ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY COVENANT

Between

Arun District Council

and

The Armed Forces Community in Arun District

13 January 2016
The Armed Forces Community Covenant for the Arun District

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

Signatories

Signed on behalf of Arun District Council

Nigel Lynn
Chief Executive

Councillor Andy Cooper
Chairman

Councillor Mrs Gillian Brown
Leader

Councillor Terry Chapman
Appointed Champion

Signed on behalf of the Armed Forces Community

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

and

Arun 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 this Community Covenant is to encourage support for the Armed Forces Community working and residing in Arun 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 in-Service and ex-Service personnel their families and widow(er)s in Arun district.

2.3 For Arun 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 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 Ministry of Defence (MOD), from statutory providers and from the Charitable and Voluntary Sector. These organisations already work together in partnership 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. It is also 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), the 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 and work.

3.4 The Community Covenant 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 The Council’s Community Champion, as part of the Sussex Armed Forces Network, will monitor progress within the District which will be reported annually to West Sussex County Council and the Ministry of Defence.

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.