

# Surrey Heath Armed Forces Covenant

## Successes to Date

The Surrey Heath Armed Forces Community Covenant was signed in January 2012 (the first in Surrey) with the aim of promoting integration between the civilian and military communities in the Borough. The following has been achieved since:

### In 2012

Under the banner of our local strategic partnership, the “Surrey Heath Partnership” (combining our local Armed Forces at Royal Military Academy Sandhurst (RMAS) and the Princess Royal Barracks Deepcut, and a wider partnership of local public, private and voluntary organisations), we:

- Issued a press release after the signing of the Community Covenant on 31 January 2012
- Held a Partnership workshop in February 2012 to discuss the issues facing the Armed Forces
- Developed a Community Covenant/Armed Forces web page
- Published articles on our project achievements in “Heathscene”, our resident’s magazine
- Appointed Councillor Colin Dougan as our Armed Forces Champion
- Hosted 3 Community Development Workshops in September – November 2012 to ensure a series of actions were taken to deliver the aspirations of the covenant, supported by a successful £3,000 MOD grant
- Produced an action plan to be delivered by the Partnership
- The Partnership receives regular update reports on the progress of projects supporting the Community Covenant at their meetings (three per year)
- The Council set up a Community Covenant Working Group with local Armed Forces and partner representation which considers and if appropriate, endorses, grant applications to the Community Covenant MOD Grant Scheme.
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### In 2013

- One strand of the work was to integrate the civilian and military communities at Deepcut and keep them connected during and beyond the redevelopment phases. A Committee was established to oversee this work and meets regularly to take forward local events and activities including establishing a new youth club, kindly supported by a successful £8,632 MOD grant. The key focus of the group is to share joint community news and share good practice between the Deepcut Village Association (civilian) and the Deepcut Community Centre (military)
- Winning a prestigious Silver Award at the Hampton Court Flower Show in 2013 with the Deepcut Army Wives with a garden called “A Moveable Feast”
- A series of business events at RMAS during the redundancy rounds with a business breakfast in February 2013 and a business lunch in February 2014. A new Army 2020 Strategy day is planned for 12 February 2015 to promote reservists to local businesses
- Assisted the Frimley and Camberley Cadet Corps undertake a refurbishment of Caird Hall, supported by a successful £6,216 MOD grant

### In 2014

- Improved access to RMAS events with invitations to local community representatives at the Commandants Parade on 10 April 2014 and Heritage Day 16 June 2014
- The Freedom of the Borough was offered by the Council and accepted by all ranks of the RMAS during a parade which took place on 14 June 2014 and was a great success
- The RMAS attended the Old Dean (a deprived ward) Community Day on 13 July 2014
- We displayed 400 event poppies on our lamp-post from October 2014 to early January 2015 and will repeat this for the next 3 years
- We supported the Camberley Royal British Legion deliver their Poppy Appeal Events in November 2014 and 2015.
- SHBC Chief Executive, Karen Whelan was invited to speak at the Surrey Community Covenant Conference at Pirbright on 12 November 2014 outlining our progress and also facilitating a workshop.

## In 2015

- An event to celebrate the opening of the new play area at Dawney Road, kindly supported by a successful £19,499 MOD grant, was held on Monday 16 February 2015 at 3.30pm-4pm with Major General S R Skeates CBE, the Commandant of RMAS and His Worshipfulness, Councillor Bob Paton, the Mayor of Surrey Heath
- We delivered a Surrey Heath Borough Council Museum WW1 Commemoration/Heritage Project including the production of a heritage walks leaflet in July 2014 for the Borough showing all WWI related heritage sites, a children's poetry competition and presentation event in Camberley Mall on Saturday 1 November 2014, the restoration and display of eight Memorial stones, a museum exhibition in January 2015 and a Women's Institute, War Time Bake-Off in March 2015, all supported by a successful £5,300 MOD grant
- A Gallipoli Commemorative event was supported at the Camberley Theatre on 25 April 2015
- We laid a commemorative plaque for Captain Garth Walford, Victoria Cross Holder at the Camberley War Memorial in November 2015
- We supported the Camberley Royal British Legion deliver their Poppy Appeal Events in November 2014 and 2015.

## In 2016

- SHBC adopted a Reservists Policy in February 2016, as a pledge of support to all of its employees who are, or will become Reservists in the Armed Forces
- The Business Breakfast on 17 March 2016 saw 200 leaflets being handed out to all attendees from local Surrey Heath Businesses to promote the Employers Recognition Scheme.
- Maintain the housing information provided on the SHBC website
- Support the Remembrance Sunday Events (Villages and Camberley) on 13 November 2016
- Annual Poppy Day Launch Event in Camberley
- Battle of the Somme Commemorations 1 July 2016, in the SH Museum
- Fly the Flag Event Hosted June 2016
- Attend annual Conference November 2016
- Attend SCC Champions Meetings
- Hold a minimum of two meetings a year of the Surrey Heath Community Covenant Group to monitor activity against this Plan and drive progress on the delivery of the actions

- Support the Deepcut Civ/Mil Community Committee to foster and promote opportunities for integrating the military and civilian communities of Deepcut through cultural and sporting activity and socialising.

#### In 2017

- Maintain the housing information provided on the SHBC website
- Support the Remembrance Sunday Events (Villages and Camberley) in November 2017
- Annual Poppy Day Launch Event in Camberley
- Attend SCC Champions Meetings
- Hold a minimum of two meetings a year of the Surrey Heath Community Covenant Group to monitor activity against this Plan and drive progress on the delivery of the actions
- Display the Lamp-Post Poppies from October to November 2017
- Heroe's Welcome Scheme rolled out to Surrey Heath town centres in March 2017
- Fly the Flag Event Hosted June 2017
- Promote ERS to other local businesses
- Support the SCC Reservists Networking Initiative
- Promote the Deepcut Youth Club to integrate the young people living in Deepcut from the various communities
- Comment where applicable on the MOD grant applications
- Facilitate a £30,000 grant to enable a new play area to be provided in Deepcut from the Council Sand and Gravel Fund

#### In 2018

- Maintain the housing information provided on the SHBC website
- Support the centenary Commemorations event leading up to the Remembrance Sunday Events (Villages and Camberley) on the 11<sup>th</sup> November 2018, with the introduction of silent soldiers outside the entrance to the Royal Military Academy, and others to be installed either side of the church entrance at St Michaels Church and then moved to be located inside the church next to the St Georges Stones.
- Annual Poppy Day Launch Event in Camberley 11<sup>th</sup> November 2018
- Attend annual Conference February 2018
- Fly the Flag Event Hosted June 2018

- Attend the South East Joint Regional Employer Engagement Board – February 2018
- Attend SCC Champions Meetings
- Hold a minimum of two meetings a year of the Surrey Heath Community Covenant Group to monitor activity against this Plan and drive progress on the delivery of the actions
- Display the Lamp-Post Poppies from October to December 2018
- SHBC applied for and achieved Bronze status in the Employers Recognition Scheme (ERS) April 2018

