

## **Report of Cllr Elissa Swinglehurst Ward Councillor for Llangarron Ward JUNE 2023**

Serving the parishes of Welsh Newton and Llanrothal, Llangarron, Marstow, Bridstow, Peterstow, and Sellack.

### **After the dust has settled.**

The County Council election gave no overall control of the administration of the council to any single group with 21 Conservatives, 12 Liberal Democrats, 9 Greens, 1 Labour and 10 Independents in four different groups or individuals. After a couple of weeks of discussions it was clear groups were not inclined to form coalitions so the Conservatives have formed a minority administration with one of the Independents. This will be challenging given some of the problems that need to be dealt with – in particular Children’s services, the Phosphate issue and Highways.

### **Elevated and Elated**

I am very happy to report that I am now the Cabinet Member for the Environment as well as the Deputy Leader of the Council. This does mean that I may be attending fewer parish council meetings as I have other things I have to do as well and will have to pick and choose.

If I can’t make a parish meeting please let me know if there is anything I can help with. I am as willing and determined to do my best for the parishes as I ever was but until I can find a way to be in two places at one time there may be absences.

### **Taking a turn.**

On June 10<sup>th</sup> a relay started passing a baton from Ben Nevis to Big Ben to inspire the nation to take collective action to limit climate change and protect the natural world. I am proud to be carrying the baton through a section in Hereford from the Courtyard to the Kindle Centre on the 30<sup>th</sup> June.

Why not join in? [Herefordshire Council | Running Out of Time Teams \(running-out-of-time.com\)](https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/running-out-of-time) code HCGUEST.

### **Greener Footprints**

This is an initiative that aims to encourage businesses and individuals to do a little something for the planet. By making a pledge you can play your part – it’s not hard to do. I have pledged to eat more local, seasonal food. No great hardship thanks to the Milk Shed, local veg producers, friends with chickens and excellent farm shops! [Greener Footprints Week - Herefordshire Green Network \(hgnetwork.org\)](https://www.hgnetwork.org)

### **Potholes and Flooding in Llangarron Parish**

At the request of the Llangarron Parish Council I arranged for the Cabinet Member for highways, Cllr Barry Durkin, to take a tour of some of the hot spots in Llangarron Parish. We examined the road between Llangrove and the edge of the parish near Trewen, we had a look at the BOAT (By-way open to all traffic) by the village hall and discussed what can be done about the overall issue of BOATs, we also looked at three specific areas where there are drainage issues.

We also discussed the road speeds on the A4137 and the desirability of speed restrictions there and through Llancloudy and Three Ashes. We also followed up on the 20mph speed restriction that has been applied for in Llangrove.

I have a few actions to pursue and I am confident that Cllr Durkin will do his utmost to improve the situation.

We then stopped off and had a lovely cup of tea and a chat in Llangrove Village Hall.

#### **Please report potholes and concerns**

<https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/roads-1/report-problems-road>

Report a serious pothole, flooded road or highway obstruction- Balfour Beatty Living Places : **01432 26180**

#### **Footpaths issues –**

- **PROW - [PROW@herefordshire.gov.uk](mailto:PROW@herefordshire.gov.uk)**
- **PROW No – [01432 383 550](tel:01432383550)**

**Report fly tipping it will be dealt with in a much quicker time frame. by either calling the Contact Centre on 01432 261800 or by logging the fly tipping via the council website on the links below as your**

**[https://link.edgepilot.com/s/f452e836/Hy5YWk\\_SgEGkleekL2ROFQ?u=https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/info/200226/report\\_a\\_problem/98/fly\\_tipping](https://link.edgepilot.com/s/f452e836/Hy5YWk_SgEGkleekL2ROFQ?u=https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/info/200226/report_a_problem/98/fly_tipping)**

#### **Planning**

Amongst my other areas of responsibility is the development of the new Local Plan (Core Strategy) as well as other policies. We are progressing this reasonably swiftly but there is still a bit of evidence base to come in and the new administration is keen to ensure that the plan meets their ambitions for the county.

I am still dealing with planning on a day to day basis as well and have redirected a number of local applications to the planning committee where I will be able to speak on behalf of residents.

#### **Council Meetings**

I have been doing a lot of training and having a lot of briefing meetings to get up to speed with all that I need to know about my new role. I am fortunate in having already working on the Climate and Nature Task and Finish and the Waste Contract Task and Finish as well as serving on the Environment and Sustainability Scrutiny Committee so I already have a pretty good idea of what is involved.

We have held the first full council meeting where the new Chairman of the Council was elected as well as the new leader of the Council (Cllr Roger Philips and Cllr Jonathan Lester respectively). Very pleased to say that a local resident, Cllr Stef Simmons, is not only a newly elected councillor (representing Ledbury South for the Green Party) but also she has been elected to the position of Vice-Chairperson of the Council. Congratulations Stef!

We have held our first cabinet meeting where the business was partly on going from the previous administration (Performance and budget report) and partly the first opportunity for the new

administration to start to have an impact. There was a full debate about the cabinet's decision to re-examine the options for the library in Hereford. The decision had been taken to relocate it to the Maylords Orchard Shopping area and there is no doubt that this would be perfectly adequate but the cabinet wants to just make sure that there isn't a more suitable venue for consideration bearing in mind the importance of culture to the life of the city.

### **River Wye**

This month I have attended a roundtable discussion with the Secretary of State, Therese Coffey, as well as a meeting at No 10 Downing Street with advisors from the PMO and DLUHC. I also took part in a Save the Wye event at Hay Festival.

The next Nutrient Management Board is coming up in July. There are likely to be some changes to the governance and chairing of the board so we will see what the future holds.

The Wye is turning green again and although there are patches of Ranunculus that are recovering it is still far from where it needs to be. Natural England have now reclassified the river's condition as unfavourable declining which takes into account the decline in species (salmon, White clawed crayfish and macrophytes).

### **Cheers!**

I am doing an informal drop in on the last Wednesday of every month at the Royal Arms in Llangrove. Feel free to come along to talk politics or potholes over a pint.

That's all for now.