



# **Community Covenant**

## **AN ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY COVENANT**

BETWEEN

THE BOURNE COMMUNITY TRUST IN WEST SUSSEX

AND

THE ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY IN THORNEY ISLAND STATION

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



## Signatories



Signed on behalf of West Sussex County Council

Mr David Sword

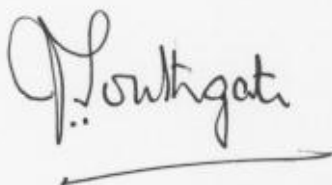
Director of Operations – Learning  
West Sussex County Council



Signed on behalf of the Army Community

Lieutenant Colonel M J Crisp RA

Station Commander  
Thorney Island Military Station



Signed on behalf of the local Community:

Brigadier J T Southgate OBE (Retd)

Chairman  
Bourne Community Trust

## **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 Thorney Island

And

The Bourne Community Trust

And

The Charitable and Voluntary Sector

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 West Sussex as well as recognise and remember the sacrifices made by its members, particularly those who have given the most. This includes in-Service and ex-Service personnel their families and widow(er)s in West Sussex.

2.3 For Bourne Community Trust 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 the existing good work of other initiatives such as the Welfare Pathway.

2.4 For the Armed Forces community, the Community Covenant promotes the integration of Service and 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 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 West Sussex County Council has always proactively supported Armed Forces based in, or connected with, the County. It is appropriate that the only regular military base in the County, in Thorney Island, is associated with the close local community. Thorney Island Military Station already fosters that association as a Trustee of the Bourne Community Trust. Other members of the Trust are Bourne Community College, Chichester University, Chichester District Council, Chichester College, and the New Life Christian Church.

4.2 West Sussex County Council will monitor, and where necessary approve, the activities associated with the covenant and provide support wherever possible for community/military projects.

#### **CONTACT PERSONNEL AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS**

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Contact Name: John Southgate  
Chairman Bourne Community Trust  
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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.