



May 2026  
Birch Ward and Parishes update  
Cllr Toni Fagan

Dear councillors and residents,

May is here at last! And here is a list of consultations currently happening in Herefordshire, starting with the May Fairs.

[Leominster and Hereford May Fairs consultation - Herefordshire Council](#)

Have your say on Leominster and Hereford May Fairs. Thursday 23 April to Saturday 23 May 2026.

[Electoral Review of Herefordshire Council: draft recommendations - Herefordshire Council](#) (I'm not yet aware of any changes that affect Birch Ward boundaries)

A public consultation on the published draft recommendations for new electoral arrangements for Herefordshire Council. Tuesday 28 April to Monday 6 July 2026.

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) has published its draft recommendations for new electoral arrangements for Herefordshire Council based on the [consultation carried out from 25 November 2025 to 2 February 2026](#).

[Have your say on Herefordshire's community activity and day services offer - Herefordshire Council](#)

Herefordshire Council is inviting people who use community activities and day services, along with families, carers, professionals, and stakeholders to share their views on proposed changes to how these services are delivered.

Together with local people who have extra support and care needs, their carers and families, we have developed a new approach to providing community activities that people want to do, when and where they want, in their local communities.

Tell us your views on our community activities and day services offer and draft strategy. Friday 24 April to Tuesday 2 June 2026.

[Direct Payment Support Service consultation - Herefordshire Council](#)

Have your say on the Direct Payments Support Service. Thursday 23 April to Wednesday 20 May 2026.

We want to hear your views about your Direct Payment Support Services (DPSS), including the support provided by SIL (Services for Independent Living), Compass, or Penderels.

These organisations currently support many Herefordshire residents, and your feedback is vital in helping us understand what is working well, what could be improved, and what might need to change.

[Proposed increase to taxi licence fees 2026-27 - Herefordshire Council](#)

Have your say on proposed increases to taxi licensing fees. Thursday 23 April to Thursday 21 May 2026.

In accordance with Section 70 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, we are consulting regarding increasing the fees paid for applications associated with taxi and private hire vehicle, driver and operator licences.

## **Planning**

With regard to proposed government changes to Planning – you may be interested in this from the Local Government Association [Changes to planning committees - LGA response | Local Government Association](#). Some real concern that there will no longer be a democratic avenue for decision making in planning.

## **New Chief Executive**

Herefordshire Council has appointed a new Chief Executive, Paul Satoor.

Paul is expected to take up the role in the summer, following a comprehensive national recruitment process and a competitive field of candidates.

Paul previously served as Chief Executive of Wirral Council from 2019 to October 2025. He joined the authority in 2017 as its transformation director (later Corporate Director for Business Management) before becoming the council's most senior officer. A graduate of the University of Wolverhampton, he built his expertise in human resources, organisational development and change through senior roles spanning both the public and private sectors. In June 2013, he joined the Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency (DVSA) as Director of Organisational Development and HR (later titled Director of Organisational Development and Strategy), marking his entry into high-level civil service leadership. He became Deputy Chief Executive and serving as Interim Chief Executive from October 2015 to March 2016.

## **Highways**

Upcoming changes to Highways maintenance and the Highways Safety Inspection Manual will be presented to Cabinet later this month, and more information is coming about the changes in Highways management and the new public realm contract.

I continue to argue for the resurfacing of vital roads in our rural communities and also for S106 traffic calming in St Weonards, which is way overdue, and am trying to establish better links with National Highways to ensure that they properly maintain our local junctions with the A49 – such as Tump Lane.

Finally, I am delighted to attach this article regarding our ongoing work to Llanwarne Village Hall as an example of the fabulous and important role our village halls play in our communities. Thank you to all those who work so hard to keep them going – it can be relentless! [Llanwarne Village Hall secures lifeline with major roof renovation | monmouthshirebeacon.co.uk](#)

Kind regards  
Toni