

## **Chairman of Council report – Council Meeting** **13 February 2026**

### **Chairs Report to Council**

**I know all members welcomed that Herefordshire Council’s Children’s Services have now been rated ‘Good’ overall by Ofsted, with each specific service area receiving a ‘Good’ judgement and the ‘Impact of leaders on social work practice with children and families’ judged as ‘Outstanding’ . This is a significant achievement for the Council, reflecting the hard work and dedication of practitioners, managers, elected members and partners who committed to deliver the improvements. The very nature and complexities of children`s care mean you can never be overconfident in this area, but the service leads led by Tina Russell and political leaders Cllr Ivan Powell, Cllr Jonathan Lester and Cllr Toni Fagan deserve all credit for what has been achieved.**



**I was delighted to attend a special showing of the film Hamnet at the Courtyard, organised by Visit Herefordshire to help promote our County tourism. Filmed on location at Weobley, the Cwmmau Farmhouse in Brilley, and the river wye at Clifford, it has already received International awards and future nominations including for the BAFTAs and Oscars. The evening including a special presentation and a audio message from the author of Hamnet, Maggie O`Farrell.**

**Herefordshire Council worked closely with the film company in identifying sites and during the making of the film and gets a thank you mention in the long closing titles.**



**Last month HRH The Prince of Wales ,in his capacity as Patron of We Are Farming Minds ,visited farmers John and Laura Bowler at Much Cowarne. The Charity raises mental health awareness in rural communities of Herefordshire offering 24 hour support, professional counselling and befriending services, combats isolation, provides resources and advice.**

**The Prince spent time on the farm discussing the challenges and pressures of Farming and the isolation in the Countryside.**

**Pictures include HM Lord Lieutenant Edward Harley, HRH**

**Prince of Wales, John and Laura Bowley, Sam and Emily Stables (founders of the Charity) and myself.**

**Can I express my thanks for all the kind words and congratulations I have received on my recent award in the New Years Honours list. I have been fortunate over many years to work with many wonderful people, both inside and outside the county, on projects and policy development I think we can all be proud of.**

**Since the last council meeting I have attended many events and services over the Christmas period and spoken at two citizenship ceremonies.**

**Cllr Roger Phillips OBE JP**

**Chair of Herefordshire Council**