

Herefordshire Voice

July 2006

**THE HEREFORDSHIRE
partnership** 

Welcome new members!

We have just recruited more than 800 new members, so if you're new to the panel, welcome to Herefordshire Voice, and thank you very much for agreeing to join. Thank you also to everyone who was part of the panel before 2006, for agreeing to continue to help us.

Under new management

We have recently brought the day-to-day management of Herefordshire Voice in-house, to the Herefordshire Council Research Team. This will help us keep costs to a minimum and to work more closely within the Council and with other partner organisations.

Herefordshire Partnership

The Herefordshire Partnership is a group of key local organisations, who work together to focus on things that are important for people who live or work here, and visitors to Herefordshire. Partners include the Council, Police and the Primary Care Trust, among others. For the full list of partners or more information, visit www.herefordshirepartnership.com

This questionnaire

Topics covered this time include culture and recreation, public transport and volunteering. A summary of the results we get from this survey will be included in the next Herefordshire Voice Newsletter, and the full report will be published on the Herefordshire Partnership website.

Making real changes in the community

So how do you know that the views you give will help to change anything in Herefordshire? Surveys carried out using Herefordshire Voice in the past have been used to support a number of positive actions by partner organisations. Here are some examples from recent years:

- We discovered that some arts and heritage facilities were underused by certain sections of the community. This supported improving facilities for disabled people at the records office, and starting events aimed at older people at the Courtyard.
- We found that Herefordshire people wanted more opportunities to walk for recreation. This helped support setting up Herefordshire Walking Festival, which continues to become more and more popular each year.
- We used focus groups of Herefordshire Voice panellists to help develop the way the Council lets people know what it is up to. The result was the "Herefordshire Matters" magazine, which is distributed to every household in the county every three months.

Future surveys

This is the first survey after a gap of about a year, but from now on we expect to do around three each year. Topics will be determined in discussion with partner organisations, focusing on issues that are seen to be important to residents and the organisations that provide services. We also welcome ideas from panellists – there is a space at the end of the questionnaire where you can make your suggestions.

The next survey is planned for autumn this year. It is likely to ask about how easy it is to get to certain local services, for example a local shop or doctor's surgery; and aspects that might make your local area a better place to live, for example community activities or facilities for children and young people.

I hope you find this survey of interest, and thank you in anticipation for your time.
For any questions, please contact Tony Cramp on 01432 383 615.