

The Gazette view



Getting rid of our rubbish

A VISIT to 'the tip' was one of the highlights of my daughter's primary school education, and is something she still talks about.

She visited a very large waste recycling centre in South Wales but many of the principles are the same at smaller sites, such as the one in Station Street, Ross.

People have rubbish they want to get rid of and they drive to the site and dispose of it in large skips, probably never giving it another thought. And when you have spent a sunny afternoon tidying your lawn or cutting back hedges the feeling of tipping your garden waste into a skip and watching it disappear is very satisfying.

However visiting the Ross site and talking to the staff who are responsible, not just for the safety of those who drive into the site to bring their rubbish, but also the final destination for their stuff, it is obvious that this is a far more complicated business than it first appears.

Although I can understand why people, especially if they live in a small property or have a small garden don't want bags of recyclable waste around, or compost bins, it is obvious from even a short visit that it is being well-used. The people who run the site on behalf of Herefordshire Council would like to see people cut down their journeys to the tip.

I have to say as someone who only uses my local tip a couple of times a year I was amazed to see just how busy the Ross site is. Car drivers seemed happy to queue to get rid of quite small quantities, but what really impressed me was how helpful the staff are. Always looking to see if any of the drivers needed a hand and

Town Council is working on the markets to make them better

ROSS-ON-WYE Town Council took over running of the Market Days from Herefordshire Council last year, and have since been investing to ensure this asset becomes bigger and better in an effort to draw even more visitors in to the town.

The council recently bought new flags advertising the Market. These colourful flags are put around the market itself, in an effort to draw people in. A banner is also displayed on market days on the railings by the Morrisons' roundabout, telling visitors that there is a market in the centre of town.

A market research survey was recently carried out on behalf of the Town Council. The results showed that:

- There is low public recognition that the Town Council now runs the Ross markets; 2/3 either got it wrong, thinking it was still Herefordshire Council, or they didn't know.
- There is very low public awareness of the Farmer's Produce Market.
- Around 2/3 of those questioned use the Ross markets on a regular or occasional basis.
- For some, however, it is just not convenient so they don't shop there.
- The most popular lines are currently fresh food and flowers. These markets are judged to be of good value.
- There is strong loyalty to the market from those who use it.
- Those surveyed expressed a demand for more stalls and were particularly interested in more local produce, hot food, antique, vintage and anti-

raised by many. However, the tariffs and regulation of parking in the town are controlled by Herefordshire County Council, and not the Town Council.

The Markets Working Group of the Town Council will be using these findings to shape future markets policy and development.



Good news for trade recyclers

Jo Scrivin
jo@rossgazette.com

THERE is some good news for businesses who recycle their waste through the Ross-based charity, EnviroAbility.

Last week the *Ross Gazette* reported that the charity was having to stop this popular service due to increasing costs.

But just days after the report appeared in the paper, Paula Jones told the *Ross Gazette* that, thanks to the publicity, and goodwill of their customers, they have been able to retain the paper and cardboard recycling collection service that they offer. They will also continue to offer confidential shredding.

Paula explained that they have had to increase their prices but she said that customers had indicated that they would be happy to pay more to see the service continue.

She added that it would be helpful if a few more traders joined the scheme. To find out more, to order blue bags for paper or cardboard stickers contact Paula at EnviroAbility on 01989 763388.

View the Plan for Ross at Library

THERE will be a display of the information collected so far for the Neighbourhood Plan, in Ross Library between June 2nd - 10th.

The workshop, pop-up events and questionnaires have started to bring in lots of information about people's issues and concerns. Likes and dislikes. There have also been lots of suggestions for making the Town even better. The Town Plan Steering Group have turned all this information into some draft key aims for the Plan, and now they need you, the people of Ross, to let them know if they have got this stage right.

Come to Ross Library during opening hours, take a look at the display and give your thoughts. Information on the aims will also be available on the website - rossplan.org.uk