

Weobley Ward
2018/2019 December/January Report

Flu vaccinations

- Herefordshire residents who are most susceptible to flu are being urged to make an appointment with their local GP practice or pharmacy to book a free flu vaccination as soon as possible. Vaccination against the flu virus is the single best protection against a potentially very serious illness.
- This year the most vulnerable members of Herefordshire's communities will be better protected from flu than ever before, with at-risk groups being offered the most effective vaccine available.
- Residents are eligible for a free NHS flu vaccination, if they fall under one of the following at-risk groups. You can obtain free NHS flu vaccination from your GP or local community pharmacy if you are:-

Under 64 years with certain medical conditions

Over 65 years

Pregnant

A carer

Living in a long-stay residential care home or other long-stay care facility

A front-line health and social care worker

Children can receive the vaccine from their GP Practice if they are:

Aged 2 to 17 years and have certain medical conditions

Aged 2 or 3 years

Children in reception class or in schools years 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 will be invited to receive the nasal flu vaccination by Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership NHS Trust. This is normally given whilst your child is at school. For more information about the programme please visit their website

- All those eligible are encouraged to get their free vaccine as early as possible to protect themselves and their families before flu reaches its seasonal peak. To find out more about the flu vaccine and whether you are eligible visit www.nhs.uk/flu vaccine or alternatively speak to your GP, midwife or pharmacist. To find out which community pharmacies are offering the flu vaccine locally, including their opening hours, go to the Herefordshire CCG website.

- It is interesting to note that although the majority of us might not get full blown correctly diagnosed flu, as opposed to a heavy cold, we are all potential carriers so it is important to protect those that are vulnerable especially, when at this time of year, we are all about to meet up to enjoy the festive season.

Transport & roads

- The Department for Transport on the 12 November announced yet further money, nationwide, to fight out pothole war. Herefordshire is to get just over £5m of this £43.5m pie.
- There are over 2,000 miles of roads in Herefordshire, and more than 23,000 jobs were raised for carriageway repairs in the last financial year, with the council's contractor Balfour Beatty Living Places, carrying out repair works totalling £1.77 Million.
- The money will allow HC, working in partnership with BBLP, to improve the condition of more than 50 B, C and U class roads in the county. A scheme of works is currently being planned.
- In response to a fivefold increase in defects reported on the county's roads this year following the harsh winter of last, there have been more pothole crews working on the network. The use of a spray injection repair machine has enabled higher volumes of potholes to be repaired quickly and effectively.
- Herefordshire Council is also encouraging local people to make use of our easy-to-use online pothole reporting facility to highlight any that they are aware of. This will support the council's own inspection team that examines all A roads monthly and all roads within the county at least once every year. All reported potholes are professionally inspected and repaired within agreed service times.

Cyber Security Centre

A joint venture between the Council and the University of Wolverhampton has been set up to deliver and operate the Centre for Cyber Security on land owned by the Council. This is at the Hereford Enterprise Zone, with associated legal considerations and financial contribution from the Council.

The Council's involvement within the Centre for Cyber Security will help realise the following corporate plan objectives in supporting growth of our economy through:-

- Make best use of existing land and identify new opportunities to enable existing business to study and expand and new businesses to locate to the area.

- Make Herefordshire more attractive to younger age groups for a more balanced age profile improving local access to skills training so that everyone can benefit from economic prosperity.

This completes my report.

Kind regards

Regards

Cllr Mark Cooper