

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE MEMBER CHAMPION FOR ARMED FORCES 2021/22

This will be my final report as Champion of the Armed Forces, as I step down from the Council after 45 years of service. It has been an honour to represent the Armed Forces community and promote their interests within the Borough.

Armed Forces Day –Virtual Event



The Deputy Mayor of Havering, Councillor Christine Vickery, raised the Armed Forces flag outside the Town Hall on 21 June 2021 to mark the annual Armed Forces Day, which took place on 26 June 2021. Unfortunately, owing to the continued Coronavirus pandemic restrictions, celebrations in the Borough were severely curtailed again this year and the parade of serving troops, veterans and cadets did not take place. However, the event was marked online and residents were invited to submit cards that formed part of a community collage.

Armed Forces Covenant

During the period covered by the report (from March 2021- March 2022), 1 ex-service personnel were housed under the Armed Forces Covenant. Currently there are 5 ex-service personnel on the housing register waiting for a property. They have all been awarded the Community Contribution (CC1) priority in line with the Housing Allocation policy. This is a high priority in recognition of the contribution that they have made to the community through their service

Armistice Day Service

Remembrance Day was marked by Church services across the Borough on 14th November 2021. Following the cancellation of the previous year's events, due to pandemic restrictions, it was pleasing to be able to come together again and approximately 600 people took part in the parade through Romford Town Centre.



This year's report is brief because of restrictions and public concern during the Coronavirus pandemic. Activities and events have been severely limited and I find certain people are reluctant to talk to me about what I suspect are their welfare concerns.

One or two contacts have proved amusing as one person insisted I stay on one side of the road and he stay on the other while he shouted his problem across the road to me. Fortunately, he was a former NCO in one of our infantry regiments and so we were able to resolve his concerns and find a solution!

As this is my last report. I would like to take the opportunity to thank Council officers for their patience and much needed help over my time as Forces Champion.

Councillor Denis O'Flynn