

Spring 2007

## Taking a Pride in Herefordshire

Preparations are now well under way for the Pride of Herefordshire Awards taking place later this year. Working with the Hereford Journal, Herefordshire Partnership will celebrate the very best of what goes on across the County. Involving local communities through awards nominations and an evening of celebration provides an excellent way for Herefordshire Partnership to demonstrate its Vision for Herefordshire. Our Community Strategy Themes form the award categories and judging will be led by representatives from Partner organisations. There will also be an award for the overall winner.

### Economic Development and Enterprise

- Herefordshire Entrepreneur Award
- Herefordshire Learner Award

### Safer and Stronger Communities

- Herefordshire Courage Award
- Herefordshire Environmental Champion

### Children and Young People

- Herefordshire Young Carer Award
- Herefordshire Youth Community Award

### Healthier Communities and Older People

- Herefordshire Adult Carer Award
- Herefordshire Health Champion

Pride of Herefordshire will be formally launched in May with a supplement in the Hereford Journal inviting nominations. Each nomination will be submitted to a Judges panel, who will select 3 finalists for each award.

Following judging, invitations will go out for the celebration event, with winners from each category being presented their award on the night.

Hereford Journal will provide their considerable presentation expertise to make the event a night to remember. Herefordshire Council is sponsoring the venue and

Hereford Sixth Form College students will provide music for the evening with their jazz band.

Over the next few months students from the Herefordshire College of Art and Design are preparing drawings for the trophy design.

A selection process will identify the successful design and the student will be commissioned to produce the trophies.

*For further information please contact  
Philippa Lydford -  
Partnership Officer  
01432 261788  
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## Important Dates

### 9th May 07

Launch of Pride of Herefordshire. Nomination forms in the Hereford Journal or visit our website at: [www.herefordshirepartnership.com](http://www.herefordshirepartnership.com)

### 1 June 07

Chief Executives' Group meeting

### 7 June 07

Voluntary Sector Assembly:  
"Celebrating Volunteers"

### 12 June 07

Herefordshire Partnership Board

### 25 June 07

Closing date for Pride of Herefordshire nominations

### 5 July 07

Rural Regeneration Zone  
Annual Conference

### 20 July 07

Chief Executives' Group meeting

### 20 September 07

Pride of Herefordshire Awards

### 24 October 07

Funding Fair @ Aylestone  
School

Further information on the above events may be obtained from the contact details given at the foot of this page.

## STOP PRESS

Phase Three of the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) Revision will look at critical rural services, recreational provision, regionally significant environmental issues and the provision of a framework for Gypsies and Travellers sites.

Preparatory work for Phase Three is underway and a Draft Project Plan is to be launched in Spring 2007.

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# Economic Development and Enterprise

The Learning Village is a phased development of the Folly Lane site in Hereford, a joint project to include the Sixth Form College, College of Technology and College of Art and Design. The first phase started during 2006 and will be completed in 2008. It will include a new technology block, a suite of seminar rooms, information technology facilities for local business use and a redeveloped and extended learning and resource centre.

Herefordshire Partnership obtained development funding, resulting in a £28 million pound funding package from Euro-

pean, Regional Development Agency and Learning and Skills resources.

"I am delighted at the development funding input from the Herefordshire Partnership to this flagship project for Herefordshire, and am extremely grateful for your support", commented Ian Peake, Principal and Chief Executive of Herefordshire College of Technology.



"The Learning Village will be an important key to improving and diversifying vocational education and training in Herefordshire and beyond. Local businesses...will be encouraged to fully engage in training their staff by vastly improved facilities. The Learning Village Project is undoubtedly the most significant building project that Herefordshire will have seen in many years. It would not have been possible without your support."

*For further information please contact  
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# Safer and Stronger Communities

Herefordshire Partnership is working with local organisations to develop "multi-use facilities" making it easier for people in rural areas to access services. By sharing resources and costs, some services can be offered under



one roof, and therefore be more conveniently available.

Consultants are developing proposals to underpin a sustainable programme and this includes working with appropriate organisations e.g. health and social care, children and youth services, culture, leisure, training and education.

All types of facilities have been considered, including additions to existing sites (community buildings, village halls, churches, schools, libraries), new sites, mobile facilities and electronic means of access like Community Access Points.

Representatives from 40 service providers and groups discussed the potential for developing the project at a workshop and the results contributed to a report presented to Herefordshire Access to Services Partnership in March.

Recommendations arising from this report will guide the way for this innovative project which could make a significant contribution to improving access to services for rural residents.

*For further information please contact  
Joel Killer - Partnership Officer 01432  
383635 jkiller@herefordshire.gov.uk*

# Turning Words in to Actions

The second round of new style pilot Community Forums, where local residents meet Council and Police representatives to discuss issues affecting their quality of life, has just finished.

"The aim has been to engage with the community to listen and respond to their concerns

and issues" commented Chief Inspector Sue Thomas. Actions have been taken, and some prosecutions made to resolve specific problems such as:

- Anti-social behaviour in Hereford and Credenhill
- "Cold canvassing" in Gorsley
- Speeding in Bromyard and

Holme Lacy

- Alcohol misuse in Hereford
- Dangerous road conditions on the A44

*For further information on Community Forums please contact*

*Martin Heuter -*

*Senior Community Involvement Officer  
01432 383032*

*mheuter@herefordshire.gov.uk*

## Children and Young people

In February 2007, there were 490 people aged between 16 and 25 years claiming Job Seekers Allowance. This was 30% of all claimants in February and the highest this has been since May 2006. However, 88% of the under 25 year olds were claiming for relatively short amounts of time (6 months or less).

For further information about unemployment please refer to:  
Quarterly Economic Report [www.herefordshirepartnership.com/qer](http://www.herefordshirepartnership.com/qer)

## Help for families on County borders

People living on Herefordshire's Welsh borders are to benefit from a landmark agreement between Wales and the West Midlands.

Representatives from Herefordshire, Shropshire and Powys have signed up to a *Memorandum of Understanding* promoting stronger cross-border collaboration between Central Wales and the West Midlands.

Families living along the 150-

mile border sometimes find it difficult to access designated services because of distance, and often prefer to use services available more locally instead.

Although there have always been strong economic and social links between the two areas, Central Wales and the West Midlands have radically different infrastructures, funding systems, policies and ways of working which can make cross-border working challenging.



This agreement will strengthen collaborative working arrangements and enhance decisions making at all levels, particularly in relation to health, education, environment, transport and affordable housing.

For further information please contact  
Vinia Abesamis 01432 260625  
[vabesamis@herefordshire.gov.uk](mailto:vabesamis@herefordshire.gov.uk)

## Healthier communities and Older people



**Herefordshire Partnership is working with Ledbury Volunteer Bureau, to promote the benefits of volunteering in retirement. Local businesses are being encouraged to promote volunteering opportunities to employees approaching retirement, as a great way for people to stay active after they finish work, make new friends and taste something different.**

**As a result of a recent presentation, business representatives have requested pre-retirement leaflets, posters and details about volunteering opportunities so they can be distributed to employees approaching retirement age.**

For further information please contact  
Clair McNally Community Involvement Officer 01432 261751 [cmcnally@herefordshire.gov.uk](mailto:cmcnally@herefordshire.gov.uk)

Older people in the County are being encouraged to have their say on the services they receive and the issues which affect them.

Herefordshire Partnership has launched an 8 week consultation on "Growing Older in Herefordshire", which gathers information from three events held last year.

The strategy's vision is to ensure that older people remain independent and active, continue to live in, and contribute to, strong local communities, and be included in decisions regarding service provision.

It proposes 5 aims to respond to these challenges:

- Communication and information - staying involved
- Safety and crime - feeling safe and being safe
- Employment and retirement - having enough money and avoiding social isolation
- Service model issues - being able to stay healthy and independent
- Transport and access - individual choice and control

The consultation strategy can be downloaded from Herefordshire Partnership's website: [www.herefordshirepartnership.com](http://www.herefordshirepartnership.com)

Comments need to be submitted by Wednesday May 16.2007.

The final strategy will be published later this year.

For printed copies, or any further information, please contact  
Steve Hodges on 01432 261923 [sthodges@herefordshire.gov.uk](mailto:sthodges@herefordshire.gov.uk)

## Facts & Figures for Herefordshire

Did You Know?

**Median earnings for the year in Herefordshire were £20,400 for full time adults working in Herefordshire.**

Source: Q.E.R. February 2007

**The latest economic data for the County can be found in the Quarterly Economic Report available on**

**[www.herefordshirepartnership.com/ger](http://www.herefordshirepartnership.com/ger)**

**Alternatively for an overall look at facts and figures for Herefordshire, see the State of Herefordshire Report available on Herefordshire Partnership's website. [www.herefordshirepartnership.com](http://www.herefordshirepartnership.com)**

Did You Know?

**In January 2007, Herefordshire's unemployment rate (1.6%) was lower than the West Midlands region and England as a whole (3.4% and 2.6% respectively)**

Source: Q.E.R. February 2007

## Sharing a Common Purpose

Herefordshire Partnership is organising a customised Common Purpose programme for

Herefordshire, to take place during 2007. All Common Purpose programmes share the same long-term ambitions:

better decision-making in all sectors, more effective solutions to common problems, more engaged and active citizens and, ultimately, stronger communities.

The programme's aim is to bring together managers from all sectors to enable them to play an active part in leading and implementing change in partnership. A six day programme, it will focus on community leadership and reflect the vision of the Community Strategy, that *"Herefordshire will be a place where people, organisations and businesses working together within an outstanding natural environment will bring about sustainable prosperity and well being for all."*

Leaders and managers in partner organisations across Herefordshire have been invited to take an active part in this exciting opportunity.

*For further information please contact*

*Philippa Lydford -Partnership Officer 01432 261788*

*plydford@herefordshire.gov.uk*



## THE REVISED HEREFORDSHIRE PARTNERSHIP STRUCTURE

Our revised structure has resulted in the formation of a new **Board**. It's role is to:

- ◇ Provide strategic leadership to achieve the outcomes agreed in our Community Strategy
- ◇ Make strategic connections and identify ways to add value to services and activities undertaken between local, sub-regional and regional organisations, groups and networks
- ◇ Represent Herefordshire and its interests, including lobbying, influencing policy and being an advocate for Herefordshire

The Board brings together public, private and voluntary sectors, thematic groups, community sector and regional organisations. Membership is at the highest possible level and meetings are held 3 times a year.

There are also changes on the **Chief Executives' Group** and we are delighted to announce that Sharon Gray, Director of the Learning and Skills Council is our new Chair whilst Mark Turner, Divisional Commander West Mercia Constabulary, takes over as Vice-Chair. The Chief Executives' Group meets bi-monthly.

A **Performance Management Group** was established early in 2006. Its main role is the management of performance indicators and related activity which deliver the Herefordshire Community Strategy and Local Area Agreement. This Group meets bi-monthly, reporting to the Chief Executives' Group on progress towards the action plan and barriers. The membership of this Group mirrors that of the Chief Executives' Group.

**Communications Links** complete the new Partnership structure. They encompass: previous Ambition Groups; the Herefordshire In Touch Board; the Herefordshire Equalities Partnership; the South Wye Partnership; Market Towns Partnerships, including Hereford City Partnership and the Rural Hub. These groups update and gain feedback from the Chief Executives' Group every six months, can take part in the Herefordshire Exchange events and input to the Action Planning process.

*For further information on the structure of the Partnership, please contact:*

*Jennifer Watkins, Herefordshire Partnership Manager 01432 260610 [jt Watkins@herefordshire.gov.uk](mailto:jt Watkins@herefordshire.gov.uk)*