

# The Key

## School projects hold up Neighbourhood Plan

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MELVYN Reynolds the Chair of Ross-on-Wye Town Council's Neighbourhood Plan Sub Committee, offered to stand down at the recent meeting of Ross Town Council on Monday, July 10th.

Once the Neighbourhood Plan is adopted it will help to influence the use and development of land in any part of the Ross Town Council area. However, there will be a delay in the process, which Mr Reynolds told the Town Council, was due to a lack of information from Herefordshire Council. This means that the Ross-on-Wye Neighbourhood Plan is behind schedule.

He said it has not been possible to publish the anticipated update and the committee cannot proceed to the public consultation stage. The Plan is dependent on knowing Herefordshire's School policy for the future.

He said that there is a possibility of locating a new school at Broadmeadow but without any certainty there is nothing the committee can do except put the Plan on hold.

They will stop all work with the consultants, as continuing could incur considerable costs which might later be redundant.

Councillor Hannah Lerego thanked Mr Reynolds for the hard work he had already done, and asked if there were any financial implications for the Council if the work had to stop. "Would grants have to be repaid?" she asked.

Mr Reynolds said that the only money that would have to be returned, if not used this year, would be to the Town Council, but he added that it could be asked for again the

## ed project at Ross Court

following year.

Councillor Nigel Gibbs lead the Councillors in a unanimous vote of confidence in Mr Reynolds and they asked him to continue as Chair despite the frustrations.

Councillor Jenny Hyde said that she was not making excuses but purchase had caused delays and the election had stopped work.

Councillor Cutter said moving a school is a major operation which takes an enormous amount of time to organise.

He said the County Council is still considering how it can be done, he apologised if this meant that the Neighbourhood Plan has gone away. He added that the County Council is the leading council in the country for the number of Neighbourhood Plans being advanced.

According to the Neighbourhood Plan website Herefordshire Council may be seeking a site for a replacement, top quality, modern Ashfield Park School. The school may stay where it is but other sites are being looked at, including a small part of the area behind Morrisons.

The website adds: "With permission now granted for the large development at Hildersley, the pressure on housing numbers is slightly reduced. However, the Model Farm scheme did not secure any government funding to bridge its viability problems, so Herefordshire Council are currently pondering the future of that whole area."

The Neighbourhood Plan Committee is planning to attend Ross Carnival in August to show members of the public how advanced it is. They hope to have a formal, finished Plan ready mid autumn, a few months later than originally planned.



MEMBERS of Ross-on-Wye Lions Club were at the Ross stand on Sunday, July 14th to mark the official handover of electricity key to the Town Council.

The 'key' was presented to the Mayor of Ross, Councillor Nigel Gibbs, as well as a larger version for the photo. As well as Lion President Jenny and members of the Club, former member John Plant and Jo, the wife

## Councillor tr

A ROSS Town Councillor was left feeling highly frustrated when he was told that a pothole, that he has been campaigning to be repaired since October last year, was deemed not to be a hazard by Balfour Beatty.

The dip in the road is on High Street, which is a major road in Ross.

Cllr Bartnum said he was angry and disappointed that it was not considered worthy of repair.

Cllr Bartnum reported the pothole through the Herefordshire Council website. When nothing happened at the beginning of the year he contacted the Council again. Then, last week he contacted the Council again, which was when he was told that it is not a hazard.

## Win a Double

COURTESY OF FURNITURE

Local company, [furniture.co.uk](http://furniture.co.uk) are offering one lucky *Ross Gazette* reader the chance to win a Juliette Shabby Chic White Double Bed in the antique French style, as featured in the Channel 5 show, Big Brother.



This lovely bed with upholstered headboard and beautifully curved foot end and sides will look fantastic in any bedroom. This bed has not central

