

BORDER GROUP REPORT JULY 2018

I have been advised by Mark Tansley that there has been no response to his request to meet with the owners regarding the destruction of listed structures at Wigmore Abbey. He has stated that he will now require to take more positive action.

As a result of further funding for broadband in cluster areas, the council has agreed to include parts of Brampton Bryan in the contract award H1.

I sent the clerk some information on new dog poo signs. I am seeking clarification as to whether there is a cost.

I have forward to John the relevant link to the new polytunnel planning advice.

I have received a query from a resident with regard to water on Reeves Lane and the fact that this is continuing to be a problem. I have contacted Mike Brookes to ascertain whether any further work is planned and am awaiting a response.

As you are aware the 498 service is under threat due to lack of use. Herefordshire Council uses a bench mark of subsidy at £4 per passenger on rural services but at present the 498 is costing about £5 per passenger in subsidy. The Council is hoping during the forthcoming tendering process to put it into a bundle of more profitable services to make it more viable and that would be the best option. If that is not possible then there will be a shortfall of about £4000 per year. I am suggesting that at the Clerks & Chairs meeting we discuss this issue and see whether if absolutely necessary to safeguard the service the four parishes involved make some contribution. To date I have received a number of letters/emails from residents who are in the main elderly, live alone and the 498 is their one link to family in Hereford and the ability to access a variety of shops and hospital appointments. It is unfortunate that two of the four parishes involved have very small precepts.

Herefordshire Council's Childrens Services directorate recently had an Ofsted inspection and we are awaiting the result. As I have advised previously we have a significantly higher proportion of children in care than many other authorities and also more children for our population on child protection plans. This is a very worrying situation.

We are about to do some work on childhood obesity which is a problem throughout the country and also child dental health which is particularly poor in Herefordshire.