



A Record Of Wasteful Spending

£1.1 Million For A single cycle lane

Since winning control of the Council in May 2019, this Green-Independent Coalition of Cost has forked out millions of pounds on their ideological vanity projects.

Prior to that they installed tree planters in Hereford City at the cost of well over half a million pounds which subsequently died when the Council failed to maintain them properly.

Nearly £1 Million For Tree Planters & Maintenance

Most recently they spent just over £1.1 Million on less than a mile of cycle lane. The budget was £700,000 but the overspend quickly grew to over £470,000 (67% over budget) wasting even more of your money on a scheme that has been described as "an awful job".

Not to mention the ill timed purchase of the Maylord shopping centre for £4.5 Million without a plan of what to do with it. Surely £4.5 Million would have been better spent on addressing the crumbling roads across the county?

£4.5 Million On A Shopping Centre

This article from the Tory snoozepaper accuses the coalition of wasteful spending. Again, a misrepresentation of the facts on an eye-popping scale.

St Owen Street Cycle Lane: "£1.1m on less than a mile of cycleway!" shriek the Tories, whilst conveniently forgetting that **the St Owen Street scheme was one the coalition inherited from them in an unfit state to deliver.** The Tories' slow delivery of projects and bad management of the BBLP contract meant that the scheme design did not comply with government guidance on safety.

Of course the essential redesign of the scheme cost more money and – as is only appropriate - needed to be followed by a round of public consultation before the final design could be fully costed and confirmed, and the work tendered for delivery.

The resurfacing of St Owen Street was scheduled to be done as part of the 2023/24 road maintenance programme. However, BBLP recommended that it would be less disruptive and more cost effective to pull the work forward into 2022/23 and undertake the resurfacing alongside implementing the cycle scheme.

So yes, more than a million pounds was spent in St Owen

Street this year, but **there was no overspend.** It was an **upgraded cycle scheme and a separate resurfacing scheme undertaken in parallel.** Compare this to the fact that the Tories hid the fact that they overspent by more than £6m on a budget of £37m for the 800m City Link Road ... making it the most expensive strip of tarmac in Europe!

Planters and Trees: Remember when High Town was full of trees? Remember the trees on Edgar Street? Remember the trees that were supposed to be planted along the City Link Road in those seductive design simulations? **All either chopped down or never planted by Yes, you've guessed it ... the Tories.**

Urban trees provide shade, a habitat for wildlife and help to clean the air and reduce temperatures in the city. Large relocatable planters have been placed on the link road until the originally intended trees can be properly sited. It's not possible to replant large trees right now in High Town, but **planters with integral seating help to reintroduce some of the shade and greenery which has been lost** and to make the public space somewhere people can spend time in without having to commit money to a coffee or a meal at one of the concession stands.

Maylords Shopping Centre: The lease for this site had an original asking price of more than £14.5m, but Maylords was shabby and under invested in by its owners and was **doing nothing to help the city's retail core recover from the damage done by the Tories** when they flipped the Livestock Market from being a cultural and leisure development to become a competing shopping centre.

The council already owned the freehold to Maylords and **acquiring the site for a bargain £4.5m has enabled the council to take action to change the tenant mix** to be one of independent and quirky shops, cultural and service sector tenants, alongside significant footfall drivers for the city like the new Department of Work & Pensions offices.

Maylords will soon become the new home of the city's Library, creating a 21st century hub for knowledge and learning and is **changing the way city centre space is used.** By reducing the number of retail units in the development, the acquisition has made it easier for private landlords to rent out their own retail premises - further helping to increase city centre footfall. **The latest valuation for Maylords is that the total property holding is worth more than £10.5m and is delivering a good commercial income on top of covering its operating costs.**



The Conservatives published their own 'newspaper' full of misleading nonsense. For a full explanation of why their claims are such utter rubbish, go to the Myth Busting page. Meanwhile here are the headlines...



Planters were paid for out of a covid grant to improve the city centre, not from your council tax.

The 'bypass' was a Conservative waste of money. It would have encouraged more traffic at a time when we need to find ways to encourage less. Plus it would still take another 10 years to do and cost another £250 million+

Conservatives raised council tax by the full amount every year they were in power. Plus inflation was lower then.

Government directed all councils to reorganise bin collections with a greater emphasis on recycling. The public were consulted on the plans and a majority agreed with the new arrangements



Money spent on Hereford city centre is aimed at actually solving the cities transport problems, which these roads schemes never would.



Conservatives approved a massive increase in poultry farming without thinking of the effect of phosphates on our rivers. Now they try to blame us!

The new cycle lane was not our 'vanity project'. It was actually part of a scheme designed by the Conservatives. Costs went up because their design needed improvement.

Our Children's services have been in trouble since long before the Coalition took over. The headline cases date back to when the Conservatives ran the council. Funding has been under pressure for over 10 years.

The reason our rivers are so polluted is because Thatcher sold off our water to companies who want profit over nature. The Government still refuses to take the pollution of our rivers seriously, letting these companies discharge raw sewerage into our rivers.



Rural areas are undervalued by Government. It is they who spend billions on HS2 rather than local bus services. Not your council

Basically every story in their 'newspaper' is a total misrepresentation of the truth. Even the 'potholes have potholes' story conveniently forgets to mention that the government has slashed the money available to sort out roads while the cost of materials has gone up.

Find out more about Independents for Herefordshire on our website: www.i4H.org.uk