

Weobley Ward

2017 October / November Report

City Link Road

This is coming to completion by the end of the year. The current road closure southbound on the A49 at Newtown road and Farriers Way will re-open on 10th November. This work is reducing the size of the roundabout and adding an extra lane on the south bound approach.

South Wye Transport Package

Land acquisition continues with a couple of land owners still negotiating and the rest agreed. It is expected that road construction will start in the spring of 2019.

Hereford Bypass

Following the recent consultation on route options, the Council is bringing forward a choice of options for further consultation with a preferred option choice available for consideration next spring or early summer. The Council is working with all partners with regard major funding for this project as the business case progresses.

University

A group from NMITE (New Model in Technology & Engineering, the University) and Herefordshire Council recently went to Lincoln to learn from that city's experience as the last city to get a new university. At a subsequent meeting Council representatives discussed how the county could apply the learnings of this visit to Hereford and the wider county. Plans are certainly accelerating with the university team recruiting for several key posts between now and Christmas. If they are to get their first tranche of students to start on time then there is no time to lose.

Waste Update

The Waste to Energy Plant at Hartlebury, Worcestershire, is performing in advance of expectations. Recycling rates remain at 41% against a national average target of 50% by 2020. It is hoped that the government will agree to allowing the bottom ash of the new plant to be included in the calculations (as they already have in Wales) which could well help to bring the County closer to the 50% target.

Blue School House

This now controversial redevelopment is now opened and now houses the Department of Works and Pensions as new tenants.

In short this debacle concerning the over-spend, widely advertised, was the result of a suggested mistake and oversight by a Council Officer. An investigation is being conducted as to what happened, why and whether the measures and safeguards already in place were strong enough to stop this mistake. This hopefully eventually published investigation should determine who is responsible and who should be accountable.

Small Holdings Disposal

The first contract was completed on Friday 15th September with others following swiftly thereafter. To date 8 sales out of 34 have been completed to a value of £1,272,580 and all are expected to complete by December in line with original expectation.

This completes my report.

Kind regards

Regards

Cllr Mark Cooper