

FP Officers Report Nov 25

I would like to cover three points this month.

You may recall I have mentioned in the past my disappointment, in terms of engagement, with Herefordshire Council's Enforcement Officer. I can only assume that others may have sensed there was room for improvement as they have now appointed a Principal Enforcement Officer. Appointed on the Monday, I spoke to him on the Tuesday and met with him on the Thursday to discuss a couple of issues within the Parish and to conduct a site visit.

Subsequently, the new appointee has contacted the relevant landowners and is awaiting a, hopefully positive, response on the matters raised.

I continue to monitor the dog waste bins recently installed. We currently pay for them to be emptied fortnightly but there are indications that at least one of them is full a day or two sooner than that – as evidenced by dog walkers leaving bags on top of the bin and me receiving emails about it.

While not a huge fan of the proliferation of signs and notices around the place, I may post a temporary notice asking, should the bin be full, to take the bags home; not least as the contractor will not take the waste if it is not actually in the bin. I will continue to keep an eye on things and change direction, if need be, in due course.

Finally, following on from the Parish Council's bid for additional funds to continue improvements along our PROW, after the deliberations of Herefordshire Council we have recently been granted a further £8.5k. You will recall we were awarded a similar sum some months ago, but in the event could only use £2,080.

Using this new money I have already tasked our Lengthsman to make a start on the list of tasks on which our bid was based. These will hopefully be completed over the winter months. In the meantime, I will continue in my attempts to persuade reluctant landowners to engage with me, in the hope of moving forward on other problematic areas along our paths.

Afternote:

Shortly after the meeting I was informed that the new Principal Enforcement Officer was no longer in post.