

Community Covenant

AN ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY COVENANT

BETWEEN

TUNBRIDGE WELLS BOROUGH COUNCIL, REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
BUSINESS, CHARITABLE AND VOLUNTARY SECTORS,
THE CIVILIAN COMMUNITY OF TUNBRIDGE WELLS BOROUGH

AND

THE ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY IN THE BOROUGH OF TUNBRIDGE
WELLS

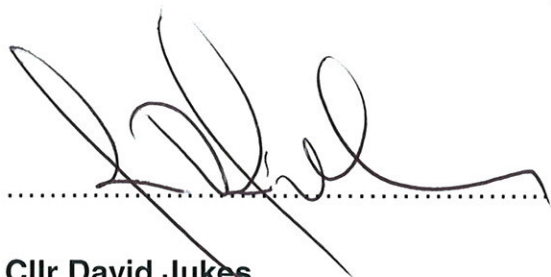
15TH JULY 2013



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

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

Signatories



Cllr David Jukes

Leader

Tunbridge Wells Borough Council

Signed on behalf of Tunbridge Wells Borough Council



Major S J Elson RE

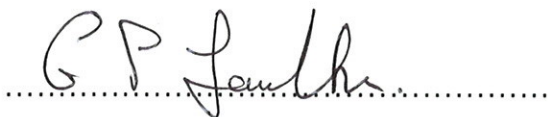
OC 221 Field Squadron (EOD)

101 (City of London) Engineer Regiment (EOD)

Signed on behalf of the Armed Forces



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

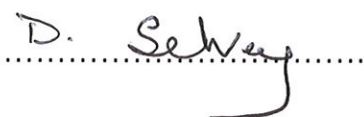


Gary Faulkner

Chairman

Royal Tunbridge Wells Royal British Legion

Signed on behalf of the Royal British Legion



Paul Lewis

Divisional Secretary

Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Families Association (Tunbridge Wells & Tonbridge & Malling)

Signed on behalf of SSAFA





Steve Sherry CMG OBE

Chief Executive

Royal British Legion Industries

Signed on behalf of Royal British Legion Industries



Sonia Wolsey Cooper

Director, Membership & People

AXA PPP Healthcare

Signed on behalf of AXA PPP Healthcare

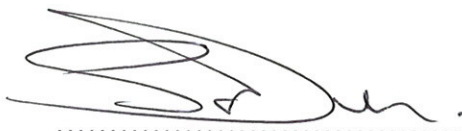


Lesley Game

Head of Community & Employment

K College

Signed on behalf of K College



Simon Dean

Chief Executive

Challenger Troop (CIC)

Signed on behalf of Challenger Troop CIC



CHALLENGER TROOP CIC



Bob Heapy

Chief Executive

Town & Country Housing Group

**Signed on behalf of Town & Country
Housing Group**



Jon Weller

Head of Community Services

Voluntary Action Within Kent

**Signed on behalf of the Voluntary
and Community Sector**



Kevin Alderton

Managing Director

Veterans Awareness UK

**Signed on behalf of Veterans Awareness
UK**



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 the Borough of Tunbridge Wells

And

Tunbridge Wells Borough Council

And

The Business, Charitable and Voluntary Sectors

And

Other members of the civilian community

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 this Community Covenant is to encourage support for the Armed Forces Community working and residing in the Borough of Tunbridge Wells 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 the Borough of Tunbridge Wells.

2.3 For Tunbridge Wells Borough 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. It also presents an opportunity to build upon existing good work on other initiatives such as the Welfare Pathway.

2.4 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.

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 MOD, from statutory providers and from the Charitable and Voluntary Sector. These organisations already work together in partnership at local level.

3.3 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.

SECTION 4: MEASURES

4.1 Tunbridge Wells Borough Council, in co-operation with its partner signatories, will:

- establish a Community Covenant Steering Group to identify specific issues affecting the Armed Forces community and to deliver measures which will address these issues
- encourage the local community to support the Armed Forces community in Tunbridge Wells Borough and provide opportunities for them to show that support
- promote awareness and understanding of issues affecting the Armed Forces community in the wider community
- ensure that in-Service, ex-Service personnel and their families can access information from the Council, the community and voluntary sector, and the business sector to enable them to integrate into the local community
- ensure that in-Service, ex-Service personnel and their families have appropriate access to services and facilities in the community, including access to social and affordable housing
- promote access to appropriate employment and training opportunities for those in transition or preparing to leave service
- ensure that appropriate consideration is given to the impact of the Council's policies and decision making on the Armed Forces community living in the Borough.

COMMUNITY COVENANT CONTACTS AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS

MOD DCDS (Pers&Trg) Covenant Team

Email address: covenant-mailbox@mod.uk
Address: DCDS (Pers) Covenant Team
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Ministry of Defence
Main Building
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2HB

In-Service representative

Contact Name: Capt Dudhprasad Gurung MVO
Title: Commanding Officer Tunbridge Wells
Telephone: 01892 556831
Address: 579 Field Squadron (EOD) (V)
TA Centre
St John's Road
Tunbridge Wells
Kent
TN4 9UU
E-mail: 101ENGR-579-PSAO@MOD.UK

Tunbridge Wells Borough Council

Contact Name: Nick Green
Title: Sports, Grants & Communities Officer
Telephone: 01892 554108
Address: Town Hall
Royal Tunbridge Wells
Kent
TN1 1RS
E-mail: nick.green@tunbridgewells.gov.uk

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.