



The Heald Green & Long Lane Ratepayers Association

We, the undersigned, commit to honour the Armed Forces Covenant and support the Armed Forces Community. We recognise the value of Serving Personnel, both Regular and Reservists, Veterans and military families contribute to our business and our country.

Signed on behalf of:

Heald Green & Long Lane Ratepayers Association

Mr. JP Williams
Chair

Mr. Richard Skitt
Vice Chair

Mr. Jamat Ali
Secretary

Carolle McCann
Councillor

Catherine Stuart
Councillor

Anna Charles-Jones
Councillor

The Armed Forces Covenant

An Enduring Covenant Between

The People of the United Kingdom

His 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, the **Heald Green & Long Lane Ratepayers Association**, will endeavour in our day to day 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 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 We recognise the value that serving personnel, reservists, veterans and military families bring to our community and to our country. We will seek to uphold the principles of the Armed Forces Covenant, by:

- **Promoting the Armed Forces:** promoting the fact that we are an Armed Forces-friendly organisation, to our wider public.
- **Veterans:** supporting of our community veterans,
- **Service Spouses & Partners:** supporting Service spouses and partners; before, during and after a partner's deployment.
- **Reserves:** supporting members of the Reserve Forces.
- **National Events:** supporting Armed Forces Day, Reserves Day, the Poppy Appeal Day and Remembrance activities.
- **Armed Forces Charities:** supporting Armed Forces charities with fundraising and supporting staff who volunteer to assist.

2.2 We will publicise these commitments through our literature, on notices, and on our website, setting out how we will seek to honour them and inviting feedback from the Service community, on how we are doing.