THE ARMED FORCES COVENANT AND TOWN & PARISH COUNCILS

WHAT IS THE ARMED FORCES COVENANT?



- A promise by the nation that those who served, those who have served, and their families should be treated fairly.
- Members of the Armed Forces Community should not be disadvantaged because of their service, and in some cases special provision may be appropriate.
- At heart, Covenant is a tool for demonstrating and providing support to Armed Forces Community – and encouraging others to support too.
- Covenant is a largely voluntary initiative. Aspects of it are due to become legal requirement, but this will not affect town & parish councils.

ARMED FORCES COVENANT PRINCIPLES



1. Recognising the **unique obligations** of, and **sacrifices** made by, the Armed Forces.

2. That it is desirable to **remove disadvantages** arising for service people from membership, or former membership, of the Armed Forces.

3. That **special provision** for service people may be justified by the effect on such people of membership, or former membership, of the Armed Forces.

SIGNING THE ARMED FORCES COVENANT



- Organisations, public and private, can voluntarily sign up to the Covenant to demonstrate their support.
- All principal LAs in Great Britain have now signed. Around 125 town and parish councils have signed, currently none in Hertfordshire.
- Signing the Covenant is entirely flexible and can be tailored by and to the signatory. Signatories sign up to general spirit and can decide to add specific pledges.
- Signing process is handled by Defence Relationship Management. Details here **Sign the covenant - Armed Forces Covenant**

WHY SIGN THE COVENANT?



- Demonstrate support for your local Armed Forces Community.
- Commit to work with higher-tier authorities to deliver the Covenant.
- Funding for specific projects may be available from the Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust.

WHAT CAN TOWN & PARISH COUNCILS PLEDGE?



- Appoint a champion from among your members to lead support for the AF Community
- Promote the fact you are an Armed Forces-friendly council
- Ensure upkeep of war memorials and war graves
- Support / promote Armed Forces events, e.g. AF Day, remembrance activities
- Run, facilitate or promote support networks (e.g. coffee mornings) for veterans
- Engage with, and support, local AF charities
- Encourage local businesses to sign the Covenant and support employment for AF Community
- Signpost to available support