

Email of 2 November from Ministry of Defence, East Midlands

Hello Parish Councils,

Parish Councils are Leading the Way with Defence Recognition and Collaboration

In the words of Cllr Dennis Wilson of Selston Parish Council, ‘of course we signed the Armed Forces Covenant; everyone’s doing it!’ We are so proud of the commitment that each and every one of you has made in signing the Covenant. We’d like to share some inspirational news and remind you that we are here to support and encourage.

We ask that you all ensure a ‘level’ commitment by ensuring your council takes five moments to obtain a **Bronze Award** at this address:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/defence-employer-recognition-scheme/defence-employer-recognition-scheme#bronze-award>

Only half of you have done so but you are all eligible And it should be held in tandem with your Covenants! These commitments are publically visible at the above link, by following the link provided therein; No council deserves scrutiny or comparison to another so let’s together get the number to zero!

We also hope to inspire you to aim high and if you wish to discuss the steps to gaining a **Silver Award** for you and your community please be in touch, I’d be happy to help.

Selston Parish Council became the 60th Parish Council in the East Midlands to proudly sign the Armed Forces Covenant on Thursday the 28th of October, just in time to commemorate Remembrance. In signing the Covenant, the Parish Council are solidifying its earnest and sincere commitment in striving to ensure the Armed Forces Community, both living and working in the constituency, face no disadvantage in the provision of services.

The Covenant begins a partnership with Defence that aims to be mutually-beneficial to signatories and those the signatories serve. It serves to offer both insight into Defence but also to allow the Parish to offer insight to Defence – so Selston will need to keep a keen eye on event invites forwarded from Employer Engagement. Through the dedicated Employer Engagement team the Council also gains support and signposting service in matters related to the Armed Forces Community. By signing the Covenant, the Council have also gained a Bronze Award in the Ministry of Defence’s Employer Recognition Scheme.

It was with delight that The East Midlands Employer Engagement Team, alongside Major Pegg, Officer Commanding of 3rd Battalion, Royal Anglian Regiment, were able to hand deliver to The Team Parish of Louth their much deserved Silver Award from the Employer Recognition Scheme. The Council are the first Parish Council to gain a Silver Award, paving the way for others as a fine exemplar. Greg Gilbert, Community Outreach Manager, has worked hard to perfectly embody the spirit of the award, striving to provision the Armed Forces Community, young old, serving and retired, within the constituency. This has included financial support for 1228 Louth Air Cadets, breakfast mornings, priority counselling and

support to the local Reservist recruitment effort, amongst many initiatives. We wish the team every success in future projects and they have our full support.

Kind Regards,

Kirstie Lawrence

Deputy Regional Employer Engagement Director– East Midlands