

**This item was deferred from the June meeting – amendments to the original policy made in red**

### Wem Town Council Flag Flying Policy

Flags are traditionally flown by the Town Council for a variety of reasons; to show allegiance, support, or respect or to celebrate. The Town Council will always be sensitive to the views of all sectors of its community and will never use flags for political purposes.

Wem Town Council owns one portable flagpole and can utilise the three fixed flag poles on Wem Town Hall.

### Wem Town Hall Flagpoles

Flags will be flown from flagpoles on Wem Town Hall on the following recognised days and will be flown for one day unless agreed otherwise.

Date	Reason	Flags
23 April	St George's Day	St George's Cross, Union Flag and Town Flag
15 <sup>th</sup> June	Official Birthday of His Majesty The King	St George's Cross, Union Flag and Town Flag
Last Saturday in June	Armed Forces day	Town Flag, Armed forces Day flag and Union Flag
3 <sup>RD</sup> Weekend July	Eckford Sweet Pea Show	St George's Cross, Union Flag and Town Flag
1 <sup>st</sup> Weekend September	Carnival Day	St George's Cross, Union Flag and Town Flag
11 November and second Sunday in November	Remembrance	St George's Cross, Union Flag and Town Flag

### Ad hoc use of the flag poles

The Town Clerk in consultation with the Mayor and Deputy Mayor will have the discretion to fly **the Union Flag, St George's Cross and Town Flag** from the Town Hall flagpoles at other times, these may include but are not limited to:

- In recognition of a royal visit (in consultation with the Lord Lieutenant).
- In respect of a formal visit by another significant dignitary.
- A special event in the Town **or one off events deemed to be of local or national significance.**
- Formal Town Council Civic occasions.

The Council does not need consent to fly any country's national flag. Wem Town Council is twinned with Fismes in France, the French flag will be flown when Wem receives visitors from Fismes.

**Requests to fly flags other than the Union Flag, St George 's Cross and the Town Flag on the Town Hall Flagpoles will not be considered.**

### **Flags at Half Mast or with Mourning Bands**

Due to the angle of the flag poles on Wem Town Hall it is not possible to fly flags at half mast, therefore the Town Council has adopted the use of mourning bands which are placed on the flags during periods when the flags would traditionally be flown at half mast.

According to the College of Arms, the Union Flag shall be flown at half-mast in the following circumstances:

- From the announcement of the death of the sovereign until the funeral. In the following cases, half mastings will be by special command from his Majesty
- On the death of a member or near relative of the Royal Family or the funeral of members of the Royal Family
- The funerals of Prime Ministers of the United Kingdom

Local government bodies are permitted to fly the Union Flag at half mast to mark local as well as national commemorations or losses, including the death of present councillors or past Mayors.

In the following cases flags would be flown at half-mast for one day.

- On the death/funeral of a serving officer in the Armed Forces from the town.
- On the death/funeral of a serving Town Councillor, local Unitary Councillor, local Member of Parliament, past Mayor or Honorary Townsman .

### **Use of Portable Flagpole**

Permission to fly flags other than the Union Flag, St Georges Cross from this **flagpole will be considered by the Town Council on a case by case basis. Any permission obtained will also be subject to approval of the landowner where the flagpole is to be located.**