

# **Herefordshire Sustainable Food & Tourism Partnership, 24<sup>th</sup> July 2019**

**Present:** David Curtis, Jenny Beard, Rachel Jones, Cathy Meredith, Nick Read

**Apologies:** Liz Lloyd, Clare Greener

## **Brightspace Foundation/food projects**

- A Food Poverty Alliance project was being led by Peter Norton, looking at the reasons for food insecurity within Herefordshire and identifying potential solutions.
- Herefordshire Council had recently launched a Sustainable Cities project, allied to the Food Poverty Alliance, and speakers would be attending a future HSFTP meeting.
- Herefordshire Green Network had launched The Great Collaboration, working with local authorities that had declared a climate change emergency to identify practical next steps. Land use and food was included within this.

## **Tourism**

- Jenny reported on the Herefordshire & Worcester Chambers of Commerce, there are no Visit Herefordshire members left.
- Many local tourism associations were also struggling and closing down.

## **Herefordshire Rural Hub**

- Caron Johnson was in place as Cathy's replacement.
- Funding from the Water and Environment Grant (WEG) would lead to more on-farm activity under the Farm Herefordshire approach.
- Farm Herefordshire's last meeting had looked at the issue of re-wilding.

## **Duchy of Cornwall**

- The Duchy's latest Annual Report had been laid before Parliament (copies were available).
- David was retiring at the end of December 2019 and his replacement would be Matthew Morris, who would be based at the Duchy's Bath office. Charlotte Ibbs would be responsible for the Herefordshire office.
- The Natural Capital assessment for the Duchy was continuing but had been hit by software problems and would probably take 4, rather than 3, years to complete. The work involved seconded staff from Natural England. The assessment would support Duchy tenants who wanted to benefit from the post-Brexit proposed Environmental Land Management Schemes (ELMS)
- The Prince of Wales was keen to plant trees, including hedgerow species, and wanted each holding to establish wildflower meadows.

## **Broadband**

David had resigned as a Director of Hereford Community Networks, though the CiC is looking to expand.

## **Funding**

- The DEFRA RDPE Growth Programme was due to be rolled out shortly.
- There was a Future High Street Fund and a High Street Heritage Action Fund being rolled out by government.
- LEADER in Herefordshire had hit all of its targets

## **Future of HSFTP**

It was agreed to review the membership and future roll depending on the outcome of phase 2 of the T BID. The group were available to write the tender spec.

**Date of Next Meeting**

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> November, at 10am. Venue to be confirmed.