

Linda,

Thank you for the notification of the meeting.

My apologies but I am unable to attend this meeting of the Parish Council due to a long standing prior engagement. I hope in the New Year that my dairy might be freed up a little although I note that I will be unable to attend on the 17th January.

Please bring any matters of concern that arise to my attention. I have attached the notification of public meetings of the Herefordshire Council that you might like to draw to the attention of Parish Councillors and indeed the public generally.

Follows a few comments:-

As councillors will have noted since we last met there has been a long session of road works along the A465 all part of the repairs from monies received by the Herefordshire Council from central government that have to be used by March 2018. I am informed that the method of repair is designed to be of a standard that will require less maintenance over the next ten to twenty years. As you will have seen the state of roads within the county has led to petitioning of the Herefordshire Council by some parishes in the north of the county. It is a repeated theme of all rural areas and not just in this county.

Planning applications are currently running at least 20% above the usual level and parishes and clerks may well notice the knock on effect in terms of notifications reaching them. I do get informed of all planning applications and I would ask that you keep me informed of any concerns and indeed support that your council is keen I pass on. Most applications will be dealt with by officers and it is important that parish councillors do express their clear views that can be passed on to the planners and to me.

I have been in correspondence with regard to one particular planning application, 173596, and have noted the procedure and outcome adopted by the parish council. This application does raise an issue of the use and residency requirements of those who live in the countryside and those who work in it and I would urge Longtown Parish Council to work on and adopt a Neighbourhood Development Plan that can act as guidance for planners as to the wishes of those who live within the parish area.

As discussed on the phone I hope to organise a meeting of chairman and clerks for the parishes within my ward in the New Year.

Regards,

Peter