



AN ARMED FORCES COVENANT

BETWEEN

BICESTER TOWN COUNCIL

AND

THE ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY IN *BICESTER, OXFORDSHIRE*

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





**BICESTER
TOWN COUNCIL**

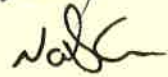
Signatories

(This page gives examples of the parties who may sign the Armed Forces Covenant. This is an example only and is not limited to the examples given)

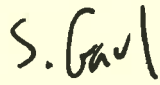
Signed on behalf of the Armed Forces Community

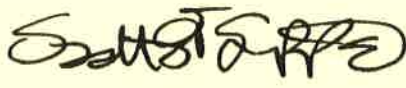
Signed: 
Name: L M ROBINSON
Position Held: Commanding Officer
Bicester Garrison

Signed: 
Name: R G Hullett
Position Held: CO DEMSTRY
Regt.

Signed: 
Name: J. CREW
Position Held: COLREGT RLC

Signed on behalf of Bicester Town Council

Signed: 
Name: SEAN GAUL
Position Held: MAYOR OF BICESTER

Signed: 
Name: SAMANTHA J. SHIPPEN
Position Held: CHIEF OFFICER
BICESTER TOWN COUNCIL

Date: 21st July 2018

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SECTION 1: PARTICIPANTS

1.1 This Armed Forces Covenant is made between:

The serving and former members of the Armed Forces and their families working and residing in Bicester

And

Bicester Town Council

SECTION 2: PRINCIPLES OF THE ARMED FORCES COVENANT

2.1 The Armed Forces Covenant is a voluntary statement of mutual support between a civilian community and its local Armed Forces Community. This Covenant encompasses the moral obligation between the Nation, the Government and the Armed Forces, at the local level.

2.1 The Armed Forces Covenant is based upon two key principles:

- The Armed Forces community should not face 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.

2.3 The purpose of this Covenant is to encourage support for the Armed Forces Community working and residing in Bicester 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 Bicester.

2.4 For Bicester Town Council 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.

2.5 For the Armed Forces community, the 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 Covenant

3.1 The Armed Forces Covenant 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 *Bicester Town Council commits to the following measures*

- The continued close working relationship and association with Bicester Garrison and any affiliated units including RAF Croughton;
- Assisting Bicester Garrison to connect with society, secure the Garrison's reputation and for the Armed Forces to be seen as an employer of choice that needs to access and attract diverse talent from across our community.
- The active participation in an annual Armed Forces Day;
- Promoting the fact that Bicester Town Council is an Armed Forces friendly organisation;
- Seeking to support the employment of veterans;
- Striving to support the employment of service spouses and partners;
- Endeavouring to support employees by offering a degree of flexibility in granting leave for service spouses and partners before, during and after a partner's deployment;
- Seeking to support our employees who choose to be members of the Reserve Forces including accommodating their training and deployment where possible;
- Offering support to our local cadet units where possible;
- Offering support to the Royal British Legion and other Veteran & Armed Service charities operating within Bicester;
- Appointing a Mayor's Cadet from amongst the uniformed youth services.

CONTACT PERSONNEL AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS

MOD DCDS (Pers&Trg) Covenant Team

Email address: covenant-mailbox@mod.uk
Address: DCDS (Pers) Covenant Team
Zone A, 6th Floor
Ministry of Defence
Main Building
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2HB

In-Service representative(s)

Contact Name: Lt Col L M Robinson RLC
Title: CO Headquarters Bicester Garrison & Bicester Garrison Support Unit.
Telephone: 01869 257815
Address: HQ Bicester Garrison, St George's Barracks, Arncott, Bicester, Oxon,
OX25 1PP

Bicester Town Council

Contact Name: Mrs Samantha Shippen
Title: Chief Officer
Telephone: 01869 252915
Address: The Garth, Launton Road, Bicester, Oxon, OX26 3XJ

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.