

Ward Councillors Report

Ward Updates – February 2022

- Natalie confirmed that she has inspected the work carried out in the parish on trees and stumps. She felt the work had been carried out to a good standard and was pleased with the results.
- I have received several complaints from one resident regarding a bush near their property on Chichester Way/Stanbrook Road. The issue has been logged and I have explained to the resident the bush was originally planted there to stop people jumping over the walls. As a result of the complaint the bush will now be reduced in height, rather than trimmed. I have let the resident know. Currently 400 hedges and bushes on the BBLP list so I am unable to confirm a date for action.
- Planning application received for 29 Oulton Avenue, an extension over a garage. I have been out and can see no issue, but I will go back out and speak to neighbours.
- At Council on 28th January, it was agreed to encourage organisers of firework displays in the county to use “low noise” fireworks, to give at least 2 months’ notice of large, planned events and we backed a public awareness campaign on the impact of fireworks on animal welfare and vulnerable people. The Council also agreed to lobby the government on the decibel limit of fireworks sold nationally and ask officers to investigate bringing a system of consent for firework displays on council owned land.
- There is a Valentines event at Belmont Community Centre taking place on 19th February 2022, 6.30 pm – 9 pm , costing £10 per person
- I will be doing a ward tour with the Chief Executive of Herefordshire Council in February. I aim to show him the community centre/library, some of the parks, Abbey View, Benjamin Park and Northolme as well as a walk towards the Abbey. I will be showing him the great work the Parish Council and the Parish Handy Person have been doing.
- 11th February 2022 is the budget setting meeting of full council which will take place at the Three Counties Hotel. The proposal is for a 2.99% increase for the next financial year. This is broken down into 1.99% uplift in the base council tax and an additional 1% ring fenced towards pressures in adult social care.

It is worth noting that two thirds of our budget is made up of the social care services that government requires that we provide by law, so we only have one third of our budget to cover all the other services that the majority of people in the county see the benefit of and value.

Council Tax is a form of local taxation which government expects us to raise to offset the withdrawal of central government funding – presently representing a loss of more than £100m annually to Herefordshire from Westminster.