

AYMESTREY PARISH COUNCIL WARD COUNCILLOR REPORT SEPTEMBER 2026

My apologies for not being able to attend your meeting.

The fete was a great success as usual and the sun shone as it usually does. Amazingly I entered some cross stitch in the craft competition and not only one the class but also Best in Show. The only time I have ever won an award. Thanks to all those involved in making the fete once again an amazing success. I have also been able to attend some coffee mornings in August which are so well attended.

August gave me the opportunity to visit many organisations whose services Adult Social Care uses or who help prevent members of their community from needing the support of Adults Social Care. I went to the Service for Independent Living which operates out of Leominster Enterprise Park. I also visited Ross on Wye where we have purchased a house which we will use for temporary accommodation in that area. It is a 3 storey building and will be turned into 3 apartments. It will go a little way to easing our temporary accommodation requirements and just before going away I went to Kington to meet the volunteers and clients who are operating out of the back of the old pub and now call themselves Open Arms. They are open every day with different activities and I visited on the coffee morning day. Clients included a young man originally from Wimbledon in a high paid job who had been diagnosed with MS, some ladies who came along because they were lonely and a chap who had served in the army, been injured and was suffering from PTSD. It was a very interesting and as I mentioned in my last report all those attending were suffering from loneliness.

I attended the Court Yard for the H & W BBC Making a Difference Awards and I was delighted that Lees Place in Hereford City a café open in the evenings and run by volunteers for those who are homeless and living on the streets won the Community Group Award. They don't just feed their clients but have facilities for clothes washing, replacement clothes and shoes and an opportunity to talk to the clients and get an idea of why they are in this situation. In many cases we can support them and get them off the street and into temporary accommodation.

Barry and I hope to attend the Aymestrey Harvest Festival on the 2nd October.

I have paid a few visits to the Aymestrey Patisserie and talking to the owner I believe he will be working to get his farm shop open as soon as possible.

At present those on Universal Credit and Pension Credit receive a 100% council tax relief. We are going out to consultation as to whether those on Universal Credit, who are those of working age should only receive an 80% relief. Apart from this helping us with our budget setting next year we are questioning whether all working age adults should make some contribution to the services we provide, such as road maintenance, bin emptying etc. I would be interested in your views.

The setting of next year's budget will be tough and we are already working hard to deliver services in a way without impacting adversely on those who need our services the most. If you are as a parish council looking at your budget for the next financial year I would not bank on grants from the Council for drainage or Public Rights of Way. I am advised by the Cabinet Member for Finance that these and the Lengthsman scheme money will be communicated to Parish Councils in around November.