

## Article 3 – Citizens and the council

Herefordshire Council is keen to engage with citizens living or working in the county and involve them in council activities. This article describes how Herefordshire citizens can take part.

### **2.3.1 Citizens' rights**

2.3.2 Citizens have the right:

- (a) to take part in question time at any meeting of the council where the agenda includes public question time;
- (b) to speak during public speaking time at meetings of the planning and regulatory committee;
- (c) to contribute to investigations by scrutiny committees;
- (d) to be consulted or in some other way participate in council decision making in accordance with the arrangements the council has for such consultation and participation;
- (e) to access information in accordance with the access to information rules; and
- (f) to attend any public meeting.

### **2.3.3 Citizens' responsibilities**

2.3.4 A healthy democracy depends upon active citizenship. Citizens are encouraged to make conscientious use of their roles as both voters and members of a wider community. In particular, citizens are encouraged to:

- (a) vote at every opportunity;
- (b) respect the expression of differing opinions in public debate;
- (c) promote tolerance and respect between their fellow citizens; and
- (d) seek information about the decision-making role of councillors and respecting the council procedures which give effect to a representative democracy.

The rights and responsibilities of citizens are set out in more detail in the public participation guide (part 5 section 8).