

**Dormington & Mordiford Group Parish Council Councillors  
May 2013**

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4PJ

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**Parish Clerk**, Mrs Chris Bucknell, 12 Cliveden Grove, Hereford, HR4 0NE

Telephone: 07777669662 Email: clerk@dormingtonmordifordgroup-pc.gov.

**Responsibilities : -**

**Emergency Co-ordination:**

Peter Davies: 07968080554, Jan Ashton-Jones: 01432 870827

**Planning:** Ray Dickson, Peter Davies, Cheryl Shearer and John Lee

**Churchyard and Burial Ground:** Peter Davies, Jan Ashton-Jones, Lorna Radnor

**Footpaths:** John Litchfield (Footpath Officer), John Lee, Jan Ashton-Jones

**Finance:** Nick Brewin, Cheryl Shearer, Brian Dukes, Ray Dickson

**Tree Warden:** John Lee

**Parish Projects:** Jan Ashton-Jones, Brian Dukes, Cheryl Shearer, Lorna Radnor

**Localism Group:** Nick Brewin, Brian Dukes, Cheryl Shearer, Ray Dickson, Jan Ashton-Jones

**HALC Representative:** John Litchfield

**Newsletter Editor:** Brian Dukes

**Parish Clerk:** Chris Bucknell

**Webmaster:** Brian Dukes



**The  
Dragon  
For  
May 2013**



**Foreword by Parish Council chairman**

I am very pleased to present our annual report for the year 2012-2013. As always, the year has seen a mix of progress in some areas and delays in others, but we continue to strive to make the villages we represent better places to live. There is still much to do and there are plenty of initiatives under way.

We have attempted to find a new use for the Iron Room at Checkley, but despite our best endeavours have not found anyone interested in consistently using it. It simply is in the wrong place! We have therefore decided not to renew the lease. However, fortunately Major Hereford has other plans for the building and it will not be demolished as previously thought likely.

Major Hereford has also recently obtained planning permission for the area of green opposite The Moon pub, so the Parish Council now plan to take a lease for part of this area and maintain it for relaxation and leisure.

The affordable housing scheme at Sufton Rise – including allotments and a play area – has at last been submitted for planning approval and we hope that work will commence on the site later this year. The Parish Council will be responsible for managing the allotments so if you are interested in renting one, please let your local Councillor or the Clerk know.

Special thanks this year are due to several Councillors who took on the task of organising events to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee. These were a great success (despite the appalling weather on the bank holiday Monday!). Councillor John Litchfield and his footpaths team have done an excellent job in maintaining and improving the footpaths in the area, including replacing old stiles with new gates to improve access for all. The Lengthsman has continued to tackle a number of jobs such as cutting back overgrown vegetation and unblocking drains etc. If you see a problem that needs attention, please let us know.

Sadly, at the end of March, we said goodbye to Mel Preedy, our Clerk for the last four years, due to new work commitments. We thank her for her invaluable contribution, enthusiasm, expertise and professionalism and wish her and her family well for the future. On the positive side, I am delighted to welcome Mrs Chris Bucknell as our new Clerk. Chris works for HALC (as did Mel until recently) and she is Clerk to Wellington Parish Council. We have no doubt that she will be a great asset to DMGPC.

Looking forward, we will be seeking your views about Neighbourhood Planning. This gives the community a greater and legal voice in planning decisions, but there is a considerable amount of work for the Parish Council to do to achieve this status – including a local referendum about what is proposed as the plan for our area. Please remember that we are your representatives. We much welcome your involvement by attending and contributing at our monthly Parish Council meetings, held at Mordiford School (third Tuesday of most months at 7.30pm – not August or December) and through your comments and suggestions which can be made via the Clerk or, of course, directly to any Councillor. Thank you for your support and encouragement.

**Nick Brewin**

The Cathedral Church of St Mary the Virgin  
and St Ethelbert the King in  
Hereford



The Lord-Lieutenant of Herefordshire  
&

The Chapter of Hereford Cathedral

*invite you to*

A Service of Thanksgiving

*to celebrate*

The Diamond Jubilee of

**The Coronation of Her Majesty The Queen**

Hereford Cathedral

Sunday 2 June 2013 at 3.30 pm

Please be seated by 3.10 pm *Medals may be worn*

Unreserved seating *Reply not required*

### **P3 and the "Legal Line"**

Over £4,000 spent, 36 fewer stiles and 36 new gates, 5 new ditch crossings over the last few years. Hopefully you are noticing a difference! Thank you to all the landowners for their co-operation.

Life is full of surprises, and this year the Rights of Way officer for Amey has supported me in establishing the actual line of several Rights of Way, (the legal line). You may well think that because stiles and waymarker signs have been in place for as long as you can remember, that the person who put them there knew the line of the ROW. To quote a song from my youth, "it ain't necessarily so." It would seem that stiles and signs move over the years, and footpaths wander for a variety of reasons! Well several have been put back on line this year, two are pending action, and no doubt more will be revealed in the coming years.

We are now in our 4th year of improving the network of footpaths and bridleways through the Parish Paths Partnership (P3) scheme. This is funded by Herefordshire Council with an annual budget in the region of £1,200 being allocated to our Parish Council for improvements. We have also continued to maintain Checkley Barn and Swardon Quarry picnic sites, and this last year several overgrown and almost lost footpaths on the borders with Fownhope have been reopened. So please get out there and enjoy. It will make our efforts worthwhile.

[John Litchfield](#)

### **Neighbourhood Plans Can:**

- Decide where and what type of development should happen within your parish
- Decide what the development should look like
- Promote development for your community in line with the Local Plan (Core Strategy)
- Include detailed planning policies for the parish

### **Neighbourhood Plans Cannot:**

- Conflict with the policies within the Local Plan (Core Strategy)
- Be used to prevent development
- Be prepared by anyone other than a parish or town council in Herefordshire
- Include county matters such as Minerals and Waste

### **Bonfires in Mordiford**

A request has been made that those of us who do light bonfires, should take greater care when making them. There have been a number of instances recently where bonfires have been left smouldering over a number of days, creating smoke which was smelly and probably noxious. Most people making bonfires, probably don't realise the problems they create. Ordinary garden bonfires, when they are lit with a bit of consideration such as checking the wind direction, checking to see if the neighbour's windows are open or if they have washing on the line, don't cause a problem. Bonfires containing plastics and other unpleasant materials are a different matter. Smoke from these fires smells awful and is quite harmful.

We are fortunate in this area that Herefordshire County Council operate a safe way of disposing of all of these unsavoury materials so there is no need to try to burn them. In most cases they are collected fortnightly from our front door. In other cases a short trip to Rotherwas is all that is required. If you don't have appropriate transport, a neighbour might well oblige. Please don't attempt to dump them.

If you do experience inconvenience from a neighbour's bonfire, please leave details with the Parish Clerk. The Parish Council will determine appropriate action. Also, If you are aware of fly tipping, this should be reported to the Parish Clerk.

### **Lollipop Operative required urgently.**

Mordiford CE Primary School needs a community minded individual to work with young people and play a key role in helping children to arrive and leave school safely.

This rewarding role can offer you a real sense of achievement through helping the community in a positive way.

We are looking for a Road Traffic Person to work every day of the school term. You must be of responsible age and available for work between 8:20am and 8:50am and again between 2:55pm and 3:25pm. Rate of pay is £7:19 per hour, full uniform and training are provided.

If you are interested in applying for the post please contact the school secretary on 01432 870258, [admin@mordiford.hereford.sch.uk](mailto:admin@mordiford.hereford.sch.uk) or write to Mordiford CE Primary School, Mordiford, Hereford HR1 4LW

We are committed to safeguarding and promote the welfare of children and expect all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. The successful applicant will be required to undertake an enhanced criminal records check.

## Introduction to Neighbourhood Development Plans

### What is a Neighbourhood Development Plan?

The Localism Act has reformed the planning system to give local people new rights to shape the development of the communities in which they live.

Neighbourhood Development Plans will give local people the opportunity to decide the future of the places where they live and work. This will allow the community to set out the vision for an area and the planning policies for the use and development of land, this can include choosing where you want new homes, shops, leisure facilities or employment opportunities to be built and what these buildings should look like, within your parish or neighbourhood area. It is important to note that plans should focus on guiding development rather than stopping it.

A Neighbourhood Development Plan will give you an increased ability to influence planning within your area. Plans will, however, need to conform with planning policies and guidance at a local, national and European level and meet the Neighbourhood Planning regulations. This will be tested in an independent examination. The plan will also need to demonstrate involvement of the local community throughout the plan preparation and decision making and it will be subject to a community referendum upon completion.

Once such a plan is made and adopted, it will become a statutory plan carrying equal weight to the Local Plan (Core Strategy) and be part of the Local Development Framework. This will mean that it will be used in making decisions on planning applications by Herefordshire Council in your area.

### Who can produce a Neighbourhood Development Plan?

Within Herefordshire, only parish/town councils are able to produce Neighbourhood Development Plans for their area. The parish/town council can enlist help from members of the local community but only the parish council can make a neighbourhood area application and submit the relevant draft documents to Herefordshire Council for consideration.

### What are the benefits for producing a Neighbourhood Development Plan?

It is not compulsory for parishes to prepare a Neighbourhood Development Plan, however there are a number of benefits which may help your parish make a decision on whether to prepare one. Preparing a Neighbourhood Development Plan will help you and the local community plays a greater role in creating the future of your local area. Neighbourhood planning offers communities the opportunity to establish the requirements for planning within their area. It will bring together local residents, businesses, local groups, landowners and developers to share ideas and build a consensus about what needs to be done within the local community.



## News from St Michael's Hospice

30 April 2013

### Have a Wheelie Great Day **Cycling for the Hospice**

Cyclists of all standards are invited to support the Hospice by joining its first 'Wheelie Big Cycle' event, taking place on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> July.

Three different routes are on offer, taking in different aspects of the Herefordshire countryside. Cyclists can choose between 15, 33 or 60 mile circular routes dependent upon their level of ability. The two longer routes take in the county's picturesque black and white villages and the 60 mile route pops into Wales. All routes will be fully marshalled and will start and finish at the Hereford Livestock Market.

Pre-booked entry fees are £17 per adult, £10.50 per child or £45.00 for a family. Tandems are £30.00. Children under 16 must be accompanied by a paying adult and wear a cycle helmet.

Further information and booking forms are available from:

<http://www.st-michaels-hospice.org.uk/Fundraising/events/list-of-events/St+Michaels+Hospice+Wheelie+Big+Cycle> or by contacting Mathew Ashcroft at the Hospice, telephone 01432 851000 or e-mail: [mashcroft@st-michaels-hospice.org.uk](mailto:mashcroft@st-michaels-hospice.org.uk).

### Bridal Service at St Michael's

Brides-to-be may be unaware of the fantastic bridal dresses the Hospice has available at its Bromyard shop, 44 Broad Street HR7 4AA. These include a range of new donated designer dresses at only £250 each (reduced from £300-£900), as well as pre-loved wedding dresses. All proceeds come to the Hospice, so future brides can choose from a fantastic range of beautiful dresses at below High Street prices secure in the knowledge that they will be supporting the Hospice's vital work.

<p><b>MORDIFORD SCHOOL PTFA PRESENTS ;</b>            'The Great British Fete'            Sunday 23rd June 2013            2-4pm at the school</p> <p>Featuring a Great British Bake Off style competition, adult and child entries welcome for Classic Victoria Sponge or Fairy Cakes.</p> <p>Lots of stalls, Children's Craft Tent, Bouncy Castle, Penalty Shoot Out, Cream teas and ice creams            Plant and Book Stall            Plus GRAND SUMMER DRAW            All Proceeds to Mordiford School</p> <p>Thanks very much for your support, much appreciated.            Best regards,            Jane Williams.            Mordiford School PTFA.</p>	<p><b>Prior's Frome Chapel and Village fete</b></p> <p>29th June 2013 11am - 4pm</p> <p>in the chapel and car park!</p> <p>Craft stalls, games, refreshments, tuck shop, live band. Enter our bake-off with best cake or join the mass-judging panel. Raising funds for Comic Relief. HR1 4EP.</p> <p>Coffee mornings</p> <p>Every Tuesday at Prior's Frome Chapel HR1 4EP</p> <p>10am - 12.30pm.</p> <p>Come in for coffee, cake and chat.</p>
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## Bringing Broadband to Herefordshire

The project to bring faster broadband to Herefordshire now has a new website [www.fastershire.com](http://www.fastershire.com)

Businesses and homes across rural Herefordshire are suffering because of poor internet connections - but we have a real chance to change that.

Herefordshire Council has signed a partnership deal with Gloucestershire County Council and telecoms provider BT to deliver a new high speed fibre optic broadband network across the both counties, which should enable 90% of homes and businesses to have access to fibre broadband.

The new network will be delivered in stages and the outline delivery plan will be announced summer 2013. Details of speeds available to individual homes and business premises will only be available around the start of the delivery in each area, due to the need for detailed surveys to be undertaken.

**The £56.6m deal is funded by Government and local authority money.** Broadband Delivery UK's original allocation to Herefordshire was £6.35m. This has now been increased to £10.1m in recognition of the challenges faced by the county, which is being matched by Herefordshire Council. **BT will also invest £20.9m across both counties.**

The investment addresses the rural areas of both counties where high speed broadband would not have been delivered without additional public funding. However, most of Hereford city is already having a fibre based network implemented by BT, and Openreach has announced plans to deliver fibre based networks in Leominster and Ledbury by the end of 2013. This is in addition to this project which will see over 148,000 extra rural homes and businesses across both counties benefit from the public sector investment.

The priority is to make sure everyone has access to the "Universal Service Commitment" of 2Mbps broadband speed to wipe out the "not spots" in the county (where there is no broadband), along with widespread availability of Next Generation Access (NGA) of 30Mbps or above, allowing households and businesses to use the internet effectively now and in the future.

Along with commercial improvements to the network, we should see 88% of homes and business within Herefordshire having access to speeds of 30Mbps and above by the end of 2016. The intention is to build a network for the future and invest in technology that will future proof the county, which covers the design, build and operation of a wholesale broadband network across both counties. The network will be used by any number of independent internet service providers (ISPs) who would then offer a range of retail broadband packages to the consumer.



*Stayin' Alive!*  
*Learn how to save a life in just*  
*two hours*



Would you know what to do if your loved one suffered a heart attack, if they were choking or bleeding seriously? Life threatening emergencies can happen anywhere.

It only takes **two hours** to learn the skills needed to keep someone alive, until professional help arrives, by attending a **FREE** Heartstart course.

We can come to any venue in Herefordshire.

We offer:-

- Group Courses
- Public Courses
- Volunteering Opportunities

For information on volunteering or booking a course:-

Visit:- [www.herefordshireheartstart.org](http://www.herefordshireheartstart.org)

Or email: [info@herefordshireheartstart.co.uk](mailto:info@herefordshireheartstart.co.uk)

Or ring: **0845 60 60 654**

Registered Charity: Donations important

### Its 1963 in the UK

**President de Gaulle vetoed Britain's entry to the EEC ,  
The Profumo Scandal, The Beeching Report, The Great Train Robbery.  
Martin Luther King had a dream. President Kennedy was assassinated**

But making bigger news than all these events :

**BODY FOUND IN DORMINGTON!  
POLICE SUSPECT FOUL PLAY. LOCAL PEOPLE IN TURMOIL .**

Please join us for MURDER MYSTERY EVENING.

Starting 7.30 Saturday 22nd June in the front garden of Domington Court and  
culminating by 10pm in garden of Domington House

This is an evening of fun, laughter, terrible acting, and worse singing in a play  
written especially for the Dormington area

A 2 course informal meal with wine will be supplied during the progress of the  
play.

Our 8 players will reveal the story scene by scene and the audience is asked to  
guess the outcome with a **prize for the correct solution.**

The Audience is welcome to join in the fun by dressing appropriate to 1963

Tickets are £10 per head from

Bridget Wood 01432 850543 or Cheryl Shearer 01432 851590

All Proceeds to Charity



## VOLUNTEERS WANTED Your Community Needs You!

Do you have First Aid Skills or would you like to learn Emergency First Aid skills (CPR etc)? Could you instruct or help at our FREE two hour courses to enable us to pass on these essential skills to people in your community? Are you over 18? Volunteers are also needed to occasionally help with PR, writing press releases, basic admin, website/social media support, picking up charity boxes, giving talks to local groups, fundraising, helping at events, making crafts, manning stalls, writing grant applications etc. Could you be an ambassador for our charity? Trustees also needed.

If you have a few hours to spare on an occasional basis, then we need **you!** We will train you to help at courses, support you, pay your expenses and even offer you discounts with local businesses!

Herefordshire Heartstart is a voluntary organisation established in 1996, to teach basic Emergency Life Support skills (CPR etc). Heartstart is an initiative of the British Heart Foundation. We rely on volunteer instructors & helpers to deliver these FREE courses to the public.

**For further information contact the  
Co-ordinator/Project Manager Loraine Coleman  
Email: [info@herefordshireheartstart.co.uk](mailto:info@herefordshireheartstart.co.uk)  
Details at: [www.herefordshireheartstart.org](http://www.herefordshireheartstart.org)  
Tel: 0845 60 60 654 (Mon to Thurs 9.00am to 12.45pm)**

### Dormington and Mordiford Group Neighbourhood Watch

Local representatives meet quarterly to discuss problems with regard to criminal activity and crime prevention. If you are not a member of Neighbourhood Watch and would like to join, please access the Neighbourhood Watch page of the parish council website [www.dormingtonmordifordgroup-pc.gov.uk](http://www.dormingtonmordifordgroup-pc.gov.uk) for contact details. A copy of the monthly newsletter from the Safer Hereford Team is available from this page.

Local Policing Team..... [www.westmercia.police.uk](http://www.westmercia.police.uk)  
[Herefordruralnorth.lpt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Herefordruralnorth.lpt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk)  
[herefordruraleast.lpt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk](mailto:herefordruraleast.lpt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk)

Mobile PC James 07974 818920  
PCSO Wall 07970 602443

West Mercia Police 0300 333 3000  
Crimestoppers 0800 555 111  
Victim Support 01432 347208  
Childline 0800 1111  
Domestic Violence Helpline 0800 7831359  
National Drugs Helpline 0800 776600  
National NHW Association 02079 630160  
Herefordshire Road Safety Hotline 01432 364582  
Herefordshire NHW [www.communicate.co.uk/here/hfdsneiwatch/](http://www.communicate.co.uk/here/hfdsneiwatch/)

### What is Fibre Broadband?

Fibre broadband is the new generation of broadband - much faster, more reliable and it uses a different technology. Whilst most traditional broadband (known as ADSL) is delivered via copper telephone lines, fibre broadband commonly uses fibre optic cable as part of the link between the customer and the exchange.

Fibre broadband can be delivered in two ways: fibre to the cabinet (FTTC) and fibre to the premises (FTTP).

FTTC uses fibre-optic cables throughout the network right up to the street cabinet. It then uses existing copper wires to connect the cabinet to homes and businesses. FTTC provides wholesale download speeds up to 80Mbps and upload speeds up to 20Mbps, which are then offered as different service packages by retail Internet Service Providers (ISPs).

FTTP means fibre-optic cables run from the exchange right to the door of each house or business. It provides wholesale download speeds up to 330Mbps and upload speeds up to 30Mbps, again offered as different service packages by ISPs.

### When will I get fibre broadband?

From Spring 2013, anyone in an FTTC-enabled area will be able to upgrade to FTTP 'on demand'. 'Fibre on Demand' [FoD] allows any end-user to have a full fibre connection installed to their home or business premise. There will be a charge for the associated network build and an installation charge – all based on distance from BT's nearest network nodes. FoD will allow access to speeds of up to 330Mbit/s downstream and 30Mbit/s upstream.

Fibre broadband is being rolled out across both Herefordshire and Gloucestershire between 2013 and the end of 2016. From summer 2013 you will be able to check maps on the fastershire website to see which phase of delivery your area is in, and you will also be able to put your postcode into our postcode checker to see if you can get it yet. This will also tell you which telephone exchange area you fall within.

The roll out is being planned, working closely with our partners and participating organisations, taking into account many factors including local demographics and geography, planning requirements, the existing engineering infrastructure and the availability of suitable technologies to provide a service.

It's not possible with a programme of this size to plan every area at the same time so some areas will be enabled before others. We fully understand people's frustration and the huge importance of fibre broadband so information will be regularly updated as plans evolve.

### How do I order fibre broadband?

Once you've checked your line to confirm fibre broadband is available, it's much the same as ordering normal broadband. There are different Internet Service Providers (ISPs) offering the service, so you can shop around and choose the best deal for you.

If you're one of the premises in Herefordshire and Gloucestershire that can connect straightaway, contact your choice of Internet Service Provider to place an order. Please note that not all of one area will go live on the same day so it's worth checking the website regularly as information is constantly updated.

Many other questions are answered at [www.fastershire.com](http://www.fastershire.com). You can also ask your own questions on this site.

If you register your contact details on this site, you will be informed when your area becomes enabled for fibre broadband.

## Letter from Alistair Neill, chief executive of Herefordshire Council

Herefordshire Council's chief executive, Alistair Neill has written to all staff to alert them to the fact that revised plans to reduce spending by £9 million are to be taken to the council's cabinet in May.

We are making the letter public in order to ensure that partners, customers, businesses and residents in Herefordshire understand the financial pressures the council is facing and what the likely impact will be on services.

A consultation with our employees about changes to their terms and conditions has already started.

### Dear colleague

You will be aware that Herefordshire Council faces a huge cut in central government funding. By 2015 our government grant will be an estimated 33% per cent lower than it was in 2011.

Over the past two years the council has reduced costs by £21 million through efficiency savings and reductions in some services. This year we need to deliver savings of around £9 million and in the next two years a further £23 million. Furthermore, inflation has reduced the value of our income significantly.

When I took up the post of chief executive in March, I asked the senior management team in each service to work with the chief finance officer to review the budget and the plans to ensure we deliver the necessary savings. We cannot spend more money than we receive. Against a background of radically reduced funding from central government our plans need to be as strong and resilient as possible.

The upshot of this review was that we identified weaknesses in our plan for this year amounting to £8.4 million.

To ensure we move forward with a stronger plan and also to prepare us better for the future, we reviewed all service areas again to find further savings. As a result, we now have an action plan to deliver the necessary £8.4 million of savings this year. We have also identified actions that should deliver a further £1 million savings which will flow into next year, helping the council to plan at the earliest stage for the challenges ahead.

A report on these savings will be taken to cabinet in May, but broadly they are:

- We will have to cease some services that are valued by our partners and residents simply because we no longer have the funds to support them.
- We will unfortunately have to cut additional jobs. We now estimate that around 300 full time equivalent posts will be lost over the next two years through our existing plans and the additional proposals we are now taking forward. *(Full time equivalent posts is a smaller number than the actual number of jobs because two or more part time jobs may be added up to make a single full time equivalent.)*
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We will have to go much further in future years. The planning for those savings will start in

May and we will be delivering significant savings next year. To achieve these savings, the council will have to become much more business-like.

We will focus on three core areas:

- Protecting the most vulnerable in our communities through the services we are required to provide.
- Providing the services that are most vital to our communities and which we are required to provide.
- Co-ordinating and supporting the development of Herefordshire's economy.

Other non-statutory services may have to be commercialised or stopped.

Herefordshire Council is not alone. Local authorities across the country face similar unprecedented challenges. As in other parts of the country, we will need to consider how to best pull back from services that we will not be able to afford to deliver in the future and to release assets, such as buildings, that are no longer needed by the reshaped council in such a way as to minimise the impacts on the whole county and local communities.

This means that we will set out to our local communities where there are real, but urgent, opportunities for them to take more responsibility for services and for assets that we can no longer support. These could for example, instead of being stopped, be transferred to local groups, without additional funds. In this situation, local groups will need to demonstrate the ability to manage and sustain such services and assets locally, within the urgent timeframes that we have no option but to deal with.

Herefordshire Council will continue to play a leading role in the life of the county. We will remain a significant employer and will ensure that vital local services are delivered. We will become more business-like and efficient and focus on delivering value for money.

We will be making a series of announcements over the coming months and working hard to keep customers, residents, partners, staff, local businesses and councillors informed. I wanted to take this opportunity to explain the situation the council finds itself in and how we are responding.

Yours faithfully

**Alistair Neill**

**Chief executive, Herefordshire Council**