



## **Wells City Council Responds to Concerns Regarding Remembrance Sunday Market**

Wells City Council is aware that concerns have been raised by some members of the community regarding the decision to hold a market in Wells on Remembrance Sunday.

The Council welcomes public discussion on matters of civic importance and wishes to provide reassurance that the market is being delivered in partnership with the Royal British Legion and has their full support.

Remembrance Sunday remains one of the most significant dates in the civic calendar and the Council remains fully committed to ensuring that the dignity, solemnity and importance of the annual Remembrance Parade and Service are upheld. The market is intended to complement, rather than detract from, the commemorative events taking place across the city.

The Wells Remembrance Parade brings together veterans, serving personnel, cadets, community groups and residents each year to honour those who gave their lives in service to their country. The Council recognises the profound significance of this occasion and remains committed to ensuring that remembrance remains at the heart of the day's activities.

Working closely with the Royal British Legion, Wells City Council has agreed arrangements that will respect the commemorative programme while also providing an opportunity to increase visitor numbers within the city and ultimately opportunity to those charities. By encouraging more people to attend Wells on Remembrance Sunday, the Council hopes to strengthen public participation in remembrance activities, increase awareness of the sacrifices made by members of the Armed Forces, and support organisations that continue to provide assistance to veterans and their families.

The increased footfall generated by the market is also expected to provide valuable fundraising and awareness-raising opportunities for charities associated with the Armed Forces community. These organisations play a vital role in supporting veterans, serving personnel and military families, and the Council believes that providing them with greater public exposure on a day dedicated to remembrance is both appropriate and beneficial.

Councillor Denise Denis, Mayor of Wells, said:

"We understand that some residents have expressed concerns regarding the market and we respect those views. However, we would like to reassure the community that this initiative has been developed in partnership with and with the full support of the Royal British Legion. Our intention is not to diminish the importance of Remembrance Sunday, but to encourage greater attendance in the city, support charities connected to the Armed Forces community, and ensure that as many people as possible participate in remembering those who made the ultimate sacrifice."

A spokesperson for the Royal British Legion said:

"The Royal British Legion is working closely with Wells City Council regarding these arrangements and supports the initiative. Remembrance remains the primary focus of the day, and we welcome opportunities that encourage greater public engagement with remembrance activities while helping to raise awareness and support for charities serving veterans and their families."

Wells City Council remains committed to working with the Royal British Legion, local veterans' groups and the wider community to ensure that Remembrance Sunday continues to be a respectful, meaningful and well-supported occasion for all.