

## Ward Councillor Report for February 2020

- Flooding – although casualties here in the Golden Valley in this ‘wettest ever February since recording began’ have got off lightly compared to the rest of the county – some residents have been affected. A terrace of 10 residents in Nantyglasdwr Lane Cusop had 2’ of water in their homes as the Wye back up the Dulas and overflowed into the row of terraces. Sheepcote Farm in Clifford was inundated and the old toll house on the bridge at Bredwardine. I am hoping that I have not missed anyone.

In Nantyglasdwr lane the Ghurkha regiment from Brecon volunteered to assist with lifting and piling wet heavy furniture and carpets as well as ruined white goods. I have asked that the chief executive write a letter of thanks. Damaged items have been collected by Hereford Council at no cost. Joe Dzoiba (Community Broker from the Hub at Peterchurch) and I were able to speak with residents and signpost grants for financial and other assistance as needed. Joe was absolutely great – I cannot speak highly enough of his very practical sensitivity when speaking with these understandably distressed residents.

On enquiry I was given to understand by neighbours that the resident on Bredwardine Bridge was able to use insurance to recover his damages and loss and as he was not at home I did not get to speak with him.

- Jesse Norman – responded to an email I wrote to him (in the midst of the flooding) about the state of his constituency and the priorities for his government to address the appalling lack of real readiness to address extreme weather events in the wake of climate breakdown. As a result I drove him on a whistle stop tour of the ward with Maria Duggan (Parish councillor Peterchurch). Although I very nearly landed us all in the massive pothole in Scar Lane –there was, I hope a useful conversation in which we were able to talk about the need to protect our valued landscape and to use the natural capital here to develop and enhance the prosperity of the whole community. I am sure we will have further conversations. A good first meeting.
- The state of Scar Lane  
I understand that on Feb 3<sup>rd</sup> there has been repair work. The lane has been put up for Bellwin funding (for resurfacing) but in advance of this the repair work was necessary as the residents were unable to use the road as it was too dangerous.
- Update on Peterchurch Primary – I am waiting for an update on progress with plans from Ceri Morgan who I emailed again last week. The whole council has been understandable very busy responding to the flooding crisis and many council employees have been temporarily tasked with attending to this. Ceri has agreed to come and speak to Peterchurch Parish Council. I am hoping this will be in the not too distant future.
- Visit to Andigestion (TFG Waste) Bishop Cleeve  
A visit as part of the TFG Waste Committee – the council will have to decide on a model to collect food waste as this is going to be a statutory requirement. The unit takes food waste from Gloucestershire, it has to be extracted from its bags by an industrial sized mill mouli and

the extract, sieved several times, is brought up to temperature for the anaerobic bacteria to do their work. The gas they produce is then used in nearby bishops cleeve as 'green' gas (although it goes straight into the grid) the remaining – 'bovril' is stored in huge covered pits and pumped out for distribution by authorised distributors. The nitrogen and phosphate levels in the digestate vary and so each tank has a particular chemical readout and as a result a defined application rate. Herefordshire are committed to find a low carbon model of delivery but this will have cost implications.

It was made clear that the profits of the enterprise, particularly after any subsidies have run out, are negligible. The best model we can therefore hope for as a service delivery is one which will in terms of running costs 'pay for itself'.

- Discussion with 106 Officer Yvonne Coleman –David Evans (parish cllr Cusop) and I met with Yvonne Coleman to understand how the monies from any development are allocated and to further discuss the monies left available from the Newport Street development in Cusop. The rate and ratio of allocation is laid down in the Core Strategy. Any development over 10 dwellings generates a developer contribution of monies to the community: (106 monies) The ratio of distribution is fixed: a % for education, sports facilities, transport, off site play/open space.
- Ongoing work with TFG Climate Emergency  
In the latest meeting of this group we reviewed and made contributions to the review of the draft Carbon Management plan which will go through due process and will be published shortly.
- Application for livery yard development at High House Clifford  
Following parish council concerns about overloading the road network I requested redirection for the proposal to develop a livery yard at High House Clifford. This was refused the key reason being that the level of objection from the community was not high enough.
- Dorstone 26<sup>th</sup> Feb inaugural meeting of local response to Climate Emergency  
I was very pleased to attend this excellent local turnout of interested and concerned parties convened by Dorstone Parish cllrs. Feedback will be given to all who attended. A number of different follow up actions are being explored.  
The Climate Emergency as an agenda item for Peterchurch Parish Council in its meeting of Feb17th. It was felt generally that it would be beneficial for us to work as a group of parishes in the Golden Valley and to hold an inter-PC meeting at an agreed venue. I am happy to arrange this and would like some indication from other parish councils as to whether there is an appetite to explore this for their communities.