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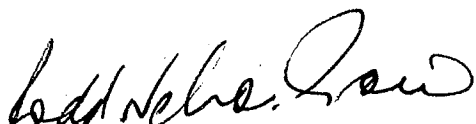
**THE ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY COVENANT FOR  
MAIDSTONE BOROUGH**

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

**Signatories**

**Signed on behalf of  
Maidstone Borough Council:**

**Signed on behalf of the  
Military Community:**



**Councillor Rodd Nelson-Gracie  
Mayor of Maidstone**

**Lt Colonel Ed Robinson  
CO Officer 36 Engineer  
Regiment**

**Date: 11 September 2012**

## **SECTION 1: PARTICIPANTS**

1.1 This Armed Forces Community Covenant is made between:

Serving and former members of 36 Engineer Regiment (Search) and their families working and residing in Maidstone

and

Maidstone Borough 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 strengthen the ties and mutual understanding between members of the Armed Forces Community and the wider community in which they live, encourage support for the Armed Forces Community working and residing in Maidstone and to recognise and remember the sacrifices made by members of this Armed Forces Community, particularly those who have given the most. This includes serving Service personnel and Service veterans, their families and their widow(er)s in Maidstone.
- 2.3 For Maidstone Borough Council, the Community Covenant presents an opportunity to bring its knowledge, experience and expertise to bear on the provision of support 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 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 members of 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 Maidstone Borough Council and 36 Engineer Regiment (Search) have proactively established a Community Covenant Steering Group, in order to better facilitate the provision of support to the Armed Forces Community across Maidstone. The Community Covenant Steering Group will work closely with Armed Forces, statutory providers and the Charitable and Voluntary Sector, to identify, develop and support projects meeting the aims of the Armed Forces Covenant including employment, education, health, housing and welfare. Maidstone Borough Council will also seek opportunities to involve the local business community in joint projects, events and activities.
- 4.2 Maidstone Borough Council will oversee the long-term planning and decision making in the support services provided by the Borough Council to the Armed Forces. Maidstone Borough Council will also co-ordinate and deliver joint council/military community projects as identified and agreed by the Community Covenant Steering Group.
- 4.3 The Community Covenant Steering Group will measure success and will report annually to Maidstone Borough Council Cabinet and the Ministry of Defence.
- 4.4 Signatories to the Maidstone Community Covenant will work together with the Armed Forces Community, other individuals and organisations in the Maidstone Borough to further the aims of the Armed Forces Covenant.

## **CONTACT PERSONNEL AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS**

### **Maidstone Borough Council**

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### **Armed Forces in Maidstone**

Contact Name: Major Mathew Short / *Major Mark Baker (from 19/09/12)*  
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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.