

APPENDIX 61

NEWS

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Merger of forces is inevitable

A MERGER between West Mercia and Warwickshire Police is now "inevitable", a police federation chairman has said.

Ken MacKail was speaking after the two forces launched their alliance on Monday.

This means officers from both West Mercia and Warwickshire share the same control room and are covering a patch of 3,000 square miles.

But both forces have insisted they will retain their identity, at present.

"My own view is that in the future it is inevitable the two forces will have to merge completely," said West Mercia police federation chairman Mr MacKail.

"The two forces are now so closely interlinked, there will be more savings to be made by going that one step further. But it will not happen for another two or three years."

At present each force has its own chief constable but Mr MacKail said he was confident there would eventually be just one.

But a spokeswoman for the forces insisted there was "no plans at present" for a merger without losing the individual identities of the two forces, she said.

"Our present focus is on delivering the alliance, which has virtually all the benefits of a merger without losing the individual identities of the two forces," she said.

Callous sex predator has his appeal thrown out by judges

by Journal reporter

A CALLOUS sex predator, handed a 12-year jail term for repeatedly abusing a vulnerable schoolgirl, has failed to convince top judges of his innocence.

David George O'Shea, 54, was caged at Hereford Crown Court in February last year after a jury convicted him of taking indecent photos of a child, sexual assault, and facilitating the commission of a sexual offence with a child.

Lord Justice Laws, sitting in London's Appeal Court with Mr Justice Glove and Mr Justice Jay, said O'Shea preyed on the 13-year-old by taking degrading and lewd photos of her before his offending escalated to sexual assault.

His victim said O'Shea introduced her to another man with a view to having sex, and "threatened to kill her" if she disclosed his sick conduct.

At trial, O'Shea, of Masefield Avenue, Hereford, vehemently denied his guilt - insisting his victim was "manipulative and a liar" - but was disbelieved by the jury.

The case reached the Appeal Court today as the former soldier challenged his jail term as too tough. He also insisted his convictions were "unsafe" and should be overturned on the basis that his victim was "unreliable and had lied".

But all his complaints were thrown out by Lord Justice Laws, who said the question of the schoolgirl's credibility was "a matter entirely for the jury".

"The convictions appear entirely safe," he ruled.

As for O'Shea's sentence, the judge said it was "entirely proper" in view of his "serious and persistent offending".

Jailed PC is sacked from the force



Jordan Powell

AN officer has been sacked from West Mercia Police this week after receiving a prison sentence for misconduct in a public office.

The 31-year-old PC Jordan Powell was dismissed without notice at a hearing chaired by Chief Constable David Shaw.

Last month, Powell was jailed for 15 months at Gloucester Crown Court after admitting three counts of misconduct in a public office.

He sent inappropriate text messages to a victim of domestic violence who he met through his job and engaged in a sexual

relationship with the woman while he was on duty. Powell also admitted sending another female victim of crime inappropriate text messages of a sexual nature. Deputy Chief Constable Simon Chesterman said: "Incidents of this nature have the potential to seriously damage the trust placed in us."

Powell joined West Mercia Police in October 2004 and received a written warning in 2005 over an inappropriate relationship with a female victim of crime. He was arrested and suspended in July 2012.

Violent crime figures fall across region

VIOLENT crime has continued to fall in most parts of West Mercia as police step up action to prevent trouble, especially in city and town centres.

Figures for the first half of year - from April to September - show violent incidents resulting in injury generally still falling, maintaining the trend of recent years.

Four of the five areas within the West Mercia force area - Herefordshire, Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin, South Worcestershire and North Worcestershire - have seen a reduction over the same period last year. The fifth is on a par with last year.

The force area as a whole has seen a 13.9 per cent drop in incidents,

from 3,469 from April to September last year to 2,986 this year.

And the number of violent crimes resulting in injury being solved in West Mercia is also up by more than nine per cent.

In Herefordshire there were 497 violent crimes this year compared with 511 last year (down 2.7 per cent).

Detective Chief Inspector Jason Wells said the latest figures were encouraging but still too high.

"Reducing violent incidents, especially those causing injury, will continue to be a priority for the police and our partners," he said. "These crimes cause immeasurable distress to victims and impact heavily on the well-being of our local communities."

He said a number of new initiatives had recently been introduced to counter violent crime in city and town centres, including focusing on alcohol-related incidents.

DCI Wells said the police would continue their proactive approach to tackle all forms of violence.

Patrols

"Wherever possible, walk away from disorder or a potentially volatile situation. Don't get involved and if you see trouble starting, steer clear so you don't become caught up in it," he said.

"Police patrols, especially in town centres at weekends, play a big part in preventing late-night distur-

bances. We have a heightened police presence at key times which helps keep the peace but at the end of the day, it is up to individuals of all ages to act responsibly."

He added: "I want people to help us by reporting incidents. If you see trouble in the street, or fear it is about to break out, call the police immediately on 101. If it is an emergency, call 999. I would also urge people to stand up and be counted if they witness acts of violence and to come forward with information."

"We know that some victims are reluctant to report incidents, particularly when it comes to domestic abuse, but we appeal to them to come forward in confidence so we can help."

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Proposed Housing Development

Land at Home Farm,
Belmont, Hereford

Lioncourt Homes submitted an appeal on the 5th February 2013 following the refusal of an Outline Planning Application by Herefordshire Council for the Construction of 85 dwellings with access, associated open space, landscaping, infrastructure and parking provision.

The appeal will be heard at a Public Inquiry commencing on the 12th November 2013.

As a result of further work, since the appeal was submitted, we propose to substitute the original illustrative masterplan with a revised masterplan.

The revised masterplan can be viewed on the project website www.homefarmhereford.co.uk.

We would encourage you to share any comments on the revised plans through the website response form.

The closing date for comments is the 21 October 2013.

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School pal soldiers to return from busy Afghanistan tour

By ADAM KNIGHT

adam.knight@herefordtimes.com

HAVING fought side by side for six months in Afghanistan, two former Hereford Cathedral school students are looking forward to coming home.

Will Boyd-Thomas and Alex Laws became firm friends at Sandhurst, placed in the same platoon for officer training.

Both are now captains and on the cusp of completing a seven-month tour in Helmand Province.

"I've spent a huge amount of my time away training and deployed on operations" said Will, a troop leader for the specialist helicopter unit, the Brigade Reconnaissance Force.

"I'm looking forward to being back in Hereford again and seeing my family and friends".

The tour will be the penultimate summer campaign for British forces in Afghanistan.

And for the BRF - whose role is to target insurgents and seize any



Captains Will Boyd-Thomas (left) and Alex Laws are in Afghanistan.

weapons or explosives that would otherwise be turned on International Security Assistance Forces - it will go down as a successful one.

"We've seized dozens of weapons, thousands of rounds of ammunition and have destroyed more than half a tonne of explosives," said Will.

"If you think that just a few kilos of explosive can produce an improvised explosive device, we're aware we've made a very real difference over the

course of the tour."

Alex, who serves in the 22 Regiment, Royal Engineers, had been working as a battle group engineer for a company of Irish Guards while in Helmand.

Responsible for planning operations, Alex would assess the terrain and conditions to put together a strategy with the company's commanding officer.

On Saturday, he will be back alongside his regiment for the Royal Engineers' homecoming parade through Andover, Hampshire.

However the 33-year-old is already focused on another reunion.

"I'm looking forward to seeing my wife and picking my eight-year-old daughter up from school," said Alex. "It's going to be a surprise so I hope she isn't reading this."

Will, however, will have to wait until December 4 for his own parade, when members of the Household Cavalry Regiment will receive their operational medals.

Weight for it

THE mayor of Hereford will throw his weight behind a charity bash. Councillor Phil Edwards will be weighed at the Hereford Cidermaking Festival on October 19. The equivalent value of the same weight in cider will then be donated by Bulmers to the mayor's charity, St Michael's Hospice, and Venn's Arch Restoration.

Osteoporosis fracture risk scans

Osteoporosis is common in post-menopausal women and hip fractures can prove fatal. Osteoporosis can be prevented if weak bones are detected early enough but scans for risk of fracture are not always readily available. However, you can now have a non-invasive scan for £22.

Tuesday 15th October

Ross Larrupcz Centre

Monmouth Shire Hall

Monday 28th October

Hereford Shire Hall

Leominster Library

(Healthy Heart check also available for £20)

For information and appointments:

Healthcare Screening 0845 224 6784

Wye Valley NHS
NHS Trust

LISTENING EVENT

The event is being organised by a Rapid Response Review team which wants to hear about

YOUR EXPERIENCES

of Wye Valley NHS Trust
(No need to register, just turn up)

Thursday, October 10 6pm-8pm

In the Lecture Theatre, Post Graduate Medical Centre, County Hospital, Union Walk, Hereford, HR1 2ER

Proposed Housing Development Land at Home Farm, Belmont, Hereford

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Divorce counselling axed by cost-cutting

MEDIATION Herefordshire - a not-for-profit group helping families deal with divorce - closed this month after more than a quarter of a century.

It is the latest victim of government cuts to legal aid that have left many elements of family law ineligible for public funding.

As a free service for those eligible for legal aid, Mediation Herefordshire's sessions offered help in circumstances of family

breakdown and divorce - a quicker and cheaper solution to going through the courts.

However with divorce, child contact, welfare benefits, employment, clinical negligence, and housing law no longer fully covered by legal aid, the charity is going into liquidation.

Trustee Simon Nickels confirmed the group's Bath Street office in Hereford is now closed

but was unable to make any comment for legal reasons until a members' meeting later this month.

One company offering to fill the gap left is Hereford-based Talk Mediation.

Traditionally a firm specialising in civil and commercial conciliation, it has expanded its services to cover family mediation over the last few years.

One concern for Talk

Mediation managing director Suzanne Lowe is that when, in April next year, Mediation Information and Assessment Meetings (MIAMs) become compulsory for those wishing to get divorced, there won't be enough local firms left to do them.

For more information, visit talkmediation.co.uk, call Suzanne Lowe on 01432 344666 or email enquiries@talkmediation.co.uk.

Wlks' organisers to set next date

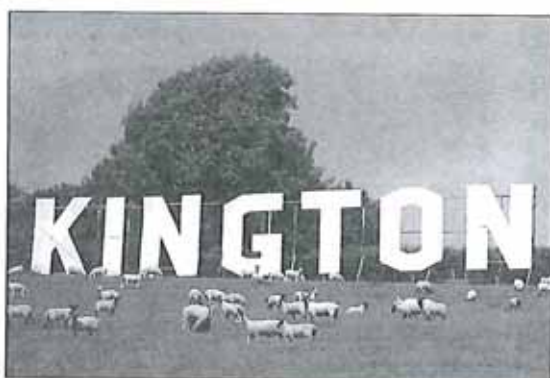
ORGANISERS of Kington Walking Festival are to meet to discuss next year's event.

Hundreds of tourists travelled from all over the country to take part in last month's treks - and plans are being made to make 2014 just as successful.

Helen Yeomans said September 18 to 21 is looking like the most probable date for next year.

She said that new walking leaders and committee members are needed and anyone interested can attend the festival's AGM at 5.45pm on October 22 at the Burton Hotel.

For further details go to kingtonwalks.org.



Hundreds turned out for Kington's walking festival.

Ukraine night

A NIGHT of Ukrainian culture takes place in Pudleston Village Hall on October 18 at 7pm, when people can sample Ukrainian cuisine and vodka while hearing about a recent trip to the country.

Tickets cost £10 per person and the money will go towards funding youth projects in Ukraine.

To book, contact Nataliya Cummings on 07963 090638 or email nataliya.cummings@gmail.com.

Zombie party

ZOMBIES are set to take over Hereford High Town for Halloween.

The Dolloway Dancers will be dressing up before putting on a series of scary performances to raise money for charity.

With October 31 falling in the school holidays this year, organisers are calling for children and parents to come down from 11am.

APPENDIX 62

HOME FARM, HEREFORD

[Home](#) [Location](#) [So what's going on?](#) [Make your views known](#)

Welcome to the Lioncourt Homes consultation website for Home Farm, Hereford

An outline planning application was submitted on 27 September 2012 to Herefordshire Council for the construction of 85 dwellings with access, associated open space, landscaping, infrastructure and parking provision.

Planning permission was refused by the Council on 27 December 2012. An appeal to the Secretary of State was subsequently lodged and will be heard on 12 November 2013.

This website contains information about the location of the site, the original application plans alongside a revised illustrative masterplan which we propose to substitute for the original plan.

We would be very interested to hear any views which you may have regarding the revised illustrative masterplan which we have developed. Any comments can be made through this website - [click here](#). The closing date for comments on the revised illustrative masterplan is 21st October 2013.

Our privacy policy, why we collate certain information, and terms and conditions can be found on the [T&Cs](#) page.

Your thoughts and views are important and we look forward to hearing from you.

Thank you for your interest.

[CONTACT US](#)



[View the original illustrative masterplan for Home Farm](#)



[View the revised illustrative masterplan plan for Home Farm](#)



[View the location plan for Home Farm](#)

Lioncourt Homes

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HOME FARM, HEREFORD

[Home](#) [Location](#) [So what's going on?](#) [Make your views known](#)

So what's going on?

Across the country more people are living longer, in smaller households and there are not enough homes to meet this increasing demand. Herefordshire Council estimates that around 6,500 new homes are needed in the City of Hereford between 2011 and 2031, of which 2,100 would be located on small sites, dispersed around the City. Therefore the Council are currently addressing how future development within Herefordshire can help to provide some of these new homes and have recently been seeking views and considering potential locations for future development.

Outline Planning Application

An outline planning application was submitted to Herefordshire Council for the construction of 85 dwellings with access, associated open space, landscaping, infrastructure and parking provision. An illustrative masterplan accompanied the application.

Planning permission was refused by the Council on 27 December 2012. An appeal to the Secretary of State was subsequently lodged and will be heard on 12 November 2013.

Following further work since the appeal was lodged, a revised illustrative masterplan has been developed.

We are keen to hear the views of local people with regard to the revised illustrative masterplan. Comments can be made through this website - [click here](#). The closing date for comments on the revised illustrative masterplan is 21st October 2013.

[VIEW THE CONCEPT PLAN](#)[Terms and conditions](#)

Your thoughts and views are important and we look forward to hearing from you.

Thank you for your interest.

[CONTACT US](#)

View the original illustrative masterplan for Home Farm



View the revised illustrative masterplan plan for Home Farm

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