

Chairman of Council report – Council Meeting **5 December 2025**

Chairs Report to Council



Can I thank the councillors who laid wreathes on Remembrance Sunday on behalf of the Council at the various Market Towns, and to all of you who attended various commemorations events. As elected community leaders it is part of our role to participate in such an important civic occasion.

The tragic accident in Leominster involving one of the Council's sub contractor bin lorries driving into a house shocked our community. Sadly one of the passengers Andzie "Stan" Stanik died in the accident with the driver and another passenger hurt. Mr Stanik had been working on refuse collection for over 25 years and was familiar to many people on his rounds. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends.



I was pleased to attend the formal opening of the new Crown Court in Hereford which was created by converting two former magistrates' courts at the Justice Centre in Bath street into a Crown court and jury room.

Following the collapse of the roof in the old Crown Court in the Shirehall in 2020 all Crown Court cases for our county were heard in Worcester. The Shirehall had been the home of the Crown court since it was built in 1817.

The senior Presiding Judge opened the new court attended by representatives of the Judiciary who will sit in the building.

Crown Courts deal with more serious cases which currently require over 6 months prison sentence with Magistrates dealing with the majority of criminal cases in Herefordshire.

Several colleagues serving on the Hereford & Worcester Fire and Resue Service attended with myself the annual Herefordshire awards ceremony to recognise the length of service and special service of many of our local firefighters. The evening honoured many specific events which showed bravery and high degrees of professionalism in saving lives. Special awards were also made to employers who support their employees being on call retained firefighters.

The Vice Chair and I have attended many events supporting Military, Civic and Community organisations and our monthly Citizenship Ceremonies.

Cllr Roger Phillips JP