



CLERK'S INFORMATION SHEET FOR  
THE MEETING OF MARDEN PARISH COUNCIL ON 13 JUNE 2022

- 3.1. West Mercia Police Safer Neighbourhood Team – PS Darren Ball; PC Josh Kitchen, 07773 053436; PCSO Adam Westlake, 07773 052580; PCSO Christina Howard, 07773 052529.

**Get in touch**

 **101** to talk to your local SNT/report a crime

 herefordrn.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk

 [www.westmercia.police.uk](http://www.westmercia.police.uk)



@HerefordCops

Only call 999 in an emergency, when a crime is in progress or life is in danger. If you would prefer to report a crime anonymously please contact West Mercia CRIMESTOPPERS 0800 555 111. For all non emergency reports please call 101. For all other enquiries please email [herefordrn.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk](mailto:herefordrn.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk)

**Crimes in parish reported in April 2022** (from Police database)

1x Public order offence; 1x Violence and sexual offence.

**Reporting crime anonymously** Crimestoppers UK, call 0800 555 111 or fill in the online form

<https://crimestoppers-uk.org/give-information/forms/give-information-anonymously>

**Reporting an incident of bad/dangerous driving**, you can report it online **at the time or soon after** and upload a photo or video that includes the number plate details to <https://www.westmercia.police.uk/police-forces/west-mercia-police/areas/west-mercia/campaigns/campaigns/2019/operation-snap/>

If a road is blocked by such an incident, **you need to report it at the time to 101.**

**New service launched** by police – Through Neighbourhood Matters you can sign up for local police alerts; receive information about crime in your area, find out about drop-in sessions, answer surveys, and more. You can choose exactly what type of alert you want to receive and how you receive them, whether it be via text, email or phone call. Sign up now <https://neighbourhoodmatters.co.uk/>

**Useful numbers**

- Victim Advice Line - 0800 952 3000
- West Mercia Women's Aid Helpline (available to help all victims) - 0800 980 3331
- Men's Advice Line - 0808 801 0327
- The Mix (for under 25s) - 0808 808 4994
- National LGBT+ Domestic Abuse Helpline - 0800 999 5428
- Samaritans - 116 123

**Other Useful Information**

Power cut: Call 105 <https://www.powercut105.com/>

BT phone line outages: [www.bt.com/help/report-and-track-your-bt-problem](http://www.bt.com/help/report-and-track-your-bt-problem)

Gas leak: 0800 111 999 <https://www.wvutilities.co.uk/services/smell-gas/>

Welsh Water: [0800 052 0130](tel:08000520130) (Water emergencies) or [0800 085 3968](tel:08000853968) (Sewer emergencies)  
<https://contact.dwrcymru.com/>

Severn Trent water: [0800 783 4444](tel:08007834444) <https://www.stwater.co.uk/in-my-area/check-my-area/>

Report a tree down, flooded road or highway obstruction- BBLP : 01432 261800

Flood alerts: Floodline 0345 988 1188. Sign up to get [Flood Warnings from gov.uk](https://www.floodwarnings.gov.uk/) by phone, email or text message. If you live by a river or stream, keep a watch on current and expected water levels. You can see the [actual water levels at different locations in the county](#)

More information and advice can be found here: [www.herefordshire.gov.uk/storm](http://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/storm)

- 8.1. Work done in May: Mow x1; P3 strim/cut – MR24, gates on MR21, MR45 to church; Strim/cut either side Laystone Bridge; Splays and Signs – safety cuts & clean up and washing of road signs as necessary; Installation of kissing gate, new steps, handrail and delivery of 2 further gates to landowner.  
Work due in June: Mow x1; P3 strim/cut – MR24, gates on MR21, MR45 to church; Check Drain Tops and Grips through parish (as above), clear as required; Strim/cut either side Laystone Bridge.
- 8.2. MR24 – waymarkers removed, now replaced. Complaint from stockman that fence next to the stile at Sutton Walls is being repeatedly vandalised to let dogs through.  
MR26 up to MR24 from Church – complaints that footpath too narrow, waiting to reinstate when winter wheat crop harvested.  
MR45 Laystone Bridge to Brook Farm – landowner has put up a sign to show exactly where the footpath goes.  
MR45 Laystone Bridge to Church – complaints of dog mess all along footpath.  
MR19 and MR12 to Venns Green – still being used by 4x4s at night, incident number from police required. Obstruction eg collapsible Bollard suggested. Paid for by Landowners working as a group.  
MR17A – bridge and hand rails required, reported to PROW team at HC.  
PFO will prepare a list of all kissing gates that might be required for network at present and prioritise for next meeting for PC to consider if wishes to undertake further work this year or budget for next year. New Clerk will liaise and walk with PFO.

- 8.3. Ashgrove Croft – Agent working on submission for outstanding conditions. Officer will check on 13 June and inform Clerk if submitted.  
Pikestye Farm – HARC has retrieved documents and Officer will now meet with the Historic Buildings officer.  
Amberley workshop – Officer has carried out a further site visit and gained entry to the workshop. There is no one living on the premises. He has also spoken with the taxation department and the occupier is paying the appropriate council tax. Officer has closed the case.
- 8.9. Postal redirection will be required. As it is a business the rates are: Up to 3 Months - £216; up to 6 months - £321; up to 1 year - £519.
- 8.11. Catering cost for Jubilee event was £1,154.02 for 350 people; only £3.30 per head!  
 Cost of other items – First Aid cover, Fridge trailer hire, flags, bunting, invitations, prizes etc – £1,149.75 (inc. £389.84 paid in 2021-22).  
 £500 sponsorship received from Tillington Top Fruits and The Pumpkin Patch and £300 raised on the raffle.  
 Also sponsorship from S&A of donated fruit  
 Total cost of event – £1,503.77; £4.30 per head for 350 attendees.  
 Original budget agreed in February was approx. £1,245 for 200 attendees.
- 8.12. In 2018 NALC gave a legal opinion to all councils that considered the conflicting legal position in the Local Government Act 1894 and the Local Government Act 1972. The conflicting positions are whether councils are prohibited from being involved in the property relating to the affairs of the church eg. maintenance or improvement of building or land or contributing to the costs (as set out in the 1894 Act) or whether a council is permitted to maintain a closed churchyard (as in the 1972 Act). NALC considered that grants to maintain church property are prohibited under the 1894 Act.  
 NALC summarised as follows: There is no case law to resolve the question of whether or not the 1894 Act restrictions override the provisions of later Acts of Parliament and that ultimately the courts will have to decide. This would be expensive and time-consuming. Parliament could clarify in new legislation but does not consider it is required as it's view is that the 1894 Act provisions do not override the provisions of later Acts. **Whilst there is no consensus on this issue, a council that considers making a payment in these circumstances needs to consider whether it is prudent to take a course of action that it cannot be certain is legally valid.** This opinion was confirmed in a further document from NALC in December 2019, following a document from ChurchCare which stated that councils are not prohibited from awarding funding to churches.
- Marden Parish Council has previously given £1,150 to Marden PCC annually towards the maintenance of the closed churchyard but ceased doing so following the NALC legal advice. The PC resolved 2 years ago to reinstate this payment. It was agreed that it would be reconsidered each year. Therefore the parish council needs to agree whether it wishes to give the PCC a grant for the maintenance of the closed churchyard as previously. 2021 figure provided by the PCC as the average cost per year for such maintenance was £1,735.70.
10. **Correspondence – significant items received as follows:**  
From parishioners –
- Email re state of application site at Litmarsh
  - Email re PC response to 221112
  - Email re PC response to 221199
- From other sources –
- From Balfour Beatty (BB) – April update
  - From Police and Crime Commissioner – Survey and newsletter
  - From Age UK – Training on Maintenance Cognitive Stimulation Therapy (MCST) for mild to moderate dementia – added as post on website
  - From police – Scam bulletin – added as post
  - From TGC – Seminar for PCs
  - From HC – information events for next Core Strategy consultation

**Alison Sutton – Parish Clerk. Tel: 07789 322771. Email: [parish.clerk@mardenherefordshire-pc.gov.uk](mailto:parish.clerk@mardenherefordshire-pc.gov.uk)**

Marden Parish Clerk takes no responsibility for the accuracy of reports submitted for inclusion in this briefing sheet