



TREDEGAR TOWN 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:

Tredegar Town Council

Signed: Chyaner

Position: Mayor

Date: 26.05.2020



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 **Tredegar Town 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 **Tredegar Town Council** recognises the value serving personnel, reservists, veterans and military families bring to our business. We will seek to uphold the principles of the Armed Forces Covenant, by:

- *promoting the fact that we are an armed forces-friendly organisation;* Tredegar Town Council hold a variety of events throughout the year, tailored specifically to remember, commemorate and celebrate the Armed Forces, e.g.:

Battle of Tredegar Hill: annual Act of Remembrance - Eleven members of the 6th Battalion, The South Wales Borderers, lost their lives on 26th March, 1944 when the regiment took control of The Mayu Tunnels and the spur of land was renamed "The Battle of Tredegar Hill" as a reminder of the victory and loss.

Some years later, soil from Tredegar Hill was brought back from Asia in memory of the soldiers who had fallen. A teak log was also brought back and a local building firm fashioned this into a casket. The soil and the casket can be found in Bedwelty House, Tredegar, where the memorial to those brave men is located.

On Friday, 21st March, 2014, The Ambassador to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, The Honorable Kyaw Zwar Minn visited Tredegar to receive a casket of soil from Tredegar to take to Myanmar, as a reciprocal gift and symbol of unity between the countries. The casket was made of Welsh oak by trainees at the Blaenau Gwent Training Centre and it contained inscriptions in Welsh and English, along with a scroll commemorating those who had lost their lives, and soil from Tredegar.

Flight T2520 Wellington Bomber: Cairn Memorial - in December 1940, a Wellington Bomber 'Flight T2520' - successfully carried out a raid over Europe and, without the benefit of the modern equipment available now, crashed in the early hours of the morning into the mountains above Trefil. All six of the brave young men on board perished.

Those who lost their lives in that fateful crash were: Pilot Officer Albert Tindall (21 Years Old); Sergeant David Mills, Pilot (21 Years Old); Sergeant Hylton Daniel Ellis, Observer / Nose Gunner (26 Years Old); Sergeant Stanley Gordon Howard, Air Gunner; Sergeant Reginald Brown, Air Gunner (22 Years Old); Sergeant David Ernest Wallace, Air Gunner. Each year, Tredegar Town Council place a wreath on the Cairn that marks the site of the crash.

Provision of ***WWI commemorative benches*** in each Ward of the town and annual services of commemoration at these three sites.

Mayor or representatives are present at nine services in Tredegar each remembrance weekend.

Also, standalone events, i.e.:

Battle's Over, an international commemoration marking 100 years since the guns fell silent at the end of World War I. Tredegar Town Council was proud to play a part in this historic international event, to commemorate the centenary of the end of the Great War, and to recognise the contribution and sacrifice made by the men and women from our own community, as follows: *Tribute to Millions at 6.50 p.m., The Last Post 6.55 p.m., followed by illuminating the Beacons of Light 7.00 p.m.* at the Aneurin Bevan Stones, Tredegar.

Also, Tredegar Town Council acquired a number of acrylic silhouettes, as part of the 'There but not there' campaign, to be used in services and events commemorating the end of WWI, to remember the fallen of the First World War. These would allow communities to remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice in this conflict during Remembrance services leading up to, and on, 11th November and the silhouettes added a sensitive visual reminder of those who gave their all.

All events are undertaken with the co-operation of local groups and organisations, including the local 2167 Tredegar Squadron ATC and Royal British Legion divisions, and the Armed Forces Chaplain, whenever possible.

- *striving to support the employment of Service spouses and partners; Not applicable, at present*
- *endeavouring to offer a degree of flexibility in granting leave for Service spouses and partners before, during and after a partner's deployment; if applicable, N/A at present*
- *seeking to support our employees who choose to be members of the Reserve forces, including by accommodating their training and deployment where possible; if applicable, N/A at present*
- *offering support to our local cadet units, either in our local community or in local schools, where possible; Tredegar Town Council work in partnership with the local 2167 Sqdn ATC on various events throughout the year, including the opening of the prestigious Tredegar Town Clock located in the Circle, Tredegar, for the Cadets to commemorate their own special anniversary events. The Cadets also offer their support to Town Council events, such as Armed Forces Day, Aneurin Bevan Day, Merchant Navy Day and the Christmas Lights switch-on events.*
- *aiming to actively participate in Armed Forces Day; Tredegar Town Council have, and continue to hold, an annual Armed Forces Day event since its inception in 2009, to further joint understanding of the role of the Forces, and evidence how strong the link continues to be between the Forces and Tredegar Town Council, and believe Tredegar the only town in the County Borough and one of the few in Wales to celebrate and support Armed Forces Day in this way. As previous years, Tredegar Town Council use any monies raised as a contribution to various Forces charities. The support of the Royal Welsh Regimental Band has been vital, not only in highlighting the continued link, but bringing colour and life to the event also.*

The town of Tredegar has a long history of Band music and have taken the Regimental Band to their hearts. The Armed Forces Day event is organised independently by Tredegar Town Council and takes place in Bedwellty House and Park.

- *any additional commitments Tredegar Town Council ~~could~~ do make (based on local circumstances).*

Ownership and maintenance of Tredegar War Memorial and Memorial gates; and

As previously mentioned, provision and maintenance of WWI commemorative benches in each Ward.

2.2 We will publicise these commitments through our literature and/or on our website <http://www.tredegartowncouncil.co.uk>, setting out how we will seek to honour them and inviting feedback from the Service community and our customers on how we are doing.