's the foundation of all of it really, we have to have people through that door and that's what the Shop Local scheme has done – it's brought people in. We know if they come in, they'll increase their spending habits with us and they've been spending the full amount on the pre-paid card which has been brilliant."

## Shop Local sets tills ringing

Laura, managing director of Hey Honey, cannot speak highly enough of the Shop Local scheme. Laura explains: "We were really hoping for a big boost at Christmas but then, just before, came the announcement of new restrictions and the mood changed. As a result, we had quite a tough time over the festive period.

"But I have to say the Shop Local initiative made a massive difference. It has been really heart-warming and endearing to see people coming into

the shop with their cards because they have wanted to spend the money with independent traders.

"People have been visiting the shop stating that they knew exactly where they were going to use the Shop Local card as soon as it arrived. They have been incredibly loyal, and it means the world to us.

"The scheme really has made a massive difference."



# Enhancing the City environment

Visitors to Hereford over the next few months will notice a number of improvements taking place.

Investment of £6million (funded by Herefordshire Council £3m, and Marches LEP £3m), will bring an improved environment for shoppers and visitors, better facilities for cyclists, measures to improve air quality and replacement paving.

The improvements follow a difficult time for local traders due to government covid restrictions, and aim to encourage people to spend more time in the City when they visit, helping to boost the local economy.

In addition to the new trees and seating installed last year, many more trees are being introduced around the City. Air quality is set to be further enhanced with new moss filters which naturally filter impurities from the air.



Cyclists will benefit from new, cycle shelters and a new cycle contraflow along St Owen Street making it safer and easier for them to travel into the City Centre from the east. And work to improve drainage and paving in High Town, including replacement paving in Widemarsh Street (due to start in summer 2022) will make it more pleasant to walk around.

The council is also working with businesses along Broad Street, King Street and the surrounding area to consider what future improvements can be made in the Cathedral and River Wye Quarter of the City – an area unique in its heritage and feel.



To find out more  
[herefordshire.gov.uk/  
developmentsinhereford](https://herefordshire.gov.uk/developmentsinhereford)

# Investing in Leominster's heart & heritage

New banner signage in Leominster town centre is heralding multi-million pound investment to help restore some of the town's historic buildings, improve public spaces and create a more vibrant place for visitors and businesses.

Leominster is one of a number of high streets in England to receive a share of the £95million government fund for heritage regeneration projects, led by Historic England working with local councils and the community.

The Leominster High Street Heritage Action Zone aims to renew and rejuvenate Leominster's High Street and conservation area.

Herefordshire Council is working with Leominster Town Council, Historic England and in partnership with residents, businesses and community groups to deliver a range of projects to help restore buildings that are rich in heritage, and improve surrounding areas.

Grants are available towards the repair of historic buildings and reinstatement of traditional features such as shop fronts with local property owners able to reclaim up to 80% towards the cost of the restoration.

Corn square and nearby public spaces are also set to benefit from

investment to improve the experience of visitors to the town.



To find out more  
[herefordshire.gov.uk/  
history-lives/high-street-  
heritage-action-zone](https://herefordshire.gov.uk/history-lives/high-street-heritage-action-zone)

# Celebrating social workers



Ten Herefordshire newly qualified children’s social workers received a certificate to celebrate their success in achieving their Assessed and Supported Year in Employment on World Social Work Day, 15 March. The ASYE programme provides newly qualified social workers with extra support during their first year of work and helps to develop their skills, knowledge and professional confidence.

Our social work team make an invaluable contribution to our communities and are dedicated to improving the lives of children and young people in Herefordshire.

Newly qualified social worker, Alfred, said: “What I enjoy most about the job is the fact that I am able to work positively with children, their families and carers in ensuring that a child’s wellbeing is a priority at all times.”

Social work is a challenging and varied job. Every day is different

because families face lots of different issues. If you choose a career in

Protecting a child or young person from harm and abuse and keeping families together during difficult times is an extremely rewarding experience and means the child has a better chance of a happy, healthy and thriving future.



To find out more about social work visit [nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/job-profiles/social-worker](https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/job-profiles/social-worker)



# Play Your Part

Many of us were relieved when the Covid restrictions were relaxed. However, there has recently been an increase in infection rates. This makes it clear that the virus has not gone away. We’re asking you to continue the good habits we all adopted during lockdown restrictions.

Please continue to wash your hands regularly with soap and water, wear a face covering where required (eg healthcare settings) and in crowded areas – remember to give people plenty of space and make sure there’s good ventilation indoors or consider meeting others outside. Follow government guidance if you have symptoms, stay at home and avoid contact with other people if you feel unwell. Get your booster jab as soon as you are eligible and take up the offer of the flu vaccinations.

## We’re searching for stars

Do you know someone who did something special during the pandemic? If so, we want to hear about them. We’re not talking about doctors and nurses, whose brilliance has been recognised in other ways.

We’re talking about people in the community, local businesses, organisations – even friends and family members who went out of their way to help others. People who picked up prescriptions, delivered shopping, checked in on vulnerable people... whatever they did to help others, we want to recognise them by telling their stories. If you can help us find Herefordshire’s community stars, please visit our website and submit your story.



For further information, visit: [herefordshire.gov.uk/playyourpart](https://herefordshire.gov.uk/playyourpart)

# Looking after Herefordshire children's teeth

Children under five years old are taking part in a supervised tooth brushing scheme in 20 schools and childcare facilities, as part of a Herefordshire public health



programme to improve oral health in young children.

Staff in schools and nurseries are including an extra tooth brushing session into the children's daily routine to encourage good oral hygiene habits, reduce tooth decay and keep teeth and gums in tip top condition.

Tooth decay is the most common reason for children under five being admitted to hospital to have teeth removed. Almost a third of five year-olds in Herefordshire have some signs of tooth decay, with an average of one or more decayed, missing or filled teeth, meaning that the county has

the highest cases of dental decay in under-fives in the West Midlands.



For more information on oral health, including top tooth brushing tips for children, visit [herefordshire.gov.uk/oralhealth](https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/oralhealth)



Look out for  
National Smile Month  
16 May – 16 June 2022.



## FREE BUS TRAVEL ALL WEEKEND

Travel anywhere  
in the county by  
bus all weekend  
for free



Free bus travel at weekends is being funded as part of the council's Covid-19 recovery plan, making it easier and cheaper to get around, connecting people and communities, and getting people back to enjoying our vibrant city and market towns.



Visit [www.herefordshire.gov.uk/recovery](https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/recovery) or scan the QR code for more information

# Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

This year we will be celebrating The Queen's Platinum Jubilee, marking 70 years of service to the people of the United Kingdom, the Realms and the Commonwealth.

Events will be taking place throughout the year, including a four-day UK bank holiday weekend, Thursday 2 June to Sunday 5 June.

The four days of celebrations will include public events and community activities as well as national moments of reflection.

## The Queen's Big Jubilee Lunch

The council and the Herefordshire Lieutenancy are encouraging residents to come together and host a street party to celebrate The Queen's Big Jubilee Lunch on Sunday 5 June.

For ideas on getting together with your neighbours for your street party and information on any permits you may need see the council website [www.herefordshire.gov.uk/jubilee2022](http://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/jubilee2022)

You are encouraged to apply for any permits early and at least six weeks in advance of your event.



PLATINUM JUBILEE CELEBRATION

You can also get involved in Jubilee celebrations other ways such as planting a tree for the Jubilee or The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Beacons. All details are on the website.

actionfraud.police.uk/mulletover

# Spotted a suspicious text message?

Suspicious text messages should be forwarded to 7726. This enables your provider to investigate the origin of the text and take action, if found to be malicious.

7726

ActionFraud  
National Fraud & Cyber Crime Reporting Centre  
www.actionfraud.police.uk

Cyber Aware

TO STOP FRAUD



If you would like help to understand this document, or would like it in another format or language, please email: [communications@herefordshire.gov.uk](mailto:communications@herefordshire.gov.uk)



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CBP011517

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