

## LATEST BRIEFING FROM CLLR KEMA GUTHRIE (WARD COUNCILLOR) 04-04-20

### NEW ROAD SURFACE

This is “good news” a new (not patched) surface of road! On the Council’s website (Coronavirus latest information) there is a mention of road maintenance as follows:

#### ***Continuing to maintain roads***

*You may notice Balfour Beatty Living Places highways workers continuing to carry out work on the road network.*

*It is important that roads across the county continue to be maintained to ensure goods can keep moving, deliveries flowing and for the safe travel of all the key workers who are providing essential support to our communities.*

*The health and safety of staff and the general public is our top priority. All road maintenance staff have been fully briefed on the additional safety measures they must take, such as social distancing, and they are being supported with this.*

Hope you are all keeping safe & well.

Re: Leader’s Newsletter – for information

**Please view the Leader of the Council’s April Newsletter – lots of useful update information regarding the battle against Coronavirus.**

I’d just like to highlight the paragraph on Drainage.

Indeed at the last full Council Meeting I put this question (below) to the Leader:-

*“I have a number of ongoing drainage issues in my Ward which the Drainage Team were investigating and trying to solve – this was prior to the major storms / extensive flooding Herefordshire was subject to, consequently these drainage issues have got much worse & long standing floods have resulted in road closures lasting a very long time (as many other Members will no doubt have experienced in their Ward areas too) The drainage issues need tackling and resolving in a timely manner– as a matter of urgency - Leader will you direct more resources to the Balfour Beatty’s Land Drainage Team, so they can cope better with the extra demand at this time.”*

Leader’s Paragraph on Drainage

**Drainage:** The last few months have reiterated the need for more investment in drainage throughout the county. Reinvesting back into drainage without the appropriate funding from Central Government means there may be less money spent on other road projects but it is vital to do so if we are to properly address our drainage issues. I have asked officers and BBLP we hope to apportion a significant amount of that for drainage improvements to network, liaising with the parish councils and using their local knowledge to get the work done precisely where it is needed most. The lengthsman money put aside for drainage work in the 2019/20 budget is doing its governance circulation.

I pleased that some more investment will be directed towards drainage issues.

I hope you are all keeping safe & well.

**Kema Guthrie**