

To: Parish Council

Councillor M McEvilly

Your Ref:

Our Ref: MMc/vjh

Please ask for: Councillor M McEvilly

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21 August 2018

Dear Parish Council

### **Maintenance and Repair of War Memorials**

As we approach the end of the four year period of commemorating the 100th anniversary of the First World War I thought it timely to write to encourage and seek your support in maintaining the war memorials in your communities. This is particularly important in view of Herefordshire's well established links with the Armed Forces and the heightened public awareness of the sacrifices made by those who served and their families during the conflicts.

The War Memorials (Local Authorities Powers) Act 1923 provides for local authorities to "incur reasonable expenditure in the maintenance, repair and protection of any war memorial within their district whether vested in them or not". The Act applies to principal authorities and also parish councils (and the parish meeting of a rural parish where there is no parish council) and is of particular assistance where the ownership of a memorial is unknown or doubtful.

There are a number of sources of information about the war memorials within the County. First, details can be obtained either from the UK National Inventory of War Memorials available on-line at the following link <https://www.iwm.org.uk/memorials/search> .Locally, information can be obtained from the Historic Environment Records Officer at Herefordshire Council who can be contacted at [liam.delaney@herefordshire.gov.uk](mailto:liam.delaney@herefordshire.gov.uk) or by telephone on 01432 260130. Lastly, you may wish to note that war memorials in the County are listed at <https://htt.herefordshire.gov.uk/>

A good source of information and advice about the maintenance and repair of war memorials is the War Memorials Trust at [www.warmemorials.org](http://www.warmemorials.org) . In particular, I would draw your attention to the opportunities for volunteering, the involvement of local schools and suggestions about the part members of the community could play in looking after your war memorials.

I hope this letter will encourage you to use this opportunity to maintain your war memorials, and ensure they are in a good state of repair and will remain so for the foreseeable future.

I would be interested to hear about any local initiatives and people who are already engaged in looking after these important symbols of our enduring gratitude to those who sacrificed their lives for us a successive generations.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark McEvilly". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

**COUNCILLOR MARK MCEVILLY  
CIVILIAN AND MILITARY TASK GROUP**