

### **Question from Mr Keith W Francis, Ledbury**

As Chairman of Ledbury Civic Society which contributed £5,000 towards the Ledbury Area Development Trust Business Plan for the Master's House, Ledbury, I wish to put the following questions to Herefordshire Council as 'Public Questions for Council' at their meeting on 7th March 2008.

'The Master's House in Ledbury is a Herefordshire Council owned building, currently in a poor state of repair, despite being a Grade 2\* listed building in the heart of the town. Can the Council confirm that it will commit itself to the full re-development plan for the site, including the building of a new extension to accommodate a new library, as detailed in the Ledbury Area Development Trust Business Plan?

Secondly, over what period of time and how will the redevelopment project be funded and will the work commence in the next financial year?

## **Question from Mr Roger Steeds, Bringsty, Worcestershire**

### Ref School Closures

The recent decision by Herefordshire District Council that no secondary school will close during this council (i.e. before May 2011) whilst most welcome is insufficient.

Would the Council please make clear with some urgency that no school which dominates a geographical area, by being say at least 10 miles from the nearest similar establishment, should be considered for closure whilst there are clusters of 3 or more schools (Hereford has 6) grouped around its perimeter all within say 15 miles.

Such a sensible decision would remove the threat that Herefordshire District Council made by singling out Bromyard's Queen Elizabeth Humanities College a threat which it has not withdrawn only masked. It would also prevent the LEA staff wasting time considering unacceptable options if only during this Council.

## **Question from Mr Roger Steeds, Bringsty, Worcestershire**

### LINTON TILE WORKS

1. When will Herefordshire District Council take the required steps to ensure essential repairs to the poor public access to their Bromyard recycling centre? This urgent work has been put off repeatedly with vague reference to a long-term development plan.
2. Does such a plan exist? The Parish Council were told it did in July 2007.
3. Are Herefordshire District Council, Marsten Developments Ltd and Advantage West Midlands discussing the plans finances?
4. Are Herefordshire District Council seeking public monies to fill in, at great expense, a substantial hole which may well have significant ecological benefit and is unlikely to bring real benefits?
5. Have Herefordshire District considered the ethics of the situation with two of the more relevant landowners not being involved and where it appears that the council and the developer may be acting as one another's agents?
6. Who is representing Herefordshire District Council in these talks?
7. How did Marsten Developments become involved? Was it by Public Tender? Do Marsten Developments have an option to buy Herefordshire District Council land? Was this acquired by public tender?
8. Does the plan involve scrapping the existing "Travellers" park built at considerable expense with public money and using more public money to replace it with a smaller unit?
9. A group of Burley residents wrote in August 2007 to the Highways Department expressing their concerns over potential HGV access. The local County Councillor was copied. When can they expect a response?

Letter addressed to The Northern Planning Division, copy to The Chair, Northern Area Planning Committee, dated 19 August 2007, referred to in Mr Steed's Question 9 above:

#### Re: Development of Linton Tile works

At the July meeting of the Parish Council it was announced that plans for the development of Linton Tile works had reached an advanced stage. We, the undersigned Burley residents, urgently seek reassurance that there is no intention of allowing HGV's access to the site from the narrow road over the single track railway bridge on Burley Lane coming from the A44. We would ask for this reassurance to cover both the development and subsequent phases.

We look forward to hearing from you

Signed by 20 residents.