



# **Community Covenant**

**AN ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY COVENANT**

**between**

**TONBRIDGE AND MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**and**

**THE ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY IN  
TONBRIDGE AND MALLING**

**6 September 2013**



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

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

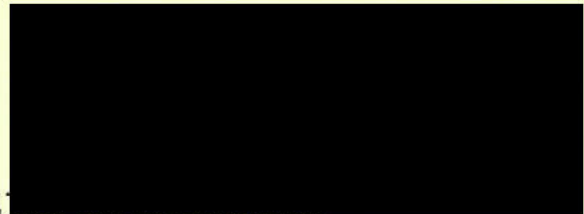
**Signed on behalf of the Armed Forces Military Community**



Name: Major G Austin RAMC  
Position Held: Officer Commanding,  
220 Medical Squadron



**Signed on behalf of Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council**



Name: Cllr Nicolas Heslop  
Position Held: The Leader of the Council



**Signed on behalf of RBLI Aylesford**



Steve Sherry  
Position Held: Chief Executive  
Royal British Legion Industries



## **THE ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY COVENANT FOR TONBRIDGE AND MALLING**

### **SECTION 1 – PARTICIPANTS**

1. This Tonbridge and Malling Armed Forces Community Covenant is made between:
  - Serving and former members of the Armed Forces and their families working and residing in Tonbridge and Malling;
  - Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council; and,
  - RBLI Aylesford and other participating groups within Tonbridge and Malling.

### **SECTION 2 – PRINCIPLES OF THE ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY COVENANT**

2.1 Themed Forces Community Covenant is a voluntary statement of mutual support between the Tonbridge and Malling civilian community and the Armed Forces Community in Tonbridge and Malling. 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 core principle of the Armed Forces Covenant is that members of the Armed Forces Community should:

- Not suffer disadvantage compared to other citizens as a result of their service;
- Receive equality of outcomes; and,
- Receive special treatment where appropriate.

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

2.3 For Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council, this Community Covenant presents an opportunity to bring its knowledge, experience and expertise to bear in the provision of support, help and advice to members of the Tonbridge and Malling 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 Tonbridge and Malling Armed Forces Community, this Community Covenant encourages the integration of Service life with civilian life and encourages members of the Armed Forces Community to help their local community.

### **SECTION 3 – AIMS AND GENERAL INTENTIONS**

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 to 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 and at local level.

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

### **SECTION 4 - MEASURES**

4.1 To help build an understanding of the needs of the Armed Forces and ensure they are considered in the planning of local services, a representative from the Armed Forces will be a member of the Tonbridge & Malling Local Strategic Partnership (LSP). The LSP includes representatives from Borough and County Councils, business, tourism, education, faith, health and the voluntary and community sector. The aim will be to ensure that:

- There is regular and open communication between local community leaders and the Armed Forces Community
- Greater understanding and awareness of the work and ambitions of the Armed Forces are promoted amongst the public and local communities
- The importance of social enterprise activities undertaken by the RBLI in support of their wider work with Armed Forces personnel are recognised and promoted, as set out in a separate Community Covenant adopted on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2012 regarding the veteran community.

- Full support is given to RBLI and 220 Medical Squadron in supporting and meeting the needs of Armed Forces personnel, veterans and their families and their integration into local community life
- We will work together to identify and progress suitable, specific projects to support the Armed Forces Community residing in Tonbridge and Malling
- Sacrifices made by the local Armed Forces Community are fully acknowledged and remembered.

## CONTACT PERSONNEL AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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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 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.

