

GREEN VIEW LEOMINSTER



YOUR HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCILLORS,
from left, Felicity Norman, Trish Marsh, Jenny Bartlett

Leominster Referendum

Polling cards sent to all Leominster homes for a town referendum.

Years of work by local volunteers has resulted in the Leominster Area Neighbourhood Plan - now at its final and critical referendum stage. Jenny Bartlett says: "This is an important milestone – once approved, Herefordshire Council must take it into consideration when assessing planning applications in our parish and town. It protects us from speculative developments in places where we may not want them. Please vote on the 28th February - without a successful 'yes' vote Leominster's plan cannot be adopted as statutory planning policy by Herefordshire Council and the town could be left vulnerable. Both Herefordshire Council and the Planning Inspector made a number of changes but it is still a good plan and much better than having no plan at all. Since Leominster applied in 2012 to write a Plan there have been numerous consultations, newsletters and updates. Having been involved from the start I'm pleased all the hard work has paid off." Postal votes are available, and documents can be viewed online at www.tinyurl.com/leominsterplan or there are copies at the Town Council and Leominster Library.



Current congestion impacts on residents says Trish Marsh. Photo – Chris Watson

'Health Hub' Plan for Town Surgeries

Green councillors are campaigning for substantial NHS investment in Leominster so the town's cramped GP surgeries can relocate to a spacious new 'Health Hub.' A Project Board, which includes members from the two medical practices at Westfield Walk, has identified a suitable site at Mill Street. The Green councillors – Jenny Bartlett, Trish Marsh and Felicity Norman – are working together with Conservative councillor John Stone, to drum up support and attract funding.

Said Trish Marsh: "Current facilities at both Westfield Walk surgeries are already 40 per cent below recommended space requirements for the town's population. The surgeries' location, lack of parking and traffic congestion has a negative effect on the town in general and local residents in particular."

Pressures will greatly increase in coming years due to Herefordshire Council's plans for major expansion of Leominster. Your councillors are calling on NHS Property Services "to agree the outline business case and baseline calculations for Leominster's requirements" - and give the health hub the green light.

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Listening to your Concerns – Our Survey

Potholes and poor condition of roads and pavements topped the list of local concerns when Leominster's Green councillors carried out an extensive survey of residents' views, *writes Felicity Norman* - thanks to everyone who took part! We asked every neighbourhood - and the overwhelming issue was improving road safety and maintenance. Many said it was not just repairing potholes but *quality* of repairs that mattered. Other key issues were protecting jobs and local businesses (local shops were mentioned often), care for the elderly and education and care of young people. Waste and recycling services were judged 'good' – though many wished garden waste could be composted rather than dumped in general waste. On housing, though more than 50% said providing more homes was very important, many raised issues over what type of housing was planned. Among other frequent concerns were more visible policing, improving the town centre, NHS services, car parking, an E-W bypass and youth facilities. We are pressing for action on better road and path maintenance and other key issues from the survey.

Reasons to be Cheerful...!

Blessing the apple trees

Town crier Richard Brookman and Leominster's Jenny Pipes morris dancers led a jolly procession of townspeople from Corn Square to the Community Orchard. Apple trees were blessed with song and cider in keeping with the Herefordshire 'wassail' custom. Wild daffodils – bulbs were planted on Southern Avenue roundabout by the town council Environment Team and Leominster in Bloom. Leominster's Verdun Oak, grown from an acorn from the WW1 battlefield, was the centre of a moving ceremony. Saplings grown from the oak's own seed were presented to local organisations. Alice in Wonderland – Leominster in Bloom will transform the Buttercross arcade on the Alice theme this summer, part of a grand plan for colourful planters depicting children's stories. Help welcome! info@leominsterinbloom.org.uk



The Jenny Pipes Morris Dancers

No Waste Leominster!

For many years traders have asked me why they cannot recycle their waste, *writes Felicity Norman*. Now businesses across the town are being offered a solution.

Leominster Town Council is to launch a scheme for collection of trade waste for recycling – No Waste Leominster (NoW). It will start with cardboard, a large part of all waste. The scheme, the first in Herefordshire, will run in partnership with Bin-it, a small waste management company specialising in recycling. As with all projects taken on by the Town Council this will benefit the environment, and any profits will be shared to boost further community projects.

Can You Help?

We are the only party locally to circulate a regular newsletter (thanks to our volunteers). Our councillors are among the busiest people in town, attending to council commitments while remaining 'hands on' with local voluntary initiatives. Local voters repeatedly back our winning team. With your support, we can continue to grow the Green alternative. We need help delivering newsletters, speaking with residents and fundraising (we raise all our own funds) – and we are always on the look-out for potential new councillors. To find out more you may like to join us for 'Green Drinks' at a local pub or on our sociable monthly walks. For information please contact Diane Palmer - dpalmer5k@hotmail.com

WORKING FOR LEOMINSTER ALL YEAR ROUND