



December Newsletter from Sir Bill Wiggin MP

Extra Government Funding For Herefordshire's Roads

Following the Government decision to stop HS2, Bill was delighted that £3.6 million in additional funding is to be allocated to Herefordshire Council over the next two years to repair our county's roads.

Together with money allocated by the Conservative led Herefordshire Council, this brings up the totals to £23 million being spent on our roads over the next 2 years.

Total Government funding will reach £106 million and extend until 2034, meaning that after 5 years of neglect from the previous anti-car Green-Independent Council, motorists in Herefordshire can finally look forward to getting well maintained roads for years to come.

With fewer potholes and safer roads, drivers will be able to travel with greater ease and may save as much as £440 on vehicle repair bills.



Environment and River Wye Project Secures Government Funding

Government funding is to be provided to a project led by the Herefordshire Rural Hub which will work towards improving the condition of the River Wye.

This restoration project will see the River Wye's condition improved so that its beauty can be enjoyed again.



As the River Wye supports farming this project will also go hand-in-hand with sustainable farming developments in Herefordshire.

Bill commented:

“I am delighted that the Wye Catchment area is now getting the attention that it is due.

The River Wye is vital to both wildlife and the farming community and it is important that it is well maintained.

As a farmer who values sustainable practices I am therefore very supportive of the Wyescapes project and hope that it is a great success.”



Ledbury Train Station Update

Last month, Bill wrote to the Secretary of State for Transport to try to persuade him that, following the cancellation of HS2, Herefordshire should see some of the benefits.

Bill has now had a reply stating that Ledbury Railway Station has been nominated for funding for disabled access via the Access for All scheme.

Bill welcomes Autumn Statement after meeting with Chancellor



The statement provides for some of the largest tax cuts in decades.

These include a 2% reduction in the National Insurance Contributions main rate and an £11 billion tax reduction for businesses.

27 million workers will benefit from these cuts whilst securing the long-term growth of our economy.

Sir Bill commented: “It is vital that people can choose how to spend their money. High taxes take that choice away from hardworking individuals. That is why I have long supported a low tax environment and I am pleased with the tax cuts in the Autumn Statement.”

Bill highlights household energy support this winter

Bill met with British Gas to discuss the support available to households this winter.

The supplier offers grants of up to £1,500 to customers with debt through the British Gas Energy Support Fund.

Even if you are not a customer of British Gas you can seek support from the British Gas Energy Trust.



Bill commented: “While the energy price cap has recently been lowered, many households are still struggling with the cost of living.

I want to make sure people know about the support available to them.

I encourage anyone who is struggling to speak to their energy supplier and organisations such as the British Gas Energy Trust.”

You can learn about the support offered by the British Gas Energy Trust [here](#).



Bill's Christmas Message



I wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, and I would like to remind people to remember, as the winter conditions begin to affect our roads, please drive safely.

I would also like to thank those who will be on duty this Christmas, especially our emergency services who sacrifice their Christmas Day to ensure that we can enjoy ours and that we are all kept safe.

Useful Websites



Help for Households - Cost of Living Support

See what cost of living support you could be eligible for by visiting the UK Government's [Help for Households website](#).



Christmas Bin Collection Dates

Use Herefordshire Council's bin collection day search to find out when your bin will be collected. [Click Here](#).



NHS Services

Visit [NHS.uk](#) for a complete guide to conditions, symptoms and treatments, including what to do and when to get help.



Herefordshire Council

Visit the [Herefordshire Council website](#) for information regarding planning, travel and transport, rubbish and recycling, schools and education, council tax, social care, family support, and more.



UK Government

Visit [GOV.UK](#) for information on all government services.

More information on these stories can be found on [Bill's website](#)

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