

Chairman of Council report – Council Meeting
25 July 2025

Thank you to those councillors who joined me on our visit to St Micheal's hospice at Bartestree to see and hear first hand of the excellent work they are achieving. This facility is so valued in our communities and so reliant on voluntary contributions to support important care to patients and families both at the hospice and in their homes.



Last month we marked Armed Forces week, and I had the honour of speaking at the raising of the flag ceremony in Hereford Hightown together with civic dignitaries. It is estimated that nearly a quarter of all households in the county have military connections and Herefordshire schools and colleges educate several thousands of “military children”.

We have of course an important active regiment in the county and are

home to many thousands of veterans. The Council particularly promotes the Herefordshire Veterans Support centre in Widemarsh Street to support veterans and their families, and promote Employers, Charities, and Businesses to become members of the Armed Forces Covenant, again to support veterans in employment.

Several councillors joined the Vice Chair and I at a briefing on our teenage cadet teams across the County and heard first hand from several Cadets who shared their experience of the military cadets and the personal development they had gained from being members.

Armed Forces Day this year was held at the Old Market development in Hereford and was an opportunity for interaction between the public and many military organisations.

I was pleased to attend the opening of the Megan Baker house in Ledbury and witness how successfully this charity has grown in recent years. The charity

runs sessional services for adults and children with neurological motor disorders using methods of conductive education. The new centre based at the Shaw Home offers facilities and an operational hub for the charity which also outreaches throughout our own and adjoining countries operating out of village halls. Reliant on donations and grants it supports patients with cerebral palsy, multiple sclerosis, developmental coordination disorder, brain injury, Parkinson's and strokes.

The High Sheriff joined me and some Herefordshire members of the Fire Authority to inspect the temporary Hereford Fire Station in Mortimer road in Holmer. This will be the base of the crews and appliances for the next 18 months as the old station is demolished and a new station built on the site. It is good to see the 16-million-pound project underway after over 20 years of attempting to identify a site.

The sunshine and crowds turned out for the Royal Three Counties Show in Herefordshire's year and good to see promotion of our county exhibitors and businesses. On the 26th July the 297th Three Choir Festival will begin in Hereford which will be another opportunity to showcase our county.

Cllr Roger Phillips JP