



Community Covenant

AN ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY COVENANT

BETWEEN

HARBOROUGH DISTRICT COUNCIL
REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CHARITABLE AND VOLUNTARY SECTORS
THE CIVILIAN COMMUNITY OF LEICESTERSHIRE

AND

THE ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY IN HARBOROUGH DISTRICT

**We, the undersigned, agree to work and act together to
honour the Armed Forces Community Covenant**

PARTICIPANTS

This Armed Forces Community Covenant is made between:

The serving, reservists and former members of the Armed Forces and their families working and residing in Harborough District

and

Harborough District Council

PRINCIPLES OF THE ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY COVENANT

The Armed Forces Community Covenant is a voluntary statement of mutual support between a civilian community and its local Armed Forces Community. It is intended to complement the Armed Forces Covenant, which outlines the moral obligation between the Nation, the Government and the Armed Forces, at the local level.

The purpose of this Community Covenant is to encourage support for the Armed Forces Community working and residing in Harborough District and to recognise and remember the sacrifices made by members of this Armed Forces Community, particularly those who have given the most. This includes in-Service and ex-Service personnel, their families and widow(er)s in Harborough District.

For Harborough District Council and partner organisations, the Community Covenant presents an opportunity to bring their knowledge, experience and expertise to bear on the provision of help and advice to members of the Armed Forces Community.

For the Armed Forces community, the Community Covenant encourages the integration of service life into civilian life and encourages members of the Armed Forces community to help their local community.

This covenant builds on the strong connections already demonstrated between Harborough District Council the Armed Forces community through ongoing initiatives and the continuing work with the veteran community.

OBJECTIVES AND GENERAL INTENTIONS

Aims of the Community Covenant

The Armed Forces Community Covenant complements the principles of the Armed Forces Covenant which defines the enduring, general principles that should govern the relationship between the Nation, the Government and the Armed Forces community

It aims to encourage all parties within a community to offer support to the local Armed Forces community and make it easier for service personnel, families and veterans to access the help and support available from the MOD, from statutory providers and from the Charitable and Voluntary Sector. These organisations already work together in partnership at local level.

The scheme is intended to be a two-way arrangement and the Armed Forces community are encouraged to do as much as they can to support their community and promote activity which integrates the Service community into civilian life.

Measures

The Chairman attends many ABF Soldiers' Charity events during the course of the civic year in support of the local armed forces, and events by the Royal British Legion.

The Council supports the national initiative to fly a flag for Armed Forces Day, with the Chairman hosting a short flag raising ceremony outside The Symington Building alongside the Deputy Lord-Lieutenant and other civic dignitaries, and members of the armed forces and the Royal British Legion. The raising and flying of the Armed Forces Day flag in the Market Harborough Town Centre provides a high profile opportunity to raise awareness of the role our armed forces and their families continue to play.

The Chairman and Vice-Chairman attend Remembrance Sunday services in Market Harborough and Lutterworth, which involves them alongside other civic dignitaries leading the public act of remembrance.

The District Council recognises the importance of marking the two minute silence on Armistice Day with the Chairman attending a short act of remembrance at the gates to the Memorial Gardens, Market Harborough. At the same time, two minutes silence is commemorated at the council offices. Both events provide the opportunity for members of the public, Councillors and staff to observe the armistice in silence and reflect on previous wars and the sacrifices made by members of the armed forces.

Harborough District will continue to demonstrate its support to the Armed Forces Community. This support includes (and is not an exhaustive list):

The Council will support service families by access to council services and consider Armed Forces in development and delivery of training to frontline staff; and create a section of website to signpost availability of support and services

The Council will support service families and personnel to access and engage with Harborough District's community, heritage, and leisure services and facilities.

The Chairman also invites representatives from the service organisations and armed forces cadets to the annual Civic Service and Community Carol Service.

The Chairman will continue to contribute to the relevant benevolent fund, either by donation or payment for attendance at events.

CONTACT PERSONNEL AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS

MOD DCDS (Pers&Trg) Covenant Team

Contact Name: Lisa Harper
Title: DCDS (Pers) Sec Covenant 1
Telephone: 020 7218 9110
Address: DCDS (Pers) Covenant Team
Zone D, 6th Floor
Ministry of Defence
Main Building
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2HB

In-Service representative(s)

Contact Name: Lieutenant Colonel Richard Pope
Title: DAC-HQ-CO
Telephone: 01664 418621
Address: Defence Animal Centre, Asfordby Road, Melton Mowbray. LE13 0HX.

Harborough District Council

Contact Name: Armed Forces Champion
Title: c/o Democratic Services
Telephone: 01858 821157
Address: Democratic Services, Harborough District Council, Council Offices,
Adam & Eve Street, Market Harborough, LE16 7AG.

The Royal British Legion, Leicestershire & Rutland

Contact Name: Mr. David Atterbury
Title: County Chairman
Telephone: 0116 261 6584
Address: County Office, 72 Friday Street, Leicester LE1 3BW

THE ARMED FORCES COVENANT

An enduring Covenant between
the people of the United Kingdom
Her Majesty's Government

– and –

all those who serve or have served in the
Armed Forces of the Crown
and their Families

The first duty of Government is the defence of the realm. Our Armed Forces fulfil that responsibility on behalf of the Government, sacrificing some civilian freedoms, facing danger and, sometimes, suffering serious injury or death as a result of their duty. Families also play a vital role in supporting the operational effectiveness of our Armed Forces. In return, the whole nation has a moral obligation to the members of the Naval Service, the Army and the Royal Air Force, together with their families. They deserve our respect and support, and fair treatment.

Those who serve in the Armed Forces, whether Regular or Reserve, those who have served in the past, and their families, should face no disadvantage compared to other citizens in the provision of public and commercial services. Special consideration is appropriate in some cases, especially for those who have given most such as the injured and the bereaved.

This obligation involves the whole of society: it includes voluntary and charitable bodies, private organisations, and the actions of individuals in supporting the Armed Forces. Recognising those who have performed military duty unites the country and demonstrates the value of their contribution. This has no greater expression than in upholding this Covenant.