

HAVERFORDWEST TOWN COUNCIL

Mayor's Report to Full Council

Report: Mayor's Monthly Report

Meeting: 15 October 2026 Full Council Meeting

Reporting period: 18 September 2026 – 9 October 2026

Mayor's day in office: Day 142

Total official mayoral engagements to date: 139

1. Mayor's Introduction

I am pleased to present my latest report to Full Council, covering the period from 18 September to 9 October 2026.

I am now on Day 142 as Mayor of Haverfordwest, with 139 official mayoral engagements recorded to date. The past few weeks have continued to involve civic representation, community engagement, support for local businesses and organisations, and work to strengthen partnerships across Haverfordwest and Pembrokeshire.

As Mayor, I remain committed to ensuring that Haverfordwest is represented positively, that our residents and organisations feel heard, and that the mayoralty continues to be visible and accessible throughout the town.

2. Civic Representation and Community Events

The civic role continues beyond formal Town Council meetings. During this reporting period, I have continued to represent Haverfordwest at community events and civic occasions, supporting local initiatives and maintaining relationships with neighbouring towns and organisations.

I am grateful to the Sheriff of Haverfordwest and the Deputy Mayor for their continued support in representing the town and helping maintain a strong civic presence.

Riverside Night Market and Portfield Fair

On 30 September, I attended the Riverside Shopping Centre Night Market and Portfield Fair.

I officially opened the Riverside Night Market, recognising the efforts made to encourage activity in the town centre and support local traders. I would like to thank Chris Walters and the Riverside Shopping Centre team for their continued work in developing opportunities for businesses and visitors.

The Portfield Fair was officially opened by the Sheriff of Haverfordwest. I also recognise the contribution of the Showmen's Guild and the fairground operators who bring this traditional attraction to our community.

These events demonstrate the value of collaboration between businesses, event organisers, public bodies and the wider community in supporting Haverfordwest as a market town.

Guild of Freemen of Haverfordwest AGM

I attended the Guild of Freemen's civic programme, including its AGM and dinner and the associated church service.

The Guild remains an important part of Haverfordwest's civic heritage. These occasions provide an opportunity to recognise the traditions that have helped shape our town and the continuing contribution of the Guild and its members.

I particularly value the relationship between the Guild and the Town Council. It is important that we respect our traditions while ensuring that civic life remains relevant and welcoming to future generations.

Pembroke Michaelmas Fair

On 8 October, I attended Pembroke Michaelmas Fair alongside fellow civic representatives from across Pembrokeshire.

The event was an opportunity to support a neighbouring community, celebrate a longstanding local tradition and strengthen relationships between civic representatives. I particularly enjoyed seeing the contribution of Samba Doc and the other participants who helped bring the occasion to life.

I would like to thank the organisers, performers, Showmen's Guild and everyone involved in delivering the fair.

3. Key Highlights

Connecting the Community

Connecting the Community remains one of the key initiatives of my mayoral year. The programme brings together residents, charities, businesses, community organisations and volunteers to help address cost-of-living pressures and improve access to local support.

Planning has continued for the next event, scheduled for 29 October 2026. This cycle will include Sweet Home Alpaca and further partnership working with PACTO, with transport arrangements being developed to help residents access the event.

Work with Bloomfield Bus is also being progressed as part of the wider effort to improve accessibility and participation.

I would like to thank the partners and volunteers who continue to support the initiative. Its success depends on the willingness of organisations and individuals to work together and respond to the needs of local residents.

Reading is FUNdamental

The Reading is FUNdamental initiative continues to encourage literacy, reading for pleasure and educational engagement among pupils attending Haverfordwest schools.

Pupils are being invited to read five books and complete five book reports, with submissions due by 6 November 2026. The Town Council will then select the winning entries in accordance with the initiative's arrangements.

I look forward to seeing the pupils' work and recognising their efforts. Encouraging young people to develop confidence through reading is an investment in their education and future opportunities.

Supporting Haverfordwest Businesses and Regeneration

Supporting the economic future of Haverfordwest remains an ongoing priority. Recent events, including the Riverside Night Market and Portfield Fair, demonstrate the importance of bringing people into the town and creating opportunities for traders, businesses and visitors.

I continue to support discussions around town-centre regeneration, the future reopening of Haverfordwest Castle and proposals to explore a business-rates suspension pilot to help support local businesses.

These matters require collaboration with the relevant authorities, representatives and stakeholders. I will continue to advocate for opportunities that support the town's long-term economic vitality.

Civic Partnerships and Regional Representation

Engagement with civic colleagues and neighbouring communities remains an important part of the mayoralty.

Attendance at events such as Pembroke Michaelmas Fair provides opportunities to strengthen relationships across Pembrokeshire and recognise the shared challenges and opportunities facing our towns.

I remain committed to encouraging cooperation, sharing ideas and supporting initiatives that benefit residents across the county.

Wider Civic Engagement

Alongside the principal events highlighted above, my ongoing mayoral work continues to involve engagement across a broad range of areas, including:

- Community organisations, charities and voluntary-sector partners.
- Local businesses, traders and town-centre regeneration.
- Education, literacy and young people.
- Cost-of-living support and community accessibility.
- Civic representation and relationships with neighbouring towns.
- Equality, inclusion and anti-racism initiatives.
- Community safety and engagement with policing stakeholders.
- Residents' concerns and opportunities to improve local services.

This work is not limited to attendance at public events. It also includes maintaining partnerships, supporting the development of initiatives and ensuring that the needs of Haverfordwest are represented in discussions with relevant organisations.

4. Community Safety, Safeguarding and Inclusion

Community safety remains an important concern for residents. I have continued engagement with policing representatives and local stakeholders regarding anti-social behaviour and wider concerns about safety in Haverfordwest.

I recently raised concerns directly with the Chief Inspector following an incident in the town. I will continue to encourage residents to report incidents through the appropriate channels so that concerns can be recorded and considered by the relevant agencies.

I have also continued work connected with Haverfordwest Town Council's Anti-Racist Action Plan, including partnership-building and engagement with organisations working to promote equality and inclusion.

These issues require continued cooperation between public bodies, community organisations, residents and other stakeholders. My aim is to help ensure that Haverfordwest remains a community in which residents feel heard, respected and able to participate.

5. Looking Ahead

Over the coming weeks, priorities include:

- Continuing preparations for the next Connecting the Community event on 29 October.
- Developing transport and accessibility arrangements with PACTO and other partners.
- Supporting the Reading is FUNdamental initiative ahead of the 6 November deadline.
- Continuing engagement with businesses and stakeholders on regeneration and economic development.
- Maintaining dialogue with policing representatives and community organisations on safety and inclusion.
- Preparing for the forthcoming Mayoral Summit on 17 October, subject to final arrangements.

I would like to thank the Sheriff of Haverfordwest, the Deputy Mayor, fellow councillors, council officers, volunteers, organisations, businesses and residents who continue to support the civic programme.

Reaching Day 142 in office and recording 139 official mayoral engagements is a reminder of the range of people, organisations and communities that contribute to Haverfordwest.

Every engagement provides an opportunity to listen, build relationships, recognise local achievements and promote our town.

Haverfordwest is the Best in the West, and I remain proud to serve as its Mayor.

Cllr Randell Izaiah Thomas-Turner

Mayor of Haverfordwest and Admiral of the Port

Date: 9 October 2026