

WIGMORE GROUP PARISH COUNCIL WARD COUNCILLOR REPORT APRIL 2026

I hope you all had a good Easter and managed to get out and about.

As I believe you are aware Bruce Evans along with inspectors have confirmed that the top dressing of the recently surface dressed Killhouse Lane/Wigmore Road has failed. There was a joint visit which took place, between Herefordshire Council and Eurovia who laid the chippings and they have accepted the condition and the extent of failure, they have gone away to plan what is needed to rectify, it will likely be in the summer due to road temperatures.

A resident has written to English Heritage about the closing of the castle and asking for repairs to be carried out and it be re-opened to the public as a matter of urgency. English Heritage's response was accepting of the situation but giving no indication as to when work might take place.

I can confirm that Enforcement are dealing with a case in Wigmore.

The UK Digital Switchover

Landline telephone services in the UK are switching to a fully-digital network. This means phone calls will be made over the internet (instead of analogue landlines). This is what's known as the digital switchover.

The switchover is happening because analogue telephone lines are becoming more difficult and expensive to maintain. The UK needs a modern digital system that can handle communications via mobile phones, laptops, tablets and other electronic devices.

The digital switchover is planned to be completed by January 2027.

How will it affect me; what do I need to do?

For most consumers and businesses, this change will be straightforward:

- If you already have an internet connection, the change may be as simple as plugging your phone into your broadband router, rather than the socket on the wall.
- If you need to upgrade your phone system, your provider may need to arrange for a telephone engineer to come to your home to install a new system.
- If you have other devices connected to your phone line, such as an alarm and digital / tele-healthcare system (including [Technology Enabled Care \(TEC\)](#)), your alarm or healthcare system provider might need to upgrade your alarm device to make sure it's compatible. If you're unsure about how a device in your home or business might be affected, contact the equipment supplier or device manufacturer to find out whether it will still work on a digital phone line.

More information and support

Your telecoms provider (eg Virgin Media, O2 or BT) will contact you ahead of the switchover to let you know what you need to do to make sure your service isn't affected. You do not need to take any action until your provider contacts you directly.

If residents have any concerns or issues regarding the digital switchover they should not hesitate to contact Cllr Peter Stoddard. Herefordshire Council Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Services, and Herefordshire Digital Champion: peter.stoddart@herefordshire.gov.uk

If you are aware of any empty properties which have been empty for some time please do not hesitate to let me know as we are doing our best to trace owners and ascertain why the property is empty when it could be if necessary brought back into good repair and used for housing.