



Community Covenant

Armed Forces Community Covenant

Between

Horsham District Council

and

**The Armed Forces Community
in Horsham District**

29th June 2014



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

THE ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY COVENANT FOR HORSHAM DISTRICT

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

SIGNATORIES

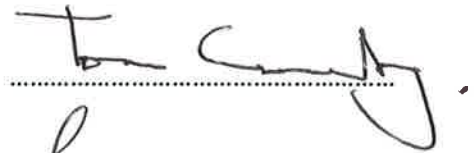
Signed on behalf of Horsham District Council

Councillor Ray Dawe
Leader
Horsham District Council



Handwritten signature of Ray Dawe in black ink, written over a dotted line.

Tom Crowley
Chief Executive
Horsham District Council



Handwritten signature of Tom Crowley in black ink, written over a dotted line.

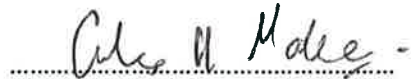
Brian O'Connell
Chairman
Horsham District Council



Handwritten signature of Brian O'Connell in black ink, written over a dotted line.

Signed on behalf of the Armed Forces Community

Lieutenant Colonel Giles Malec RA
Commanding Officer 12th Regiment Royal Artillery
British Army



Handwritten signature of Giles Malec in black ink, written over a dotted line.

Les Coppard
County Chairman for Sussex
Royal British Legion



Handwritten signature of Les Coppard in blue ink, written over a dotted line.

Alan Tait
Branch Chairman
SSAFA Sussex



Handwritten signature of Alan Tait in black ink, written over a dotted line.

The Armed Forces Community Covenant for Horsham District

SECTION 1: Participants

- 1.1 This Armed Forces Community Covenant is made between:
The serving and former members of the Armed Forces and their families working and residing in Horsham District

and

Horsham District Council

SECTION 2: Principles of the Armed Forces Community Covenant

- 2.1 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.
- 2.2 The purpose of the Community Covenant is to encourage support for the Armed Services Community working and residing in Horsham 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 full-time and part-time service personnel including reservists, veterans, and the families of all who live or work in Horsham District.
- 2.3 For Horsham District Council, the Community Covenant presents an opportunity to bring its knowledge, experience and expertise to bear on the provision of help and advice to members of the Armed Forces Community. It also presents an opportunity to support Armed Forces Day, and to work with the Armed Forces building upon existing good work.
- 2.4 For the Armed Forces Community, the Community Covenant encourages the integration of Service life and civilian life and encourages members of the Armed Forces Community to support and play an active part in their local community by volunteering their time or resources.

SECTION 3: Objectives and general intentions

Aims of the Community Covenant

- 3.1 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.

- 3.2 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 Ministry of Defence (MOD), from statutory providers and from the charitable and voluntary sector. Partnership working is already well established at local level.
- 3.3 The Community Covenant is intended to demonstrate the District Council's willingness to work with others to ensure the Armed Forces Community suffers no disadvantage in accessing public services and to encourage other organisations to make their own explicit statements of support. Where other Community Covenants exist (such as that between West Sussex County Council and the Military Community), this Covenant is intended to strengthen the position in accessing national funding to support projects which help foster and support the ties and mutual understanding between members of the Armed Forces Community and the wider community in which they live.
- 3.4 The scheme is intended to be a two-way arrangement and members of 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.

SECTION 4: Measures

- 4.1 Horsham District Council aims to recognise the specific needs of the Armed Forces Community through engagement, and through benchmarking with other Local Authority areas where Covenants are in place. It will install mechanisms to enable joint response to identified issues based upon evidence and individual need. See Appendix.
- 4.2 The Covenant represents a commitment by the signatories to respond in a timely and solution focussed manner to any enquiry raised by one party to the others regarding armed forces issues and to work collectively to engage other partners such as statutory providers, the Business Sector and voluntary and community sector in developing these solutions.
- 4.3 The signatories will, if necessary, establish a Civil Military Partnership Board (Armed Forces Working Group) to bring together key partners including the Armed Forces Community, statutory providers, the Business Sector and voluntary and community sector to identify, develop and support projects meeting the aims of the Armed Forces Covenant.
- 4.4 Where actions are agreed, the signatories will measure success and report annually to the Ministry of Defence.
- 4.5 Horsham District Council will support the work that is being undertaken by West Sussex County Council as part of the West Sussex Armed Forces Community Covenant.

Contact personnel and telephone numbers / email addresses

Horsham District Council

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The Armed Forces Community

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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 charitable and voluntary 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.

ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY COVENANT FOR HORSHAM DISTRICT

APPENDIX

Examples of Measures to implement the Community Covenant

Horsham District Council may seek to implement the Community Covenant in a number of ways including:

- Provision of a Remembrance Parade and Service each year
- A Chairman's Cadet Scheme (to be launched 2014) – the Chairman of the Council may select an outstanding Cadet to attend him/her in the course of his/her duties such as visiting ex-serviceman and their families
- Strategies and Policies, eg the Council's Housing and Allocations Policy has been redrafted (2013) to introduce an additional preference category for armed forces personnel
- Briefings for staff so armed forces personnel, their families and carers can be signposted efficiently to relevant services
- A high street shop may be identified for use by the Royal British Legion for sales of poppies in the lead up to Remembrance Day on 11th November, subject to availability
- Information for armed forces personnel and their families and carers may be available via the Council's website
- The Chairman of the Council may carry out a review of the Armed Forces Community Covenant at his discretion once a year



Horsham
District
Council