



## Bilsthorpe Parish Council

**We, the undersigned, commit to honour the Armed Forces Covenant and support the Armed Forces Community. We recognise the value Serving Personnel, both Regular and Reservists, Veterans and military families contribute to our business and our country.**

Signed on behalf of: Bilsthorpe Parish Council

Signed: 

Name: *Ross Stoneman*

Position: *Chair*

Date: *9-5-22*



# **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.

## **Section 1: Principles of the Armed Forces Covenant**

1.1 We, **Bilsthorpe Parish Council**, will endeavour in our business dealings to uphold the key principles of the Armed Forces Covenant, which are:

- *no member of the Armed Forces Community should face disadvantage in the provision of public and commercial services compared to any other citizen*
- *in some circumstances special treatment may be appropriate especially for the injured or bereaved.*

## **Section 2: Demonstrating our Commitment**

2.1 We recognise the value serving personnel, reservists, veterans and military families bring to businesses and to the country. We will aim to uphold the principles of the Armed Forces Covenant, by seeking to:

- **Promote the fact that we are an armed forces friendly organisation**  
*Meaning that Bilsthorpe Parish Council will support the overarching goals of the Armed Forces Covenant by promoting engagement and sharing information, be it via social media, word of mouth, printed advertisements or notice boards.*
- **Support armed forces charities**  
*Meaning that Bilsthorpe Parish Council will support both the Royal British Legion and Help for Heroes by inviting charities to community events, promoting engagement and sharing information, be it via social media, word of mouth, printed advertisements or notice boards.*
- **Sign posting for information that can help and support**  
*Meaning that Bilsthorpe Parish Council will provide a link to the many sources of information including the Royal British Legion and the New Armed Forces Hub from Nottinghamshire County Council.*
- **Memorial maintenance**  
*There is a War Memorial in Bilsthorpe that honours soldiers that were lost during both World Wars. The Parish will take responsibility for the care and maintenance of this important centre of focus and coordinating volunteers to maintain the memorial.*
- **Regular events to unite and support armed forces, veterans and families**  
*Meaning that Bilsthorpe Parish Council will hold events held in the village hall which will aim to unite and support the local community of armed forces, veterans and families.*
- **Appoint an Armed Forces Champion**  
*The Parish will designate a person to engage with the Armed Forces Officer at the District Council to raise awareness and signpost the Armed Forces community when they need advice and guidance.*

2.2 We will publicise these commitments through our literature, on staff notices, conferences, and on our website, setting out how we will seek to honour them and inviting feedback from the Service community, our staff and our customers on how we are doing.